

Spiritual Warfare

Lesson Text: Ephesians 6:10-11 (AMP)

¹⁰ In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides]. ¹¹ Put on God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies *and* the deceits of the devil.

Introduction: Paul's heart burned with a passion to reach, grow, and help people for Christ. This was so true that even in his final words to a church, his passion and concern to help is clearly seen. His concern to reach and to nurture all came through in every letter he wrote.

Paul's Ministry: 1 Cor. 16: 5-9

Paul's first concern was to reach and nurture everyone he could.

- Paul planned to "pass through" Macedonia, that is, to make quick visits to the churches in Macedonia.

There is always a need to keep in touch with God's people, strengthening and building them up and reaching everyone he could. This was the constant beat of Paul's heart.

Why?

Note... Paul wanted to spend the winter with the Corinthian church; however Paul had to remain at Ephesus until Pentecost.

The reasons for Paul staying at Ephesus: (The Reason for the Assignment)

- The opportunity for reaching and growing people was great: there was a "great door" opened to Paul.

Why?

The Reason for the Adversaries: (To Hinder and Stop the work of the Lord)

- The adversaries of the gospel were many (cp. Acts 19 for a picture of the adversaries). Therefore, the young church needed his help to walk through the trial of opposition.

Paul was able to carry out his plans (Acts 20:2-3).