***Victory* on the one hand or *defeat* on the other is determined by the Christian’s preparation for the conflict at hand. A Christian can either heed the Lord’s instructions or he can ignore the Lord’s instructions. There is no middle ground (**[**Matthew 12:30**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+12.30&t=NKJV)**;** [**Luke 11:23**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+11.23&t=NKJV)**).**

**Christians vs. Angelic Rulers Presently** *Pat's title*

**By Charles Strong of** [**Bible One**](http://www.bibleone.net/)

[Bible One – Charles Strong’s Front Cover Commentary on The Spiritual Warfare by Arlen Chitwood](http://bibleone.net/TSW.htm)

Christians are presently engaged in a battle against powerful angelic rulers in the spirit world. These angels, ruling in the kingdom of Satan, are striving for the souls of men; and the outcome of this conflict, like any conflict, is determined by proper or improper preparation as one engages the enemy.

A properly prepared Christian can enter the conflict and consistently win battle after battle, but an improperly prepared Christian entering the conflict can only experience defeat time after time.

*Victory* is achieved through engaging the enemy within the framework of the Lord’s instructions in [Ephesians 6:10ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10ff&t=NKJV). A Christian though who engages the enemy after any other fashion is entering the conflict apart from the Lord’s instructions, leaving himself in a very vulnerable position, one in which the enemy can consistently achieve victory.

Thus, in this respect, *victory* on the one hand or *defeat* on the other is determined by the Christian’s preparation for the conflict at hand. A Christian can either heed the Lord’s instructions or he can ignore the Lord’s instructions. There is no middle ground ([Matthew 12:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+12.30&t=NKJV); [Luke 11:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+11.23&t=NKJV)). The former will produce *readiness for battle and result in victory,* but the latter will leave the Christian *very vulnerable to attack and can only result in defeat.*

Victory for the Christian will actually be determined by how badly he wants to win. The overriding thought in Ephesians has to do with *individuals being saved for a revealed purpose.* Christians have been saved by grace through faith ([Ephesians 2:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.8&t=NKJV)) in order to realize an inheritance in heavenly places ([Ephesians 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.3&t=NKJV), [11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.11&t=NKJV), [18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.18&t=NKJV); [2:6-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.6-7&t=NKJV); [3:1-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.1-6&t=NKJV)). The task of a pastor-teacher is to lead Christians into a mature knowledge of this inheritance, a mature knowledge of the things surrounding the purpose for their salvation ([Ephesians 4:11ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+4.11ff&t=NKJV)), resulting in their being filled with the Spirit ([Ephesians 5:18ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+5.18ff&t=NKJV)) and being able to engage the enemy after the fashion given at the end of this epistle ([Ephesians 6:10ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10ff&t=NKJV)).

How badly do Christians really want to achieve victory over the enemy and one day realize the proffered inheritance with God’s Son? *That is the question* which will determine what a Christian does about the Lord’s instructions concerning proper preparation for the battle at hand.

[**Ephesians 6:10-18**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10-18&t=NKJV)**:**

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.*