

# The Whole Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-18

One of the most important things we can understand as believers is that ***we're in a battle!***

The moment we come to God ***we find ourselves engaged*** in *an unceasing battle for our very souls.*

Because of that ***we're called to be soldiers*** in this war!

In *Eph.6:10-18* we have a passage critical to understanding *how to succeed as a warrior and win* the battle over our enemy!

- Paul gives us 4 things!

## 1. Soldier's Charge!

***Ephesians 6:10 - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.***

***Unless we heed the charge to be strong***

- We'll ***cave to temptation*** and *loose the war*
- Yet our "strength" ***isn't human strength***
- But the strength that comes from the Lord.

**Psalm 27:1 NKJV - An Exuberant Declaration of Faith - A Psalm of David.**

**27** The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?

The LORD *is* the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?

## 2. Soldier's Enemy!

***Ephesians 6:11 - Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.***

**The enemy is the devil** and "schemes" - "wiles" (deceit, trickery, craftiness) ***are the methods and strategies*** he uses to try and defeat us.

Many can't imagine **the reality** of a real devil!

- ***If there's one thing that's evident*** -----
- It's that **there's an evil force** that has access to the spirit of man
- And can **influence and enslave** him to do evil.

### **3. Soldier's Warfare!**

***Ephesians 6:12*** - 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.

This verse conveys 5 important truths about our enemy:

- a. **POWERFUL** – the thrust of this verse stresses the enormous power of evil that stands against the believer.
- b. **NUMEROUS** – principalities, powers, rulers all convey the idea of a large number struggling against us.
- c. **ORGANIZED** – principalities, powers, rulers point to an organization of spiritual forces with enormous authority, position and power.
- d. **RULERS OF THE DARKNESS** – darkness refers to ignorance of truth, whom they blind the minds of men lest they believe the glorious gospel.
- e. **SPIRITUAL FORCES OF WICKEDNESS** – they desire the dedication and worship that's due God.

***The battle is for our soul*** – we were made in the "image" of God and ***thus the reason for the battle!***

### **4. Soldier's Duty!**

***Ephesians 6:13*** - 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.

The reverse of that is true – if you don't put on the whole armor of God ***you WON'T be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.***

He mentions the **“evil day”** that’s when ***the enemy is launching an all-out attack!***

If you don’t have **the “whole armor”** you **won’t** stand when the enemy ***comes rushing in like a flood!***

**Our only hope to stand** in the **“evil day”** is to ***put on the “whole armor” of God!***

**The armor of God is for everybody!**

**Paul says:**

- a. Finally, my **brethren** – it’s **not** just for the preacher but all the saints!
- b. Put on the whole armor of God – all in its entirety; containing all of its elements!
- c. That you may be able to **stand** – ***remain in an upright position*** on ***your feet***; to take and maintain ***a position or attitude***.

***To win the battle***, each of us has to take the **“whole armor” of God and strap it on!**

- That means putting every piece of armor on before you wade out into the battle!

Even **Jesus armed Himself** with the **“armor of God” (Isaiah 59:15-18)**

**Why?**

***He was living out His life on earth in*** human, bodily form, encountering the same things you and I face.

If Jesus, as man, **chose to be clothed** with this “armor” in order to live out His life in obedience and victory, ***how much more do you and I need that same armor?***

**Jesus is the whole armor of God** - The armor is the very characteristics and attributes of God Himself!

Each piece is nothing more than **a manifestation of Jesus Christ in our lives:**

1. Loins girt about with truth – “I am the way, truth, life”.
2. Breastplate of righteousness – We have no righteousness of our own!
3. Feet shod with the gospel of peace –

4. Shield of faith – “Have faith in God”.
5. Helmet of salvation –
6. Sword of the Spirit – “The Word was made flesh”.

When we put on the “whole armor” of God we’re actually putting on Christ!

When we “**put on Christ**” we’re **covered with the “armor”** and ***the enemy can’t get to us!***

I’m talking about a way of releasing the power of Christ ***so the One who’s inside us can be manifest on the outside!***

**I. The Belt Of Truth (Vs.14) - *Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,***

**Belt** – a piece of armor that wrapped around the waist!

**Two purposes:**

1. Held the soldier’s clothing **next to his body** to keep him free from entanglement during battle.
2. **Strengthened and protected** the “loins”(organs that reproduce and dispel waste).

**Truth is “Christ” and the “Word of God”:**

1. Jn.1:14 – And the Word was made FLESH and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and TRUTH.
2. Jn.17:17 – Sanctify them through thy truth: thy WORD is TRUTH.

**When you put on this armor you’re “appropriating truth” to:**

1. Allow you to fight without any reluctance in the battle!

***“You shall know the TRUTH and the truth shall make you free”.***

2. **Protect your witness** so you can continue to reproduce yourself in God!

We reproduce after our kind – *if we're not "in truth"* we're going to give birth to something that's not right.

3. **Help you release any spiritual waste** (falsehood, lies, deceit) out of your life!

### **Ephesians 4:14 NIV**

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

## **II. The Breastplate Of Righteousness (V.14)**

**Breastplate** – covered the body from the neck to the thigh; *used to protect the heart!*

- This speaks of righteousness in our hearts and how it must be protected!

**Righteousness is something:**

### **1. Imputed!**

There's none righteous so when we come to Christ He imputes His righteousness through the blood!

### **2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV**

<sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### **2. Must be "put on"!**

We must *"strive" for the righteousness of Christ!*

This is where the charismatics miss it – they only see it as something that's **"imputed"** and not as something we must **"put on"!**

We couldn't work our way to salvation, but now that we're saved **we must strive to live a life that's pleasing to the Lord!**

### **Titus 2:11-12 NIV**

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

**III. The Gospel Of Peace (Vs.15) - and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.**

**Fitted -Shod** – a shoe or sandal made with nails that gripped the slippery ground; was *a sign of "readiness"* to go into **battle at anytime!**

When you have your feet "*shod*" you're "*prepared*" to go wherever and whenever!

Jesus is ready to "*walk out*" *His life through us* everyday! **Are you ready?**

Put em' on and say, "...Today, *wherever He leads, I'm going to march* into battle and share the gospel with somebody!

"Self-Help Books" – the only real self-help book is *the Word!*

**The "gospel" is the only message that can change a life!**

### **Romans 1:16 NIV**

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

**IV. The Shield Of Faith (Vs.16) - *In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.***

**Shield** – huge defensive weapon carried to **protect the body** from *the fiery darts* thrown by the enemy.

The “**darts**” were dipped in pitch and set afire so when they struck a soldier they burned him up!

**Satan** has his “**fiery darts**” – but ***we’ve got a shield:***

- Ps.3:3 – But thou, O Lord, art ***a SHIELD for me***, my glory, and the lifter, etc.
- Ps.33:20 – Our soul waiteth for the Lord: he our help and ***our SHIELD***.
- Ps.84:11 – For the Lord God is a sun and ***SHIELD***.

**When you pick up** the “**shield of faith**” ***you’re placing Christ between you and the “fiery darts”*** ----

And ***your “faith in God” intercepts the temptations, plots and schemes*** the devil!

- I don’t care what the devil throws, ***“Have faith in God”!***

**V. The Helmet Of Salvation (Vs.17) - *Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.***

**Helmet** – covered the head and mind of a soldier.

**The head is very important** – if wounded it prevents the soldier from being able to wage a good warfare.

***Satan attacks our “salvation” through our mind!***

- He assaults our thought-life to capture and ensnare us!
- Satan will do everything to penetrate your mind with lies!

**Romans 8:6 NIV**

<sup>6</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

**We must allow the Spirit of Christ to cover our minds:**

**Romans 12:2 NIV** - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

## **Ephesians 4:22 NIV**

<sup>22</sup>You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

## **VI. The Sword Of The Spirit (Vs.17)...**

**Sword** – both an offensive and defensive weapon used to protect, fight off, and slay.

***The “sword of the Spirit” is the Word!***

By using the Word we can:

- Protect ourselves from the onslaught of the enemy!
- Win the battle day after day!

**Even Jesus used the Word against Satan:**

Turn this stone to bread – **“It is written**, Man shall not live by bread alone, etc.”

Throw yourself down and the angels will catch you – **“It is written**, Thou shalt not tempt, etc.”

If you worship me you can have whatever you want – **“It is written**, Ye shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shalt thou serve”.

**Close:**

If you’ll get a tight grip on the Word and refuse to put it down you’ll win the battle!

Ephesians 6:18 - And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.

**It doesn’t work without prayer!**