

Boldness and Access with Confidence

Eph 3:8-13

8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

*12 In whom we have **boldness and access with confidence** by the faith of him.*

13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

I. Introduction

1. This morning, Bro. Lee told us the Force was with us, because:

Matt 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

2. “Take by force” is a phrase that comes from a Greek word you may have heard before, harpadzo, which is three times translated “take by force.”

3. That passage in Matt 11:12. Also in John 6:15 where the people were going to take Jesus by force and make Him a king.

4. And in Acts 23:10, where Paul was taken by the force of some soldiers into the castle.

5. But harpadzo is also translated as “caught away”, or “caught up,” like in Acts 8:39 when Philip was caught away by the Spirit to Azotus, or in 2 Cor 12:2, 4, when Paul was caught up to the third heaven, and paradise, and 1 Thess 4:17 when the trumpet sounds and the church is caught up together to meet the Lord in the air.

6. So taking by force can either be a physical force, or it can be the Holy Ghost force.

7. With that in mind, I believe Matt 11:12 involves both. Our physical effort that is forced ahead by the Holy Ghost force, will take the Kingdom.

8. This is how we can have Boldness and Access with Confidence.

II. Weapons of our warfare

1. But the word picture of an epic battle against an enemy for the expanding of the kingdom of God, does include a literal warfare that we must prepare for.

2. Do you remember the weapons of our warfare, that spiritual armor, that we must be equipped with for this battle?

3. And with that armor, we can stand.

Eph 6:11-18

*11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye **may be able to stand** against the wiles of the devil.*

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

*13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye **may be able to withstand** [standing against something or someone] in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

14 **Stand** therefore, having your loins girt about with **truth**, and having on the breastplate of **righteousness**;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the **gospel** of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of **faith**, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of **salvation**, and the **sword** of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 **Praying** always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

4. If you read that passage very carefully, you will see that is not some extra outfitting that only pastors, missionaries, or evangelists get.

5. That is the equipment we put on when we are get baptized in Jesus' name and are filled with the Holy Ghost.

6. All of the armor is included in this statement:

7. [slide] **The gospel is the message of truth in the Word of God that brings salvation through faith that puts Christ's righteousness on us.**

8. When we are walking in salvation, of what Romans 8:1 calls, **walking in the Spirit**, we have the armor on.

9. From head (helmet of salvation) to foot (the gospel), we are Holy Ghost filled and covered by righteousness.

10. It is on that, that we are able to withstand the devil.

11. With the weapons of our warfare on:

2 Cor 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

12. When we go into this battle armed with this truth, we are then ready to violently take by force the kingdom.

III. Keep your head on

1. The imagery of warfare was very real to David when he was being pursued by Saul and Doeg, one of Saul's servants spied was spying on and reporting on David's whereabouts.

2. David wrote Psalm 140 as he was fleeing the spy:

Ps 140:7-13

*7 O GOD the Lord, the strength of my salvation, **thou hast covered my head in the day of battle.***

3. We must go out to battle with the helmet of salvation firmly in place. Otherwise, don't go to battle.

4. Keep your head on folks!

5. Listen to David's plea to the Lord concerning the enemy. This is not a virtual battle on a game system—it was real. So David prayed against the enemy and his devices:

*8 Grant not, O LORD, the desires of the wicked: **further not his wicked device;***

[we are coming against many wicked devices with the ministry we are bringing to the people]

lest they exalt themselves. Selah.

9 As for the head of those that compass me about, let the mischief of their own lips cover

them.

10 Let burning coals fall upon them: let them be cast into the fire; into deep pits, that they rise not up again.

11 Let not an evil speaker be established in the earth: evil shall hunt the violent man to overthrow him.

12 I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and the right of the poor.

13 Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence.

6. It may be battle time and in a war zone, but the righteous [those with the breastplate of righteousness on] know that it is time to go to worship because we will find ourselves dwelling in God's holy presence!

7. This is why we can be bold and confident!

IV. Victory for the outnumbered

1. The Book of Deuteronomy was Moses's final review of the law before the people prior to his death.

2. He warned them about the dangers of turning away from God, and encouraged them with the promises of obeying God.

3. When he was talking about those who would be disobedient to God, he plead with them to consider this truth about warfare:

Deut 32:29-31

29 O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!

And any time we slip away from God, that is our own wakeup call. How will this end?

4. So the question is this:

30 How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them [delivered them into our hands], and the LORD had shut them up? [given them over]

31 For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges.

5. The truth that we will go out with is this: if the Rock is with us, one is able to chase 1,000, and two can put 10,000 to flight.

6. In the Lord's work, being outnumbered is only true in the physical realm. But that is not where the battle is fought ("we wrestle not against flesh and blood").

7. The battle is against principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places.

8. And if that is who we are going out against, it truly does not matter if we are physically outnumbered.

9. We have our armor on and we can withstand the devil because of Who we are standing with—Jesus.

10. That was a promise that Moses declared to the people, but it was the very promise that Joshua took into the battle field and stood on, and God fought for him:

Josh 23:9-11

9 For the LORD hath driven out from before you great nations and strong: but as for

you, no man hath been able to stand before you unto this day.

10 One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the LORD your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you.

11 Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God.

11. If we have a handful and are trying to reach an entire community, is that a problem? Not when the LORD your God is fighting for you.

V. Conclusion

1. I want to close with the passage we began with so we can get to the main thought of this message.

2. Building on what Bro. Lee gave us this morning, Revival isn't just given to us, we have to take it by force, we want to see the impact that that force will have against the adversary who wants to keep people bound with bands of wickedness.

3. Which by the way, Bro. Lee also said the taking by force revival includes fasting and praying, so I would like to ask you to commit to a day or more of fasting this week.

4. If we do, we will teach the enemy a lesson. And I don't say that out of personal arrogance, but based on this promise:

Paul said God called him to preach the gospel:

Eph 3:9-13

9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery [God manifest in flesh to die for sins and rise again], which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

5. **The reason Paul preached the gospel message of deliverance from sin was:**

10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

6. This passage reveals an important reason why God saved us. He intends for the church to teach "make known" or teach the principalities and powers—and Paul uses this phrase to refer to rulers of darkness and spiritual wickedness.

7. The church got saved to teach the devil some lessons about the manifold wisdom of God.

8. Did you know that God called you to be a teacher?

9. We are to teach a lesson to the adversary that we know who we have been saved by.

10. We know whose righteousness we have on.

11. We know the truth of the gospel that has redeemed us from the devil.

12. We know that we can face the devil and just one of us can chase 1,000.

13. We know that two can put 10,000 to flight.

14. And Jesus demonstrated that for us when he cast out a legion of devils, and He gave us authority over all the power of enemy.

15. And because we know this, we teach the principalities and powers spiritual wickedness in heavenly places this manifold wisdom of God.

16. I am redeemed! I have Christ's righteousness imputed onto me!

17. And Christ that Rock delivered these treasures buried in the field into our hands.

*11 According to the **eternal purpose** which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:*

And our closing thought is this:

12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

18. Tonight, we can obtain, and take home with us, boldness, and access, with confidence.
19. When we go into our city, it is with a mission.
20. The violent take the kingdom by force, and the Force is with you.
21. We are going equipped with the armor of God.
22. And this statement sums up what the armor of God is: The **gospel** is the message of **truth** in the **Word** of God that brings **salvation** through **faith** that puts Christ's **righteousness** on us.
23. And trusting in that armor, it doesn't matter if we are one against 1,000, we can chase a thousand, but when we stand together with another brother or sister, two can put 10,000 to flight when you are going with and standing on the Rock!
24. For it is the LORD your God that fighteth for you.
25. That is why we can have boldness and kingdom access with confidence.