



The Whole Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-18

Introduction...

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 – endure harness as a good soldier!

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

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.

"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" (Ps.27:1)?

"With men it's impossible but with God all things are possible"! "It's not by mighty or by power, etc." "Greater is He that is in me, etc."

2. Soldier's Enemy!

Ephesians 6:11

The enemy is the devil and "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

This verse conveys 4 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

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 wiles 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:

1. Finally, my **brethren** – it's not just for the preacher but all the saints!
2. Put on the **whole** armor of God – all in its entirety; containing all of its elements!
3. That ye 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? Cause He divested Himself of His heavenly privileges and was living out His life on earth in human, bodily form, encountering the same things you and I face.

“He, being in the form of God, made Himself of no reputation, and took up on the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man he humbled himself and became obedient unto death” (Phil.2:7-8).

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!

*“Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying; but **PUT YE ON** the Lord Jesus Christ and make not **PROVISION** for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof” (Rom.13:13-14).*

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)...

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 fight without any reluctance in the battle!

“Ye 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 right.

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

The “truth” is what keeps us from being *“tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they life in wait to deceive” (Eph.4:14).*

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!

“For he hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (2Cor.5:21).

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”!

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior; that being justified by his grace, we should be made heris according to the hope of eternal life” (Tit.3:5-7).

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!

*“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world**” (Tit.2:11-12).*

III. The Gospel Of Peace (Vs.15)...

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 in the Word!

The “gospel” is the only message that can change a life!

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the **power of God** unto salvation to every one that believeth” (Rom.1:16).*

IV. The Shield Of Faith (Vs.16)...

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:

1. Ps.3:3 – But thou, O Lord, art a SHIELD for me, my glory, and the lifter, etc.
2. Ps.33:20 – Our soul waiteth for the Lord: he our help and our SHIELD.
3. 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)...

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!

“To be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Rom.8:6).

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

1. Rom.12:2 – And be not conformed to this world but be y transformed, etc.
2. 2Cor.10:5 – Casting down imaginations, and every high that exalteth itself, etc.
3. Eph.4:22 – That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

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:

1. Protect ourselves from the onslaught of the enemy!
2. Win the battle day after day!

Even Jesus used the Word against Satan:

1. Turn this stone to bread – “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, etc.”
2. Throw yourself down and the angels will catch you – “It is written, Thou shalt not tempt, etc.”
3. 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”.

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

Closing...

Vs.18

It doesn’t work without prayer!

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Introduction...

Follow me from Eph.6:10-13

Rom.13:13-14

I. The Belt Of Truth (Vs.14)...

Back to back”

1. Jn.1:14

2. Jn.17:17

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

Tit.3:5-7

Tit.2:11-12

III. The Gospel Of Peace (Vs.15)...

IV. The Shield Of Faith (Vs.16)...

Back to back:

1. Ps.3:3

2. Ps.33:20

3. Ps.84:11

V. The Helmet Of Salvation (Vs.17)...

Rom.8:6

Back to back:

1. Rom.12:2

3. 2Cor.10:5

4. Eph.4:22

Closing...

Eph.6:18