

## WEEK 6 — OUTLINE

### *The Descent of the Mighty Ones*

Scripture Reading: Joel 3:11b; S.S. 3:7-8; 4:8; 6:4, 10; Eph. 6:10-20

DAY 1 >>

#### **I. “There cause Your mighty ones to descend, O Jehovah!” Joel 3:11b):**

- A. The mighty ones are Christ’s overcomers, who will return with Christ as His army to defeat Antichrist at the battle of Armageddon and who will be His co-kings in the millennium (Rev. 17:14; 19:11-21; 2:26-27; 20:4, 6; Matt. 19:28).
- B. Christ will come back, descending with His overcomers as His army, to defeat Antichrist and his army (Joel 3:11b; 2 Thes. 2:8; Rev. 19:11-21).

#### **II. The mighty ones, the overcomers, understand the necessity of spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:10-13; Rev. 12:1-17; 19:11-21):**

- A. Spiritual warfare is necessary because Satan’s will is set against God’s will (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 14:12-14; Matt. 6:10; 7:21):
  - 1. Spiritual warfare has its source in the conflict between the divine will and the satanic will.
  - 2. God wants His creature *man* to deal with His fallen creature *Satan*; for this, the human will must stand with the divine will and fight to subdue the satanic will (Gen. 1:26; Matt. 26:39; 12:30; 7:21; Rev. 12:11).
- B. The purpose of spiritual warfare is to bring in the kingdom of God (11:15):
  - 1. Spiritual warfare is the warfare between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan (Matt. 12:26, 28).
  - 2. The kingdom of God is the exercise of the divine will and the overthrowing of the power of Satan by the power of God (6:10; 12:28).
  - 3. Through prayer the church must release the power of the kingdom of God on the earth (6:9-10, 13; 18:19; Rev. 8:3-5).

C. The warfare between the church and Satan is a battle between us who love the Lord and who are in His church and the evil powers in the heavenlies (Eph. 6:12):

1. The rulers, the authorities, and the world-rulers of darkness are the rebellious angels who followed Satan in his rebellion against God and who now rule in the heavenlies over the nations of the world (Col. 1:13; Dan. 10:20).
2. We need to realize that our warfare is not against human beings but against the evil spirits, the evil powers, in the heavenlies (Eph. 6:12).

**III. The mighty ones, the overcomers, realize that spiritual warfare is based on the victory of Christ (Heb. 2:14; Col. 2:15; 1 John 3:8):**

A. The starting point of spiritual warfare is standing upon the victory of Christ; it is seeing that Christ has already overcome (S.S. 4:8; Rev. 3:21; 5:5-6):

1. The Son of God was manifested to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).
2. In His incarnation and human living Christ defeated Satan during the temptation in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11).
3. Through death the Lord Jesus destroyed the devil, who has the might of death; He abolished Satan, brought him to naught (Heb. 2:14).
4. God openly shamed the evil angels, triumphing over them in the cross of Christ (Col. 2:15).
5. In the Spirit as His divinity, Christ proclaimed, to the evil spirits in the abyss, His victory over Satan on the cross (1 Pet. 3:18-19).
6. The resurrected Christ has the keys of death and of Hades (Rev. 1:18).
7. In His ascension Christ led a train of vanquished foes; He rescued us from Satan's captivity and took us to Himself (Eph. 4:8).
8. In God's universal administration Christ, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, is the Victor and the Ruler of the kings of the earth (Rev. 5:5-6; 1:5).

B. The work of the church on earth is to maintain Christ's victory; the Lord has already won the battle, and the church is here to maintain His victory (Eph. 6:11, 13).

**IV. The mighty ones, the overcomers, are “empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength” (v. 10):**

- A. To fight against God’s enemy, we need to be empowered with the surpassing greatness of the power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the heavenlies, far above the spirits in the air (1:19-21; 3:16).
- B. Our need to be thus empowered indicates that we cannot fight the spiritual warfare in ourselves or by our own strength but only in the Lord and in the might of His strength (6:10).

**V. The mighty ones, the overcomers, conquer the satanic chaos in the old creation and carry out the divine economy for the new creation<sup>1</sup> Tim. 1:4; Eph. 1:10; 3:10; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15):**

- A. The overcomers conquer the destructive satanic chaos and triumph in the constructive divine economy 1 Tim. 1:4).
- B. Instead of being delivered out of the present chaos, the mighty ones conquer the chaos by the processed and consummated Triune God as the all-sufficient grace (2 Tim. 1:9, 15; 2:1, 17-18; 4:22).

**VI. The mighty ones, the overcomers, are victorious over the attack of death (Rev. 2:8-11; Matt. 16:18; Heb. 2:14-15; 2 Cor. 1:9; Phil. 3:10-11):**

- A. Matthew 16:18 shows us from what source the attack upon the church will come—“the gates of Hades,” that is, death:
  - 1. Satan’s special object today is to spread death within the church.
  - 2. Satan’s greatest fear with regard to the church is her resistance to his power of death and her being in resurrection 1 Pet. 1:3; Eph. 2:6).
- B. To those who overcome the attack of death, Christ will give the crown of life—the overcoming strength that is the power of the resurrection life (Rev. 2:10b; Phil. 3:10).

**VII. The mighty ones, the overcomers, are the victory of the overcoming Christ (S.S. 3:7-8):**

- A. The bed in verse 7 is for rest and victory in the night, signifying the church age, during the time of spiritual warfare, signified by the sixty mighty men who surround the bed.
- B. Christ’s lover is among the sixty mighty men, indicating that she is a

leading overcomer, fighting for Christ in order to keep Him at rest during the fighting.

- C. The lover of Christ is the victory of the overcoming Christ, full of the power of the overcomers among God's elect that carries Christ even in times of difficulties (v. 7).
- D. The overcomers are experts in war, fighting with their weapons at the time of alarms (v. 8; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 6:10-12; 1 Tim. 1:18; 2 Tim. 4:7).
- E. "Your neck is like the tower of David, / Built for an armory: / A thousand bucklers hang on it, / All the shields of the mighty men" (S.S. 4:4):
  - 1. The neck signifies the human will under God; the lover of Christ is beautiful in her having a will that is submissive to Christ (neck like the tower of David) and that is rich in the defending power (bucklers and shields of the mighty men).
  - 2. After our will has been subdued, it will be strong in resurrection and like the tower of David, the armory for the spiritual warfare; the weapons for spiritual warfare are kept in our subdued and resurrected will (Eph. 6:10; 2 Cor. 10:3-5).

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**VIII. The mighty ones, the overcomers, are "as beautiful...as Tirzah, / As lovely as Jerusalem, / As terrible as an army with banners" S.S. 6:4, 10):**

- A. When the overcoming lover of Christ becomes one with God to be God's dwelling place, in the eyes of God she is as beautiful as Tirzah and as lovely as Jerusalem; however, to the enemy she is as terrible as an army with banners (vv. 4, 10).
- B. The building of God is always an army; when we become a city to the Lord, we are an army to the enemy (vv. 4, 10):
  - 1. Building cannot be separated from spiritual warfare; wherever the building is, there is the battle (Neh. 4).
  - 2. Fighting always accompanies the building, and the building always brings in victory in battle (Matt. 16:18-19).
- C. A terrible army signifies that the mighty ones, the Lord's overcomers, terrify God's enemy, Satan (S.S. 6:4, 10):
  - 1. Satan is afraid of only one kind of people—those who do not love their soul-life (Rev. 12:11; Matt. 16:25-26).

2. The enemy is frightened by the church that is built up as the city of God ([Neh. 6:15-16](#); [Psa. 102:12-16](#)).
3. The demons and the evil angels are terrified of the one new man created by Christ on the cross ([Eph. 2:15-16](#); [Col. 2:14-15](#)).

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4. Satan is not afraid of individualistic Christians, even if they number in the thousands, but is terrified of the church as the Body of Christ, the corporate warrior fighting against him and his kingdom ([Eph. 6:10-20](#)).

**IX. The mighty ones, the overcomers, fight the battle in the Body [vv. 10-20](#)):**

- A. Spiritual warfare is not an individual matter; it is a matter of the Body, the new man ([1:22-23](#); [4:24](#); [6:13](#)).
- B. The whole armor of God is for the Body, not for individuals; only the corporate warrior can wear the whole armor of God [vv. 13-17](#)).
- C. The church is a corporate warrior, and the believers together make up this corporate warrior; after we have been formed corporately into an army, we will be able to fight against God's enemy [Num. 36:13](#); [Deut. 1:21](#); [Josh. 1:2-3](#)).

## << WEEK 6 — DAY 1 >>

### *Morning Nourishment*

**Joel** Hurry and come, all you surrounding nations, and be gathered.

**3:11** There cause Your mighty ones to descend, O Jehovah!

**Eph.** For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the  
**6:12** rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritua**forces** of evil in the heavenlies.

[The mighty ones] are Christ's overcomers, who will return with Christ as His army to defeat Antichrist at the battle of Armageddon [Rev. 17:14; 19:11-21](#)) and who will be His co-kings in the millennium [Matt. 19:28; Rev. 2:26-27; 20:4, 6](#)). ([Joel 3:11](#), footnote 1)

The armies [in [Revelation 19:14](#)] are the called and chosen believers in [17:14](#) and those who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb [inverse 9](#), that is, those who constitute the bride of Christ. ([Rev. 19:14](#), footnote 1)

After the marriage dinner, Christ will come as a fighting General with His bride (the overcoming believers called to the marriage dinner) as His army to fight against Antichrist and the kings under him with their armies at Armageddon. ([Rev. 19:11](#), footnote 1)

### *Today's Reading*

In addition to God's intention, God's will, there is a second intention, a second will, for now the satanic will is set against God's will. All warfare has its source in this conflict of wills. Before the satanic will rose up to contradict the divine will, there was no war in the universe. The controversy in the universe began with the rebellion of the archangel against God. That rebellion was the beginning of all the fighting that is now taking place among nations, in society, in the family, and in individuals. Throughout history there have been wars between nations, groups, persons, and even within individuals. *Life-study*

of Ephesians, p. 527)

Why doesn't God Himself cast Satan into the bottomless pit or the lake of fire? Our answer is: God can do it, but He does not want to do it Himself. We do not know why He will not do it Himself, but we do know how He is going to do it. God wants to use man to deal with His enemy, and He created man for this purpose. God wants the creature to deal with the creature. He wants His creature *man* to deal with His fallen creature *Satan* in order to bring the earth back to God. (Watchman Nee, *The Glorious Church*, p. 10)

The reason we must know the Body, know the ascension, and reign is that we may have spiritual warfare....The purpose of spiritual warfare is to bring in the kingdom of God. This is a subject of great significance in the Bible.

The period in which we are living is the time for the people of God to fight for Him on earth. From the time the Lord Jesus came forth to minister, till the time of His second coming, all the works the people of God are doing for Him are instances of spiritual warfare. God's desire is to rescue, through those who belong to Him, the people who were captured by Satan, and to recover the earth which was usurped by Satan. This rescuing and recovering is, according to what the Lord has shown us in [Matthew 12](#), the warfare between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan....Since warfare exists between the kingdoms of God and Satan, all the spiritual work we are doing for God, whatever form it may take, as long as it touches the things of the spiritual realm, is in nature a warfare. (*The Experience of Life*, pp. 357, 365)

The Bible says that we must repent for the kingdom [Matt. 4:17](#)). The kingdom of God is actually the exercise of the divine will. When sinners repent for the kingdom of God, they turn from the side of Satan to the side of God, which is the kingdom of God, the will of God. *Life-study of Ephesians*, p. 529)

Although the purpose of God is to bring in His kingdom, His part alone is not sufficient. He needs the church to work with Him. Through prayer, the church must release the power of the kingdom of God upon the earth. When the Lord comes, the kingdom of the world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ ([Rev. 11:15](#)). (*The Glorious Church*, p. 64)

*Further Reading: Life-study of Joel*, msgs. 2-3; *The Experience of Life*, ch. 18

## << WEEK 6 — DAY 2 >>

### *Morning Nourishment*

**Heb. 2:14** Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil.

**Col. 2:15** Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

We need to be reminded again and again that our warfare is not against human beings, but against the evil spirits, the spiritual powers in the heavenlies. The rebellious angels are the evil spirits in Satan's kingdom. Thus, the warfare between the church and Satan is a battle between us who love the Lord and who are in His church and the evil powers in the heavenlies. Apparently it is people of flesh and blood who damage the church. Actually it is Satan and his evil angels working behind them who cause the damage. Therefore, we must fight against these spiritual forces. (*Life-study of Ephesians*, p. 534)

The starting point of spiritual warfare is standing upon the victory of Christ; it is seeing that Christ has already overcome. It is not dealing with Satan, but trusting in the Lord. It is not hoping that we will win the victory, because the victory has already been won. The devil can do nothing. (Watchman Nee, *The Glorious Church*, p. 61)

### *Today's Reading*

"Hermon" [in [Song of Songs 4:8](#)] means destruction, which refers to Christ's victory on the cross. He is the Son of God manifested to destroy all the works of the devil ([1 John 3:8b](#)). We can prevail in all warfare to deal with all the worldly affairs from the peak of victory. (Watchman Nee, *The Song of Songs*, p. 67)



In the fullness of the time the Son of God came to become flesh [John 1:14](#); [Rom. 8:3](#)) by being born of a virgin ([Gal. 4:4](#)), that He might destroy the devil in man's flesh through His death in the flesh on the cross....This was to abolish Satan, to bring him to nought. Hallelujah, Satan has been abolished and done away with! ([Heb. 2:14](#), footnote 1)

At the cross...[the Lord's] Spirit as His divinity was made alive, enlivened, with new power of life, so that in this empowered Spirit as His divinity He made a proclamation to the fallen angels after His death in the flesh and before His resurrection. ([1 Pet. 3:18](#), footnote 3)

[This proclamation was] not to preach the good news but to proclaim the victory achieved by God, that is, that through Christ's death on the cross God destroyed Satan and his power of darkness ([Heb. 2:14](#); [Col. 2:15](#)). ([1 Pet. 3:19](#), footnote 2)

Because of the fall and sin of man, death came in and is now working on earth to gather all the sinful people into Hades. Thus, death is a collector and Hades is a keeper. However, the keys of death and of Hades are in the hand of our Savior, who died and was resurrected. ([Rev. 1:18](#), footnote 2)

*Those* [in [Ephesians 4:8](#)] refers to the redeemed saints, who were taken captive by Satan before being saved by Christ's death and resurrection. In His ascension Christ led them captive; that is, He rescued them from Satan's captivity and took them to Himself. This indicates that He conquered and overcame Satan, who had captured them by sin and death. [Eph. 4:8](#), footnote 2)

In [Revelation 4](#) is the scene in the heavens, its center being the throne of God, on which God sits, ready to execute His universal administration for the fulfillment of His eternal purpose....[In chapter] 5 is the same scene in the heavens after Christ ascended there....As the Lion, He is the Fighter against the enemy; as the Lamb, He is the Redeemer for us. He fought to redeem us, and He won the battle over the enemy and accomplished redemption for us. To the enemy He is a Lion; to us He is a Lamb. ([Rev. 5:6](#), footnote 1)

The spiritual warfare is defensive, not offensive, because the Lord Jesus has already fought the battle and won the victory. The work of the church on the earth is simply to maintain the Lord's victory. The Lord has already won the battle, and the church is here to maintain His victory. *The Glorious Church*, p. 61)

*Further Reading: The Glorious Church*, chs. 3-4; *Lessons on Prayer*, ch. 18

## << WEEK 6 — DAY 3 >>

### *Morning Nourishment*

**Eph.** Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His **6:10** strength.

**Matt.** And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I **16:18** will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

[In [Ephesians 6:10](#) the word *empowered*] in Greek has the same root as the word for *power* in [1:19](#). To deal with God's enemy, to fight against the evil forces of darkness, we need to be empowered with the greatness of the power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the heavens, far above all the evil spirits in the air. ([Eph. 6:10](#), footnote 3)

In the spiritual warfare against Satan and his evil kingdom, we can fight only in the Lord, not in ourselves. Whenever we are in ourselves, we are defeated. ([Eph. 6:10](#), footnote 4)

### *Today's Reading*

We should not think that everyone who is in the churches in the recovery is an overcomer. But our being in the churches in the recovery will strengthen us and help us to be matured to be an overcomer. The recovery is the Lord's way to help us to be the overcomers....In order to be the overcomers, we must conquer all the destructive chaos and triumph in the unique constructive economy....The overcomers are those who suffer the chaos, but they are not disappointed or discouraged. Instead, they are strengthened and enabled to stand for and live out the divine economy. The satanic chaos is still going on around us in Christendom. Even within the Lord's recovery, we have experienced this chaos....All of us have to conquer this destructive chaos. If we are enabled by the Lord to conquer all the destructive chaos, we will triumphantly enter into the

kingdom. We will be those who triumph in the unique constructive economy.

In [1 Corinthians 15:10](#) Paul said that the grace of the Lord was with him; in [Galatians 6:18](#) he said that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with our spirit; and in [2 Timothy 4:22](#) he said that the Lord is with our spirit. The Lord as the all-sufficient grace is with our spirit, and we can conquer all the satanic chaos and carry out the unique divine economy by Him as our all-sufficient grace. (*The Satanic Chaos in the Old Creation and the Divine Economy for the New Creation*, pp. 74-76)

Christ as the resurrection has been tested by death and has conquered death, and Christ as the life remains unchangeable and lasts forever. This is indicated by Paul's word in [2 Timothy 1:10b](#) that says, "Our Savior Christ Jesus...nullified death and brought life and incorruption to light through the gospel."

The Lord Jesus is not only life but also resurrection. By itself, life can only have existence, but resurrection can withstand any kind of attack, even the attack of death. Death cannot hold Him because He can conquer death ([Acts 2:24](#)). Death cannot retain Him, because He is not only life—He is also resurrection. Life is the power to exist, but resurrection is the power to conquer everything that is against life....Christ as the resurrection is mainly to overcome death and all the things belonging to death such as blindness, dumbness, deafness, and all kinds of sickness.

According to the Scriptures, death is a great power. When death comes upon a man, he cannot escape it. Only the Lord Himself as the resurrection can defeat death. Since He is the resurrection, He can break the power of death. Even Hades is unable to confine our Lord to the tomb ([Rev. 1:18](#)). Because Christ is not only life but also resurrection, He can deliver all of the dead persons from death. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 2898-2899)

A crown in New Testament usage always denotes a prize that is in addition to salvation....The crown of life, as a prize to those who are faithful unto death in overcoming persecution, denotes the overcoming strength that is the power of the resurrection life ([Phil. 3:10](#)); it also denotes that these overcomers have attained to the out-resurrection from the dead ([Phil. 3:11](#)), that is, the outstanding resurrection. ([Rev. 2:10](#), footnote 3)

*Further Reading: The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msgs. 218, 282;  
*Life-study of Matthew*, msg. 33

## << WEEK 6 — DAY 4 >>

### *Morning Nourishment*

**S.S. 3:7-8** There is Solomon's bed; sixty mighty men surround it, of the mighty men of Israel. All of them wield the sword and are expert in war; each man has his sword at his thigh because of the night alarms.

By passing through the adequate process of transformation, the lover of Christ is worthy to be involved in God's economy, to move with God. She is linked to God and united with Christ as one. In this union with Christ she is likened to a bed for rest in the night during the wartime [S.S. 3:7](#)]. Christ cannot have rest without her....She is among the sixty mighty men, indicating that she is a leading overcomer, fighting for Christ in order to keep Christ at rest during the night, even in a time of war. What a comfort and a joy she is to the Lord! In typology night signifies the church age. In the church age Christ needs the overcomers that He may have a resting place. (*Crystallization-study of Song of Songs*, pp. 74-75)

### *Today's Reading*

“Your neck is like the tower of David, / Built for an armory; / A thousand bucklers hang on it, / All the shields of the mighty men” [S.S. 4:4](#)). Here we have the beauty in her submissive will to Christ that is rich in the defending power. (*Life-study of Song of Songs*, pp. 30-31)

The neck signifies man's will. The Bible speaks of those who walk according to their self-will, who are stubborn and proud, as stiff-necked ones [Isa. 3:16](#)). Hence, the neck denotes man's will under God. The Lord considers the submission of man's will as the most beautiful thing in man. In this verse there are two aspects of a submissive will. First, “your neck is like the tower” [S.S. 4:4](#)]. A tower describes a condition that is opposite to that of a hunchback. Those whose necks are not straight are hunchbacked. In the Bible, hunchbacks

are bound by Satan to face the earth all the time ([Luke 13:11, 16](#)). The neck being like a tower means that the person is released; there is no bondage of Satan and no love for the world. A tower also means strength. The maiden's will has been strengthened by God to the point that she no longer loves the world and is no longer affected by Satan. Second, "your neck is like the tower of David." This is not an ordinary tower, but the tower of David. In addition to the sense of strength and deliverance, we also see that the maiden's will has been brought into complete submission to David. Her strength lies in her submission to Christ, and her deliverance also lies in her submission to Christ. We should all realize the importance of being taken captive by Christ.

What is the use of this tower? It is "built for an armory." This means that spiritual warfare is fought for the purpose of claiming the will. The armory stored within the tower signifies the victory of Christ for the preservation of the believers' will from the enemy's usurpation. However, the weapons are not for attack, but for defense. Therefore, only bucklers and shields are mentioned. Bucklers and shields are for protection. "A thousand" means that the number is great. "Mighty men" denotes strength. In summary, this verse indicates that the maiden is willing to submit completely to David's will. She is as strong as a tower in carrying out David's will. She is on guard vigilantly and does not allow the enemy to usurp her submissive will. (Watchman Nee, *The Song of Songs*, pp. 61-62)

First of all our will must be subdued; then it must be strong in resurrection. The natural will must be dealt with, and then we will have a resurrected will. The crucified and subdued will is just like a flock of goats standing on a mountainside, but the resurrected will must be like the tower of David built up as an armory. An armory is a place where weapons for fighting are kept....How poetic the Song of Songs is! First, our will must be subdued; then it will be resurrected like the tower of David, the armory for the spiritual warfare. All the weapons for spiritual warfare are kept in our subdued and resurrected will. (*Life and Building as Portrayed in the Song of Songs*, p. 66)

*Further Reading: Life-study of Song of Songs*, msgs. 4-5, 7; *The Song of Songs*, chs. 3-4

## << WEEK 6 — DAY 5 >>

### *Morning Nourishment*

**S.S.** You are as beautiful, my love, as Tirzah, as lovely as Jerusalem,  
**6:4** as terrible as an army with banners.

**10** Who is this woman who looks forth like the dawn, as beautiful  
as the moon, as clear as the sun, as terrible as an army with  
banners?

**Rev.** And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and  
**12:11** because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their  
soul-life even unto death.

When the overcoming lover of Christ becomes one with God to be God's dwelling place, in the eyes of God she is as beautiful as Tirzah and as lovely as Jerusalem. However, to the enemy she is as terrible as an army with banners. Banners indicate a readiness to fight and also are a sign that the victory is won. A terrible army signifies that the overcomers of the Lord terrify God's enemy, Satan, and become terrible in the eyes of God's people. This army fights the battle for God's kingdom in the degradation of God's people to become the overcomers who answer the Lord's call....Eventually, the overcomers will be a bride collectively to marry Christ (**Rev. 19:7-9**). After their wedding, this bride will become an army to fight alongside Christ, her Husband, to defeat Antichrist with all his followers (**Rev. 19:11-21**). (**S.S. 6:4**, footnote 2)

### *Today's Reading*

It is not just a matter of defending the kingdom, but also of fighting for the kingdom....First, there was the armory for the defensive warfare **S.S. 4:4**]. But now, the seeking one has become an army marching in triumphant victory**6:4**]. The Hebrew word *army* in this verse is in the plural, so some of the better versions say that she is the hosts, the troops. It is not just one troop, but the

many troops with the banners. She has become such a marvelous fighting army as troops with the victory banners. We can never separate the building from the spiritual warfare. Wherever the building is, there is the battle. We all remember the account in Nehemiah: with one hand the people did the building work, and with the other hand they held the weapons for battle [Neh. 4:17](#)). While they were building, they were fighting. Fighting always accompanies the building, and the building always brings in the victory in the battle. This is the consummation of the Christian life. This is the uttermost completion that the seeking one of the Lord can attain. She is now a city as an army.

In [Ezekiel 37:2-10](#), we read the same thing. All the dry bones, after being inbreathed with life, came alive to be built into the habitation of God. And at the same time they were formed into an army. The building is always an army. Without an enemy, there is no need to build a city....The city is God's dwelling place, but it is also the fighting army to the enemy. *Life and Building as Portrayed in the Song of Songs*, pp. 84-85)

An army without banners must be a defeated army. When [the lover] becomes as beautiful as the moon and as clear as the sun, she is also as terrible as an army with banners ([S.S. 6:10](#)). When she becomes the garden, she is nothing more than a garden, but when she becomes Tirzah and Jerusalem, something is built up to show God's beauty and God's loveliness. At that time, God's enemy trembles because this little country girl has become an army with banners. (*Crystallization-study of Song of Songs*, p. 110)

Weapons are the most important thing to an army in battle, whereas the banner is the most important thing in victory.... [Verse 4](#)] indicates that the maiden is beautiful and comely before the Lord, as solid as the heavenly city and as serene as the sanctuary. At the same time, she displays the glory of her victory before the enemy and the world....Believers ought to be lovable and terrible at the same time. Believers today have lost their loveliness before the Lord, and they have lost their terribleness before the enemy and the world....The Bible often mentions the terribleness of the Lord; He is terrible because He is holy. If we maintain our holiness and victory, we will see the enemy retreating and the world standing back. (Watchman Nee *The Song of Songs*, p. 97)

*Further Reading: Life and Building as Portrayed in the Song of Songs*, chs. 6, 12; *Crystallization-study of Song of Songs*, msg. 7, 12

## << WEEK 6 — DAY 6 >>

### *Morning Nourishment*

**Eph. 6:10-11** Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil.

**13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Not only is the church the Body, the new man, the bride, the family, the kingdom, and the dwelling place; the church is also the warrior to fight against God's enemy. God's enemy, Satan, is terrified of such a church. Satan is not afraid of individualistic Christians, not even if they number in the thousands. But whenever the believers come together as the church in the aspect of the Body and in these other aspects, Satan trembles. By the church in these seven aspects Christ is expressed, the Father has rest, and the enemy is defeated. May we all see the vision that the church is not a matter of individual holiness or spirituality. On the contrary, it is a matter of being built up together as the Body, the new man, the bride, the family, the kingdom, the dwelling place, and the warrior. As such a church, we defeat the enemy and prepare the way for the Lord Jesus to come back. (*Life-study of Ephesians*, p. 627)

### *Today's Reading*

The fact that we need to be empowered in the Lord indicates that we cannot fight the spiritual warfare in ourselves; we can fight only in the Lord and in the might of His strength. In [Ephesians 6:10](#) Paul refers to power, might, and strength. Firstly, we are empowered by the power that raised Christ from among the dead and made Him to be the Head over all things. Then we know God's might and strength.

[Ephesians 6:11](#) opens with the words, "Put on the whole armor of God." To



fight the spiritual warfare, we need not only the power of the Lord, but also the armor of God. Our weapons do not avail, but God's armor, even the whole armor of God, does.

The whole armor of God is for the entire Body, not for any individual member of the Body. The church is a corporate warrior, and the believers together make up this unique warrior. Only the corporate warrior can wear the whole armor of God; no individual believer can. We must fight the spiritual warfare in the Body, not individually.

In God's economy there is one army constituted of a corporate warrior. This means that the warrior in [Ephesians 6](#) is a corporate entity. Only as a corporate entity, the Body, can we put on the whole armor of God. This is contrary to the concept held by many Christians that an individual believer is able to wear the entire armor. The armor in [Ephesians 6](#) is not for Christians as individuals; it is for the church corporately as the Body. What this chapter reveals is not the believers fighting as individuals, but a corporate army fighting the battle for God's interests on earth.

Spiritual warfare is not an individual matter; it is a matter of the Body, a corporate entity to fight the battle against God's enemy. No soldier in a modern army would enter into battle by himself. Rather, he would fight as part of a well-trained and fully equipped army. After we have been formed corporately into an army, we shall be able to fight against God's enemy. God's strategy is to use the church as His army to fight against the enemy. Therefore, it is very dangerous to be isolated from the army. Only by remaining in the army will we have the necessary protection.

Years ago, the Lord's people regarded spiritual warfare as an individual matter. But through the years we have seen that it is altogether a matter of the church as God's corporate army. If you separate yourself from the church, you will be defeated. Satan's strategy is simply to isolate you from the church as God's army. It is crucial for us to realize that spiritual warfare is a Body matter. If we realize this and stay with the church, we shall be victorious. The battle is not for us as individual believers; it is for the church as God's army. (*Life-study of Ephesians*, pp. 531, 815-816)

*Further Reading: Life-study of Ephesians*, msgs. 63, 74, 97

## << WEEK 6 — HYMN

### *Hymns, #885*

- 1 Fight the battle in the Body,  
Never fight it on your own;  
With the Body to the Head joined,  
Fight the battle on the throne.  
  
Fight the battle in the Body!  
By the virtue of the Head;  
Standing firmly with the Body,  
Into vict'ry you'll be led.
- 2 For the Body is God's armor,  
Not for anyone alone;  
When you wrestle in the Body,  
All its benefits you own.
- 3 'Tis the Church on Christ established  
Satan shall not overpow'r;  
'Tis the Body built together  
Which resists the evil pow'r.
- 4 In the Body, by the Headship,  
Sitting in the heavenlies,  
Struggle with the wicked spirits  
And the principalities.
- 5 As a member of the Body,  
With the brethren stand for God;  
Praying always in the Spirit,  
Claim the vict'ry through the Blood.
- 6 In the heav'n lies more than conqu'ror,  
In the power of His might,  
As a soldier in the army,  
In the Lord the battle fight.
- 7 Keep on wrestling in the Body,  
Mighty vict'ry you will see,  
Bind and loose, God's will fulfilling,  
And the foes your food will be.