

## Armed for Battle Ephesians 6:10-20 (focus on 6:14-17)

### INTRODUCTION

Last time, we began to explore this topic of spiritual warfare and learned that there's a reality...**we are engaged in deadly spiritual warfare (we have an enemy, they have tactics, and the battle is up close and personal). We also learned that there's a strategy, namely that we need to be strengthened by the Lord so we can stand strong and stand firm.**

*So, there's a reality and there's a strategy...for this morning, please note...*

### III. The \_\_\_\_\_: the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (6:14-17)

What can we say about the armor of God?

#### A. God's armor is \_\_\_\_\_ in relationship

**God's enemy is our enemy. The one who hates God and seeks every moment of the day to usurp God's throne and rob Him of glory is the very one who assaults God's redeemed.** The devil knows that he cannot defeat God, so he aims for defeating us. His minions carry out the daily assaults that Paul calls "**the schemes of the devil**" and "**the flaming arrows of the evil one.**" It's not a matter of *if* we will be attacked. It's the reality that we live in a fallen world dominated by the demonic as evidenced by the collective rebellion against God in this world. **So, we must prepare for daily battle.**

**The energy, power, and ability to face spiritual conflict are not found in us.** It has nothing to do with how spiritually energetic we might be or how many biblical facts we can cite in a game of Bible Trivia. It's not about how great we are at spiritual calisthenics. Instead, **spiritual warfare is about relationship to Jesus Christ. Our strength and power for facing temptation and the assault on our assurance is rooted in relationship to Jesus Christ.**

#### B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God's armor \_\_\_\_\_ that we take action (6:13-17)

While the passive voice of "**be strong**" implies being strengthened by the Lord and His might—as His activity on our behalf—the next command is in the middle voice. "**Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil**" (6:11) We see this repeated in verse 13, "**take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.**" The middle voice expresses emphatically that **you and I take action to put on the whole (it's thorough, complete) armor of God.** It is God's armor and it's ready for our use. **Spiritual warfare is not about passivity or "let go and let God" kind of thinking.** It's about taking action because of Jesus having already acted on your behalf. Find your encouragement to put on the armor of God **because** Jesus is at work strengthening you with His might.

#### C. God's armor is \_\_\_\_\_ for spiritual conflict and its use provides \_\_\_\_\_ over the unseen realm (6:14-17)

**Since God provides each aspect of our armor, we need not fear its failure against Satan's attacks. Our confidence is not in our abilities, but in the ability of our armor to withstand assault.**

Paul details the **six main pieces** of a soldier's equipment—the belt, the breastplate, the boots, the shield, the helmet and the sword, and uses them as pictures of the truth, righteousness, good news of peace, faith, salvation and word of God which equip us in our fight against the powers.

Each part of the armor has particular reference to something Christ has done declared in the gospel and its application.

1. The belt of \_\_\_\_\_ (6:14a)

2. The breastplate of \_\_\_\_\_ (6:14b)

3. The shoes of gospel \_\_\_\_\_ (6:15)

**We need the gospel of Christ to anchor us, to hold us steady, to keep us mobile in our spiritual advance, and to keep us secure even when facing a spiritual onslaught.**

4. The shield of \_\_\_\_\_ (6:16)

5. The helmet of \_\_\_\_\_ (6:17a)

6. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit (6:17b)

### **CONCLUSION**

What can we take with us this morning? I must ask you this simple question, my friend. In this great spiritual war, **whose side are you on?** If you are still **“dead in your transgressions and sins,”** you are unknowingly under Satan’s control, serving him and in rebellion against God (Ephesians 2;1-3). You are at war with God. If, by faith in Jesus Christ, you acknowledge your sin and trust in the victory which Jesus has already won on the cross, then you shall be saved, in which case you shall wage war for God. How great is the difference between those who fight with God and those who fight for Him. **Whose side are you on in the spiritual war?**