

A close-up photograph of a lit lantern. The lantern has a glass globe and a metal frame. The light inside is bright and warm, casting a glow on the surrounding dark red background. The text "Carry the Light" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Carry the Light

Eph. 6:19-20

"The Effective Witness"

Eph. 6:19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me,
that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known
the mystery of the gospel,
20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may
speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Review

Our theme for 2017 is “Carry the Light.” We must “carry the light” while engaged in spiritual warfare.

The conduct of a true Christian, one who is genuinely “born again,” is the outcome of a doctrinal foundation. We are **“living out our faith,”** and our testimony indicates the quality of it, be it good or bad.

As I believe, therefore I live.



We need to believe that spiritual warfare is real, face it, fight it, & live victoriously!

I. THE REALITY OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

II. THE REASON FOR SPIRITUALWARFARE

III. THE RUSE OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

IV. THE RESPONSE TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE

A. A Word of Encouragement, 6:10

B. A Word of Enlightenment, 6:11

C. A Word of Enablement, 6:12-17

1. The Arena, 6:12

a. The Opportunity – 12a “For we wrestle...”

b. The Opposition – 12b-e “...against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.”



2. The Armor, 6:13-17

a. The Demand, 6:13

b. The Description, 6:14-17

(1) What we sow, 6:14a “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...”

(2) What we show, 6:14b “...having on the breastplate of righteousness; “

(3) Where we go, 6:15 “And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;”

(4) What we do, 6:16 “ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”

(5) What we know, 6:17a “And take the helmet of salvation...”

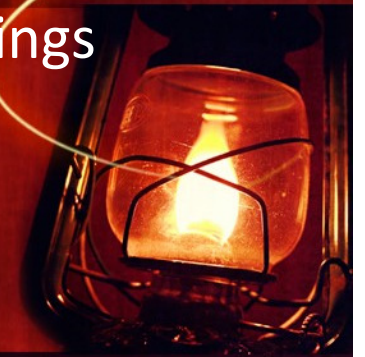


3. The Attack, 6:17b “...and **the sword of the Spirit**, which is **the word of God**.”

4. The Assurance, 6:18

a. The Warring, 6:18a “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...”

- **The Persistence of the Warrior’s Prayer** – “Praying always...”
- **The Possibility of the Warrior’s Prayer** – “...with all prayer...”
 - Pray on all occasions – during church services, social occasions
 - Pray in all places – in the closet, at the table, in personal devotional time
 - At all times – prosperity, adversity, sickness, health, morning, noon, night
 - For all things – personal things, home things, work things



Our prayer life should be all day long, for a lifetime!

- The Petition of the Warrior's Prayer – "...and supplication..."
- The Power for the Warrior's Prayer – "...in the Spirit..."
 - b. The Watching, 6:18b "...and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"
- The Precision of the Warrior's Prayer – "...watching thereunto..."
- The Perseverance of the Warrior's Prayer – "...with all perseverance..."
- The Purpose of the Warrior's Prayer – "...for all saints;"



c. The Witnessing, 6:19-20

(1) A Brother's Opportunity, 6:19

“And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,”

- Paul's personal request was that he would be an effective witness for Christ.
- Paul, an experienced servant, was not dependent upon himself for witnessing.



Rom. 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

- Paul was concerned about three specific aspects of witnessing:
 - The Opportunity – “...that utterance may be given unto me...”
 - The Appropriateness – “...that I may open my mouth boldly...”

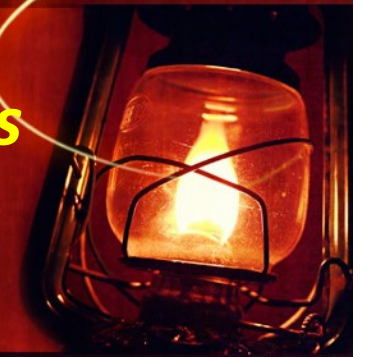


1 Pet. 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and **be ready always to give an answer to every man** that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

- The Focus – “...to make known the mystery of the gospel,”

Eph. 3:9 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:

Col. 1:27 To whom **God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:**



- “...the mystery of the gospel” needs to be heard EVERYWHERE!
- “...among the Gentiles...” = all around the world – MISSIONS!

(2) A Brother’s Opposition, 6:20

(a) His Bonds, 6:20a “For which I am an ambassador in bonds...”

2 Cor. 5:20 **Now then we are ambassadors for Christ,** as though God did beseech *you* by us: **we pray you in Christ's stead,** be ye reconciled to God.



2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. ...

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, **reconciling the world unto himself**, not imputing their trespasses unto them; **and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.**

(b) His Boldness, 6:20b

“...that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”



Col. 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;
3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:
4 That I may make it manifest, **as I ought to speak.**

Summary

- We are engaged in spiritual warfare
- The Lord provided and commanded us to put on the whole armor of God.
- We are to be prepared to fight in order to obtain spiritual victory.
- Included in our spiritual arsenal, is the power of prayer.
- We are to be “watching and witnessing” as good soldiers of Jesus Christ.



2 Tim. 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, **be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.**

2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, **the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.**

3 Thou therefore endure hardness, **as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.**

4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he **may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.**



Conclusion

Psa. 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

3 *There is* no speech nor language, *where* their voice is not heard.

We are to be witnesses:

ALL THE TIME...EVERYWHERE

