

Armor of God – Mark 1 Billion

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July 7, 2021

Ephesians 6:10-18 [NIV]

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



As believers in Christ we are equipped with the Power of the Holy Spirit. This power guides, protects, encourages, strengthens, whispers, stands up, informs, empowers, shields, illuminates and illustrates.

The Holy Spirit guides us to be bold and also to be gentle. If we are obedient, He shows us when to be reserved and when to be loud.

In Comic books and TV, we have seen how Tony Stark is just a normal man with no super human ability and yet his intellect and desire to protect humanity against evil have allowed him to create powerful armor to protect himself and fight evil forces. I am especially interested in his Mark 50 armor. This armor was created with nano technology, a microscopic robot technology. It can adapt to protect Tony Stark and allow him to defeat enemies. This particular armor changes its characteristics to meet changing demands and challenges.

How does the Holy Spirit equip believers to resist evil and promote the love, compassion and mercy that are gifts from our Father in Heaven. Ephesians chapter 6 describes the power that is given to us both to STAND in Defense and to ATTACK in WARFARE against evil.

Tony Stark as Iron Man has the Mark 50 Power suit.

*As believers in Christ, we have **the Mark One Billion power suit.***

Let us study Ephesians 6 and learn about His Armor and why we need to put it on.

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Ephesians 6:10-18.

These verses in Ephesians highlight the tools that God has given you both to stand firm in your faith against attacks and to wage battle against sin and the enemy forces that wage spiritual battles against you.

[Read the key scripture in its entirety.]

What tools does God provide that are to be used as a SHIELD?
What tools does God provide to wage WARFARE against Sin?

Background

How do we see beyond the Fog and Noise of this World.
How do we succeed in a place where the fight is not against people but against a power that perverts love, compassion and kindness.

Let's Find Out...

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Verse 10:

*Why do we need the Lord's mighty power? **You need HIS power to defeat sin.***

Your strength comes from being in the presence of the Lord – His power heals, encourages, directs, compels, shields and empowers you to do His Will and live a holy life. What you face in battle against the enemy is a struggle for your eternal life, your promise for living God's promises.

Look with the sight and vision that the Holy Spirit empowers you with. Look to the root cause of the Sin. Then apply the restorative power that comes from the Holy Spirit.

The weakest Christian has the Strength of God in his spirit – this is enough to defeat sin in his life.

Verse 11:

*Does it say put on some parts and leave some off? **Put on the full armor of God***

Is your position defensive or offensive when you "take your stand against the devil's schemes".

Discuss the difference between passive approach to fighting sin vs a proactive approach.

Verse 12:

Who do we fight against?

Who are the rulers, the authorities, powers of this dark world, spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms?

You FIGHT against Sin and the forces that spread it, tempts with it, trick and lie to you with it. It is easy to blame a person or perhaps a hurt or injury in our past when we fall or give in to sin. But the reality is that sin is what you fight against. And the source is not man but the enemy. Though we need not fear the enemy we need to understand the true source of what we fight against.

Verse 13:

Full armor. Why do we need the full armor. Why is partial not good enough.

God has given you a connected set of tools. When you go to fight sin, don't leave any tools behind. Let's look at what this power suit has....

Stand. Is this a passive or active position?

Verse 14: What is the message here. Stand with the **Truth of God**. Because the main weapon of the enemy is falsehood. *In what ways does the enemy lie to you?*

Lies: "It's gonna be ok. This won't hurt you. Go ahead and try this or that. God won't mind...."

What is the breastplate of righteousness? What is righteousness.

[Being RIGHT in the Eyes of God].

Are you righteous by your self. Are you holy in and of yourself? What is the source of your righteousness and holiness. **Jesus Christ**. Therefore you need to accept Christ into your life and commit your life to him so that you are COVERED by his blood, by his Will, by his Love, by his COMMITMENT to you!!! This is so important. Do not miss the GIFT that comes from Jesus your redeemer who COVERS your sin with his holiness.

Verse 15:

Be prepared to fight the struggle by knowing the Gospel. Read and study. Know God's promises.

2 Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Verse 16:

In addition -> take up the shield of faith with which you can block the attacks of the enemy.

How is Faith a shield in your life?

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

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.

In our day to day lives we strive for balance in many areas. Sin will disrupt that balance. Equip yourself with the Power in the Word and with the many tools that God grants you through His Grace.

John 3:16 (NIV)

¹⁶For 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.