

The Armor of God – part 1

Spiritual Warfare – Ephesians 6:10-18

Ephesians 6:10–18 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

Finally

- This starts with the word “Finally.” Previous to this Paul lays out proper Christian callings for all walks of life. The word really means henceforth, or therefore it remains. Paul is saying that as we progress in our faith, enemies will oppose you.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

- There is a real enemy. Satan is real.
- He wants to destroy you.
- But we have power over the enemy. We do not have to fall prey to Satan’s plans for us.
 - **Luke 10:19** Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

We need discernment

- **Hebrews 5:14** But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
- Not everything is spiritual warfare, but some things are
 - Ex – Air conditioner going out vs. washing machine, kitchen sink and washing machine going out.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

- We can only be strong when we are in the Lord and operating by His power. Since demons are not corporeal, we cannot fight them in the flesh or by our own strength.
 - Me in my late teens early 20's with guys in Bible study.
 - This is an indwelling strength. Our strength comes from Jesus indwelling us.
 - **1 John 4:4** You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
- **Zechariah 4:6** So he answered and said to me: “This *is* the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the LORD of hosts.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

- Put on the **whole** armor. It is not enough to only put on some of it.
- Of course, this is not actual armor pieces. These are truths and mindsets. These are Spiritual realities that we are to believe.
- As we go through the pieces you will see that there are no deep or advanced truths here only to be discerned by the spiritually mature. These are all part of our basic salvation. These aren't upgrades.

- When we only choose to believe part of our salvation, we open ourselves to attack from the enemy. When we don't operate from a place of understanding our salvation we open ourselves to the attack of the enemy.
 - If you have been saved for some time and do not understand your salvation that is a failing of the discipleship you are under. If that is the case, talk with a church leader about that and get it straightened out.
 - There are other reasons we may get attacked, but honestly, they all actually go back to understanding our salvation. Other reasons include harboring unforgiveness, sin, playing with the occult, inviting demonic attack (example of conference, confessing with faith bad things like when you have extra things break...)
- But these principles when applied fully, will stop the enemy.

Last week we said that there are 2 main tactics (wiles) of the enemy – lies, and more lies.

He delivers those lies through 4 systems:

1. Straight telling them to you
2. You listening to lies you already believe
3. Relying on experience to interpret Scripture
4. Using other people to spread those lies through slander or gossip or meanness.

But, concerning 3 of those 4, we have to realize that we are not our enemy, and other people are not the enemy.

It can be very easy to look at the natural world as the enemy, ourselves, others, our businesses, other political parties, anybody. But that is not the case. And Paul knew that people would go there, so he continues:

Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

- This verse is an actual declaration that we are in a fight. Paul is just reminding us who we are in a fight with. But if you are not aware of the fight, you are probably losing it.
- This verse gives a breakdown of several positions within the enemy ranks. While it may be fun to go over that, I'll let you pursue that on your own if you want to. But it's not necessary to understand it. We are battling the enemy no matter their rank. And that's ok.
 - Paul prayed in Ephesians that we would understand:
 - **Ephesians 1:19–21** and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power²⁰ which He worked **in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him** at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,²¹ **far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named**, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.
 - It is completely true that Jesus, who indwells us, is above all the enemy that we are in battle against.
- So when I started with Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might, this is what I am talking about.

Ephesians 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

- So, since we are in warfare, here are the things you will need to be victorious.
- The evil day – the day of battle with the enemy. Or when the enemy attacks.
- Able to withstand, and having done all, to stand – This was a common Roman military phrase used to describe victory. Sort of like standing victoriously in the face of our enemies. Or standing over the graves of our foes.

The Armor

Ephesians 6:14–18 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

Belt of Truth

The belt covers our core. This is where all of our motion comes from. Our ability to act comes from here. If you have ever damaged your core, or thrown out your lower back, you know how vital this is.

This is not talking about not lying. While we should not lie, this is about *knowing* real truth to stand up against the lies of the enemy.

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

- When we understand the truth of the Gospel, it sets us free. When we believe lies, they bind us up.
- The belt was designed to make a warrior move about freely, gathering everything together and supporting the core.
- Knowing who you are in Christ is truth.
 - Christ is in you
 - You are righteous
 - Free from shame and guilt
 - Child of God
 - Your eternity is secure
- Having a proper image of the Father is truth
 - He’s not angry
 - He loves you as children

- He takes care of us
- The Holy Spirit in us
 - **John 16:7–15** Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And when He has come, **He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:** ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ **of righteousness, because I go to My Father** and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. ¹³ However, when He, **the Spirit of truth**, has come, **He will guide you into all truth**; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for **He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.** ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.
 - **1 John 4:2–6** By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. ⁴ You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are of the world. Therefore they speak *as* of the world, and the world hears them. ⁶ We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

The principle of “Two truths and a lie.” This is so important to standing in every situation.

How do we put this on?

- Knowing the Truths from the Bible.
- Recognizing lies spoken to us or against us.
- Challenging those lies with Truth (spoiler alert — Truth will win!)

Colossians 2:13–15 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

- This passage shows that Jesus disarmed the enemy. And it shows how. We are made alive, then forgiven, then the requirements (the law) that made us unrighteous was wiped out. So the enemy has nothing over us. He cannot say we are unworthy, or shamed, or guilty, or anything.
- This is probably for the breastplate