

## Armor of God – Part 2

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*Ephesians 6:10-18 [NIV]*

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup>*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.* <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup>and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup>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.



In part one, we discussed that our position should not be passive when we deal with temptation and sin but rather that we should take an active role in using the tools that God has provided to us.

In Ephesians, chapter 6 verses 10 to 18, the apostle Paul teaches that our real battle is not against individuals and circumstances themselves but actually fight against the evil forces in this world who use temptation and lies to lead men to sin. Take note: they lead me to sin – it is OUR choice to turn from sin.

We discussed:

Needing the LORD's power because we need Him when we fight against the spirits who deal in sin.

We must put on the FULL armor because all the tools are needed together to be successful.

We learned that we fight against the ruler and the powers of this dark world.

That we need to STAND and hold our ground. It isn't enough to know what your weakness is. You must take an active role in blocking efforts by others to use this weakness against you.

We need His Belt of Truth – so that we girded with the knowledge of what we each mean to God. His truth guides us and protects from the lies of the enemy.

We need His righteousness because God protects our hearts. Our power is not in our own righteousness but in HIS grace that covers us.

We must know the Gospel. We must let it inhabit our minds and our hearts. When you know His Word, then you know His Message. God's promises are important in knowing His Will for us. What are some of His Promises?

The final item we discussed last week was the shield of Faith. As we walk with God and learn to experience how he allows us to overcome challenges in this life, we are reminded to trust in God. The more we discover and admit that God moves in our lives, the easier it is to surrender and allow Him to control our path.

Let us dig into verse 17.

<sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

The helmet protects your brain which is the temple for your mind and your eyes which are the windows into your sight.

Why do you need to protect your mind?

Why do you need to protect your eyes?

Sure, your brain has hundreds of jobs (breathing, walking, heart rate, blood pressure, etc.) but your mind can be influenced in so many ways.

What you see can form the basis for many things. How you see certain events and how you interpret them are critical in forming your values and your perspective.

When Jesus died on the cross he offered a path to purchase and pay off your sin debt. His Salvation is the source of your life.

<sup>2</sup> 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. Romans 2:12 (NIV)

For I know the **plans** I have for you," declares the LORD, "**plans to** prosper you and not **to harm** you, **plans to** give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

[Hebrews 4:12](#)

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged **sword**, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

### **Verse 17**

Salvation (helmet) and the Word of God (sword)

Why is Salvation associated with a helmet which protects the head during battle.

Your MIND is the seat of your identity – it houses your consciousness, your thoughts, etc.

Are you saved? Are you redeemed? Is the Lord covering you with His righteousness. The knowledge and recognition of your salvation provides the confidence that you are NOT alone. The Lord is the true warrior in your fight against Sin.

And what is the most powerful weapon in our spiritual arsenal: the Word.

### **Verse 18**

Prayer: Pray in the Spirit

On all occasions

With all kinds of prayers and requests  
Be alert, and always keep praying for all the Lord's people.

YOU have a battle.  
But your family, friends, co-workers, brothers and sisters, ALSO have a battle. Pray for them.

Prayer is a conversation between you and your creator. Prayer is the way that you  
Worship the Father who designed you.  
Uncover your potential.  
Discover your gifts.  
Learn what is expected of you.  
Worship The Lord.  
Seek the counsel of the Comforter (Holy Spirit).

### **A Warning:**

#### **1 Thessalonians 5**

In chapter 5 of the Letter to the Thessalonians, Paul writes about being alert and aware. This is why it is so important to take an ACTIVE approach in doing everything that you can to live a holy and powerful life within the boundaries of our LORD's Word. Let's read:

#### The Day of the Lord

5 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you,<sup>2</sup> for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.<sup>3</sup> While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

<sup>4</sup> But you, brothers and sisters, are **not in darkness** so that this day should surprise you like a thief.<sup>5</sup> You are all **children of the light** and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.<sup>6</sup> So then, let us not be like others, who are **asleep**, but let us be **awake** and sober.<sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.<sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, **putting on faith and love as a breastplate**, and the **hope of salvation as a helmet**.<sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>10</sup> He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.<sup>11</sup> Therefore **encourage one another and build each other up**, just as in fact you are doing. 1 Thess 5:1-11. NIV

**Don't get caught sleeping when it comes to your spirit life.**

### **Closing:**

In our day to day lives we strive for balance in many areas. Sin will disrupt that balance. As you grow in fellowship with your Savior, the Holy Spirit will convict you in areas of your life that you need to address. Submit these areas to the will of your Father. Be proactive in avoiding situations that you know will tempt you. Equip yourself with the Power in the Word and with the many tools that God grants you through His Grace.

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **John 3:16 (NIV)**