

## **Ephesians 6:10-15 Answers** **Our Battle Dress: The Whole Armor of God – Part 1**

**Introduction:** Trotsky supposedly said, “You may not be interested in war, but war is interested in you” (this is actually a mistranslation of what he said). Be warned: there is an invisible war raging, right now, all around us, between the forces of darkness and the forces of light. There is battle. Everyone who believes in the Lord Jesus has been called up for duty, drafted, to join in the fight. The devil does not want people to believe in him or the war so they will fail to appreciate the seriousness of the fight and be unprepared.

**\*\*\*\*According to Ephesians 6:10-20, why should we put on the full armor of God?** It is so that we can take our stand against the devil’s schemes and so that when the day of evil comes, we can stand our ground, 6:11,13.

**1. Why is the first word in this paragraph “finally” (6:10)?** This is the concluding part of the book of Ephesians.

**According to 6:10, who is the source of our strength and might?** The Lord is the source of our strength. The rest of this paragraph is an explanation of how we can remain strong in the Lord despite the devil’s attacks.

**2. What command are we given in 6:11?** We are to put on the whole armor of God so that we can stand against the devil.

**3. What did Paul mean when he wrote that the devil has “schemes” (6:11)?** See *2 Corinthians 2:10-11*. Satan has a *modus operandi*. The Greek word here is *methodia*, basis for our word methodical. The devil is organized. Be sure of this: Satan has a strategic and systematic scheme just for you. To mirror the Four Spiritual Laws, “Satan hates you and has a terrible plan for your life.” Things don’t just happen in life. The devil and his demons will set a trap for you, to ensnare you, to weaken your faith.

**NIV 2 Corinthians 2:10b-11** And what I have forgiven — if there was anything to forgive — I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

Satan has been deceiving and tricking people for over 5000 years. We are all novices against him. However, we have a book that tells us all about him and his schemes!

**4. Who is the devil (6:11)?** See *Revelation 12:9*. The existence of the devil is a fact. He is a fallen angel who rebelled against God. He is a sinister minister of evil. Devil is from *diabolos*; *dia* means through and *bolé* means throw. The idea seems to be that the devil is the accuser of the brethren, throwing accusations through God’s people even as a person would hurl a spear through someone.

**ESV Revelation 12:9** And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world — he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, ". . . the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

**Satan Exposed:** Satan is Systematic in His Warfare ("schemes"), Strong in His Abilities ("powers of this dark world") and Spiritual in His Essence ("spiritual forces").

The devil is real and he is ruthless. Our sophisticated age scoffs at the idea of a devil and his demons. Liberal theologians do not believe in a personal devil. Indeed, 2 Corinthians 4:4 says that the god of this world has blinded their eyes.

**ESV 2 Corinthians 4:4** . . . the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

**Hyper Preterism:** A serious error about end time events has been promoted. It teaches that the Second Coming has already happened (!) and that Satan is now in the Lake of Fire. What better demonic deception could there be than the false teaching that there is no longer any demonic deception?

**5. What in 6:12 indicates the forces of darkness should be taken seriously?** We have to wrestle against them. The text calls them the powers of this dark world and forces for evil. Satan's power is not to be taken lightly. Never underestimate your enemy!

**Hymn:** "For still our ancient foe, doth seek to work us woe — His craft and power are great. And, armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal" (Martin Luther, *A Mighty Fortress*).

Satan is strong, but Jesus is stronger! Satan is a defeated foe.

**ESV Colossians 2:15** He (Jesus) disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

**6. What did Paul mean when he said that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood (6:12)?**  
*See Matthew 16:23, Revelation 13:1.* The metaphysical forces of darkness manipulate the physical world to do their bidding. Thus the reality of the situation is that we are ultimately fighting the spiritual behind the physical. They are cosmic powers; they are spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places that put up a fleshly façade.

**Terrifying Truth:** Not everything that is spiritual is holy.

**Example:** Jesus saw Satan using Peter and said, "Get thee behind me Satan" (Mt 16:23).

**Example:** In the book of Revelation, John warned of an earthly empire that was animated (empowered, enabled) by the devil.

**ESV Revelation 13:1** And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.

**World History:** Behind Hitler was Satan. Behind Stalin were demonic forces. Behind Mao were evil spirits. Behind any worldly system that persecutes the church is the dark world. Behind the Hindu mobs that burn down church buildings are spiritual forces.

**NAS 1 John 4:1** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

**7.** We must realize and remember that our battle is not with flesh and blood, (the things that we see). Satan shrewdly gets us to wrestle with flesh and blood, and then he smirks on the side-lines untouched while he enjoys our fights with other humans. This is a false front, a distraction from the real battle. **How should a realization of what is really going on behind the scenes (6:12), impact the way we wrestle?** Praying, holding to the truth, living in righteousness, bold evangelism, walking by faith and the utilizing the word of the Spirit are the real weapons we fight with in what is really a spiritual wrestling match.

**What command did Paul repeat in 6:13?** *Compare 6:11.* He said once more to put on the full armor of God. All the pieces are essential.

**8. What reason did he give in 6:13 for putting on the armor?** It is so as to be able to withstand evil and stand firm in the faith.

**9. What activity comes between withstanding and standing firm (6:13)?** The middle activity is "having done all". You start off withstanding evil when it comes, you do everything to fight it and at the end when the dust of battle settles down, you are still standing firm. We need to expect that there is going to be a fight, a siege.

**What order did Paul issue in 6:14?** We are to stand! This makes the third time Paul said that we are to stand (and not fall). These are "standing" orders.

— Belt of Truth —

**What is the first piece of armor mentioned in 6:14?** We are to fasten on the belt of truth.

**10. What purpose did the belt serve in a Roman soldier's battle dress (6:14)?** A Roman soldier wore a leather belt that held his armor together. It also gave him lumbar support. It was a combination tool belt and wrestler's belt.

**11. Read between the lines. If we need a belt of truth (6:14), what does this tell us about one of Satan's schemes?** *See John 8:44, 17:17.* He is a liar and deceiver who will try to mislead us.

ESV **John 8:44** When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

**History:** Mankind's first introduction to Satan was in the Garden of Eden. What did the crafty serpent say to Eve? "You shall not surely die" (Ge 3:4).

**Insight:** The cleverest lie sounds the most like the truth. A clock five minutes wrong may be more dangerous than a clock five hours wrong. The one five hours wrong is obviously wrong. The one five minutes wrong may cause you to miss the train.

ESV **John 17:17** Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

**Application:** We need to be people of truth and integrity. We are to know, believe and practice the truth. We are to live it and tell it. What keeps us going is not what we feel (Satan will lie to us) but what we know to be the truth.

— **Breastplate of Righteousness** —

**What is the next piece of equipment we are to put on (6:14)?** We are to put on the breastplate of righteousness.

**12. What was a breastplate (6:14)?** It was body armor made of metal plates or chains that covered the warrior's body from neck to waist. Its purpose was to protect the vital organs.

**In this passage, what does the breastplate symbolize (6:14)?** It symbolizes the believer's righteousness.

**13. Is Paul talking about a breastplate of positional righteousness or practical righteousness (6:14)? Why?** Even though both are important, my thought is that he primarily means practical righteousness. Positional righteous is ours by faith in the work Jesus did for us on the cross. Practical righteousness comes by obedience to the commands of Jesus. Our personal sin creates a crack in our breastplate!

**Application:** If there is a chink in the armor, an arrow can get through. If there is a chink in your righteousness, Satan can get through to you. Impurity is a crack in the armor; any small sin or lack of righteousness can make you vulnerable to Satan.

**Example:** Ahab, King of Israel, was killed when an archer drew his bow at random and the arrow struck the king of Israel between the scale armor and the breastplate. T

**Example:** Harold Godwinson, the last Anglo-Saxon king of England, was killed at the Battle of Hastings in A.D. 1066. Tradition has it that a single, random arrow penetrated his eye through the face opening in his armor.

Who is it knocks so loud?  
A lonely little sin.  
“Slip through,” I answered.  
Soon all hell was in.

**Example:** There is a true account of a police officer who pulled over a speeding truck. Just inches from the window, the driver (who unknown to the policeman had just robbed a bank), fired a pistol point-blank into the policeman’s chest. The policeman lived because he was wearing a bulletproof vest. Sadly, another officer and his partner were in a high crime area, and approached a house to serve a warrant. Four slugs were fired from inside the house, through the door. One hit the policeman squarely in the center of the chest. He was dead within a minute. His bulletproof vest was found in the trunk of the squad car parked thirty feet from where he fell.

**Application:** Every policeman believes in bulletproof vests. They work! But they are useless unless worn. The officer must be willing to wear the vest, even when it is hot, even when it is uncomfortable. Similarly, we must take this belief in the full armor of God to the point of commitment. We must be willing to put on the risen Christ. Be dressed for battle. *Put on your armor.*

— Shoes of the Gospel —

**14. According to 6:15, what is supposed to be on our feet?** See *John 16:33, Acts 19:15-16, Romans 6:15*. Roman soldiers wore hobnailed shoes (sort of like football shoes that have cleats) to give them sure footing. Our feet are to be shod with Gospel readiness. If we are to “stand” it is important to have the right shoes. One of Satan’s schemes is to fight us on ground that is rocky and sharp with thorns

**Application:** The Gospel is like shoes that fit us for service.

**Negative Example:** The New Testament recounts how seven Jewish men, who did not believe the Gospel, attempted to wage spiritual warfare and were soundly beaten by demons:

ESV **Acts 19:15-16** . . . the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

**Why would Paul have pointed out that it is the Gospel “of peace” (6:15)?** The Gospel gives us peace with God and peace in the midst of warfare.

NAS **John 16:33** In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

**Secondary Application:** Someone quipped that if we don’t give away our faith we will soon lose it. This quip is not really true, but the fact remains that we are to be witnesses.

ESV **Romans 10:15** How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!

## So What?

### 15. What did you learn about spiritual warfare today?

**Review:** Today we covered the importance of truth, righteousness and the readiness given by the Gospel of peace.

**Sources:** Some ideas for this lesson were taken from a series on spiritual warfare preached by Adrian Rogers at Bellevue Baptist Church in 1982.

\*\*\*\* = ask this question before reading the text aloud. This is put people's minds in gear and them something to look for as the text is read. It causes focus.

**Teacher's note:** These lessons are based on the ESV and are designed for 45 minute sessions. If you send out each lesson's questions a week in advance it will encourage people to think about the passage during the week. Coving each question in class will give importance to the questions and give incentive for the class to spend time preparing for the discussion.

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