

Six steps to Victorious living

Eph. 6:10-13

Eph 6:10-13 **Finally**, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 **Therefore put on the full armor of God**, so that **when** the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

NIV

- We start at the end of a list.
- The word **Finally** means there are things that come before it.
- So, let's back up and see what is there.

Step One: Live as children of Light. Ephesians 4:17

*Eph 4:17-19 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the **futility of their thinking**. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.*
NIV

*Rom 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, **but their thinking became futile** and their foolish hearts were darkened.* NIV

*Col 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the **basic principles of this world** rather than on Christ.* NIV

Put on the new man

A. Put off your old self... Put on the new self

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

- This is your job.
- The Holy Spirit will give you guidance, conviction, knowledge from the word, and anything else you need to make the right choice but the choice is always yours.

Be Transformed

Rom 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind NIV

The list to avoid!!

1. Put off falsehood and speak truthfully 4:25
2. In your anger do not sin, do not let the sun go down while you are still angry and most importantly, Do not give the devil a foot hold. Some translation state don't give ear. Or listen to what he has to say! 4:26-27
3. If you are a thief stop it! Do something productive with your hands. So that you will be able to give instead of stealing. 4:28
4. Watch your mouth. Build up instead of tearing down. 4:29
5. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit. Disobedience. 4:30
Acts 26:14 Saul why do you kick against the goads.
6. Get rid of all bitterness rage and anger brawling, slander, along with every form of malice 4:31
7. Be kind and compassionate 4:32
8. Forgive.

Created to be like God (Lead into step two)

Step Two: Be imitators of God. Ephesians 5:1-2

*Eph 5:1-2 **Be imitators of God**, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. NIV*

God is love

A. A simple step God is love

1 John 4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 John 4:16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

B. Live a life of love.

Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." NIV

Eph 5:8. For you were once darkness but now you **ARE light.**

Step Three: Make the most of every opportunity. Ephesians 5:15-17

Walk like Jesus did.

Eph 5:15-17 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

A. Be careful how you live.

1 John 2:5-6 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

B. Look for opportunities for God to be glorified.

Jesus lived this way

Mark 1:38 Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else — to the nearby villages — so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." NIV

Step Four: After the Vows. Ephesians 5:22-33

Invite God to the marriage

Verse 33 ties it all in a bow.

Eph. 5:33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

- A. This is not going to be a mini marriage seminar. Suffice it to say that the Lord knew that our marriage relationship was important enough to include it in His list of things to do right.
- B. Wives submit...Husbands Love your wife as yourself.
- C. If you're doing everything above you should have no trouble following the word of the Lord in regards to your spouse.

Step Five: Raising each other. Ephesians 6:1-4

Teach your kids about the things of Jesus

Eph 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother"-which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." 4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. NIV

Children

- A. After 17 years of youth pastoring I had many parents ask me to preach these verses.
- B. Children are given the first commandment with a promise attached to it.
- C. Our duty to our parents does not end at 18. Or when we get married or when we move out. As long as we are someone's child we are to honor our parents.

Parents

- A. Don't frustrate your children.
 - B. Here is the key. **When your life doesn't match what you profess.**
 - C. Children do what they see, not what you tell them.
- Illustration: my kids learned more about the Lord riding in the back seat of the car than anywhere else.

Step Six: On the Job. Ephesians 6:5-9

Follow the biblical pattern.

Eph 6:5-9 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. 6 Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. 7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. 9 And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him. NIV

Do what's right at work

Workers

A. Employees, **work for your boss as if you were working for Jesus.**

Give the same effort as if it were your money you were spending

Bosses

A. Use scriptural principles.

1. The worker is worth his keep. Matthew 10:10
2. The worker deserves his wages. 1 Tim 5:18
3. **Divine Equity.** Eph 6:9 In Gods eyes we are all the same.

Eph 6:9 And Masters treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

Conclusion: Finally, be strong in the Lord. Ephesians 6:10
You're ready for battle.

Eph 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his might power

A. **It's his mighty power** that will help you stand against the devil's schemes.

B. Put on the **full armor**

C. **Know what your struggle is against. Then you will know how to fight.**

Rev 12:11 they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.

Keyed to Acts 4:20 For we cannot help speaking about what we've seen and heard.

Illustration: The boys were in trouble for making the most of an opportunity. They prayed for the guy at the gate and God healed him.

Step one: *"Live as Children of Light"*

Put on the new man.

Step two: *"Be an imitator of God"*

God is love

Step three: *"Make the most of every opportunity"*

Walk like Jesus walked.

Step four: *"After the vows"*

Invite God to the marriage

Step five: *"Raising each other"*

Love your kids and teach them about the things of Jesus.

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Do what's right at work.

Conclusion: *"Finally, be strong in the Lord"*

You are ready to do battle!

Communion

1 Cor 11:23-26 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. NIV