

“Putting On The Whole Armor Of God!”

Ephesians 6:10-17

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Teaching Aim: To examine the need for each Christian to urgently put on the whole armor of God in order to fight off the spiritual attacks of the enemy. To recognize the importance of each piece of armor God has provided for us through faith in Jesus Christ. To see how the use of this armor aids us as we are spiritually attacked by Satan and other people. To understand the importance of standing for God and His Word in the battles of life which will inevitably come.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)

Part I: Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand (Eph. 6:10-13)

1. As Paul comes to the conclusion of his epistle, he encourages the Ephesian believers in **verse 10** to “*be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*” Why is it important for every believer to do so? Have you ever gone through a time in your life when you had difficulty trusting God? If so, what was it like? How did you get through this trial?
2. In **verse 11** Paul instructed his readers to “*Put on the whole armor of God.*” Why is it important to put on the “*whole*” armor of God? What might happen if you were missing some pieces? Who provides this armor for the Christian? What kind of schemes does Satan throw at believers today? Have you noticed that every time you attempt to take a step forward spiritually, the enemy attacks? Why does he do this?
3. We tend to focus on our circumstances as we go through the difficulties of life, but there may be something more devious at work behind the scenes (**vs. 12**). Who may be behind the attacks you are facing? Can you think of any examples in the Bible where Satan spoke through an animal or individual in an attempt to lead someone into sin? (See **Gen. 3:1**) Who recognized in **Matt. 16:21-23** that Satan was speaking through an individual? Did this individual know it?
4. The Bible teaches us that there are different ranks of holy angels: The Angel of the LORD; an archangel (or archangels); cherubim, seraphim; the four living creatures; and angels who are ministering spirits sent to minister to those who will inherit salvation. What references do we find to fallen angels in **verse 12**? What does each mean? (See Commentaries)

5. The word “*therefore*” always indicates a conclusion is coming (**vs. 13**). As a result of the spiritual warfare alluded to in **verse 12**, what is Paul’s conclusion in **verse 13**? Why is it important for Christians to put on the full armor of God? What happens when Christians leave a piece of their armor off either accidentally or on purpose? (See **1 Pet. 5:8**) God has given every soldier in His army this armor to wear; whether we use it or not is totally up to us. What was the cost to Jesus Christ in providing this armor for us? (See **Rom. 5:8-9; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Rev. 5:9**)

6. What “*day*” was Paul referring to when he spoke of withstanding in “*the evil day*?” According to Paul, are Christians to run or to take a stand for God when the enemy attacks (**vs. 13**)? What will happen if Christians run?

Part II: Preparing for spiritual battle (Eph. 6:14-15)

1. Paul encourages believers to stand and not to give ground during the spiritual battles of life. God has given us all of the offensive and defensive gear we need to stand and fight. Paul first instructs the believer to gird themselves with “*truth*” (**vs. 14**). Why is it important for Christians to live truthfully? The number one accusation unbelievers bring against Christians is, “*You are a bunch of _____.*” Is there any truth to that statement? Who is the ultimate example of steadfastness and “*TRUTH*” in the Bible? (See **John 14:6**) In what way is Satan the polar opposite of Jesus? (See **John 8:44**)

2. What is your definition for the word “*righteousness*?” (See Dictionary) What is the difference theologically between “*positional righteousness*” and “*practical righteousness*?” What did Paul mean in **verse 14** when he instructs believers to put on “*the breastplate of righteousness*?” Is this the “*imputed righteousness*” of Jesus Christ or the “*practical righteousness*” expected to be lived out in the Christian’s everyday life? (See **2 Cor. 5:21; 9:10; Eph. 4:24; 5:8-11**)

3. Roman soldiers had nails on the soles of their sandals. What was their purpose behind this? Why do football players wear cleats today? What can we learn from this illustration today? According to **verse 15**, what message is the believer to press on with against the opposition of the enemy? Why is it important for the Christian to keep pressing forward with the gospel message even though the enemy is doing everything he can to stop us? How many people have you shared the gospel with during the past year? Will you commit to sharing the gospel with others this year?

Part III: Moving from a defensive stand to offense (Eph. 6:16-17)

1. What is the definition of the word "faith?" (See Dictionary) How can our faith in God and His Word shield us from the fiery darts Satan shoots at us today? Has the enemy ever successfully rattled your faith in God? If so, how did he do it? What fiery darts has the enemy shot at you? How has your faith in God and His Word helped you to fend off the attacks of the enemy in the past? How does **Hebrews 11:1** relate to you as a Christian?
2. Why is the helmet so important to a soldier in battle (**vs. 17**)? What kind of protection does the helmet represent? What will happen if we expose our minds to the attacks from the enemy without protection. Has Satan ever attacked your thinking? How did he do it? How did the attack affect you? Why is shielding the mind so important when it comes to participating in spiritual warfare? According to **1 Thess. 5:8**, how should the believer be dressed in spiritual warfare?
3. The helmet of salvation protects the mind of the Christian metaphorically in battle (**vs. 17**). According to this description, what hope keeps the born-again Christian going? Would we have that sure hope if we could lose our salvation. What can we learn about the eternal security of the believer from the following verses: **John 3:14-17, 36; 10:27-29; Rom. 6:23; 1 John 5:11-13**? Is there such a thing as "temporary eternal life" or is that a contradiction of terms?

4. The sword of the Spirit is the only offensive weapon metaphorically mentioned in this section of Scripture (**vs. 17**). As Paul observed the Roman soldiers guarding him, he would have noticed the soldier's sword. The Roman sword was relatively short (between 6-18 inches) and was used for hand-to-hand combat. What does the sword symbolize according to **verse 17**? What is the classic illustration in Scripture of this sword being used? (See **Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13**) How can the example of Jesus Christ help us in our own spiritual warfare today?

5. Knowing the Bible and having a good understanding of solid Biblical doctrine is critical to Christians being able to stand against the attacks of the devil. How frequently do you spend time in God's Word? Why is it critical for every Christian to spend time daily in God's Word and prayer? On a scale of 1-10, how are you doing? What are some practical steps you can take to improve your relationship with the Lord?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live on!*

- Every Christian is to put on the whole armor of God with urgency; lest Satan attack an exposed area of our life.
- It is God who has provided this armor for us through faith in Christ's substitutionary atonement on the cross.
- Paul lists six necessary pieces of spiritual armor for every Christian soldier: a belt, a breastplate, shoes, a shield, a helmet and a sword.
- The various pieces of the armor of God metaphorically stand for: truth, righteousness, faith, salvation, evangelism and the Bible in the Christian life.
- Christians are not to retreat from the spiritual attacks of the enemy, they are to stand and fight using the protective gear God has provided for them.