

THE ARMOR OF GOD PART 3
EPHESIANS 6:10-22

WELL, TODAY WE FINISH THE EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS. WHAT A RICH FEW MONTHS IT HAS BEEN. MY PRAYER IS THAT YOU HAVE ALL DRAWN NEARER TO GOD AS YOU HAVE APPLIED THE WORD TO YOUR THOUGHTS, SPEECH, ACTIONS, AND RELATIONSHIPS. PAUL THE APOSTLE SPEAKS PLAINLY AND APPLICABLY ALL THROUGH THIS LETTER. THE NEWLY SAVED GENTILES FROM EPHESUS WERE LIVING IN A CULTURE THAT IS NOT THAT DIFFERENT FROM OURS. THE WORSHIP OF IDOLS, SEXUAL SIN, THE WORSHIP OF SELF, AND THE REJECTION OF TRUTH WAS RAMPID IN EPHESUS. SOUND FAMILIAR? PAUL EXORTS THE CHURCH TO BE SET APART FROM THEIR CULTURE. DENY YOUR OLD NATURE AND EMBRACE THE NEW CREATION YOU HAVE BECOME IN CHRIST. WE ARE EQUALS IN CHRIST, NO ONE IS ABOVE OR BELOW ANYONE ELSE. SO, LOVE EACH OTHER. SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER IN REVERENCE AND HONOR TO CHRIST THE KING. HE SUBSTITUTED HIS PERFECT LIFE ON THE CROSS, PAID THE PENALTY FOR OUR SINFUL LIVES, THEN RESSURECTED AS THE FIRST SUPREME ONE INTO THE RESSURECTED LIFE PROMISED TO ALL WHO PUT THEIR FAITH IN HIM. PAUL ENDS THIS LETTER WITH AN EXALTATION AND A BATTLE CRY. BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND HIS MIGHTY POWER. CHRIST HAS BROUGHT US NEAR TO GOD AND SHARES HIS INHERITENCE WITH HIS PEOPLE. THIS INCLUDES EVERY WEAPON WE NEED TO FIGHT OUR SIN NATURE, THIS SATANIC WORLD SYSTEM WE LIVE IN, AND THE DEMONIC.

Ephesians 6:10-17 NIV

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

I WILL REVIEW THE FIRST THREE.

THE BELT OF TRUTH- LIVING IN TRUTH, OBEYING THE WORD OF GOD

BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS- LIVING RIGHTLY, DOING WHAT IS RIGHT EVEN WHEN NO ONE IS LOOKING

FITTED WITH READINESS THAT COMES FROM THE GOSPEL OF PEACE- OUR FOUNDATION THAT WE STAND ON IS THAT WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

SHIELD OF FAITH

Ephesians 6:16 NIV

¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

TAKING UP IS IN THE ACTIVE VOICE OF THE SCRIPTURE INDICATING THAT EACH OF US MUST CHOOSE TO DO THIS WE CHOOSE TO BELIEVE GOD, HIS WORD, PROMISES, GOODNESS, AND SOVEREIGNTY NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS

IN ALL THINGS WE MUST GIVE THANKS AND WALK HUMBLY IN OBEDIENCE WITH GOD

THIS IS ACTIVATING FAITH THAT SHIELDS YOU

Proverbs 30:4-5 NIV

⁴Who has gone up to heaven and come down?

Whose hands have gathered up the wind?

Who has wrapped up the waters in a cloak?

Who has established all the ends of the earth?

What is his name, and what is the name of his son?

Surely you know!

⁵“Every word of God is flawless;

he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

In ancient warfare, these **fiery darts** were launched in great number at the beginning of an attack. The idea was not only to injure the enemy, but to shoot at him at all sides with a massive number of darts, and thus confuse and panic the enemy.

Even when such a missile was caught by the shield and did not penetrate to the body, it caused panic, because it was thrown when well lit and its motion through the air made it blaze most fiercely, so that the soldier was tempted to get rid of his burning shield and expose himself to the enemy's spear-thrusts. But the shield of faith not only catches the flaming devices but extinguishes them.

WE ARE IN A SPIRITUAL BATTLE, WE WILL BE ATTACKED, WE WILL BE TEMPTED WITH SIN, AND WE WILL HAVE A CHOICE IN THOSE MOMENTS TO OPERATE IN FEAR OR FAITH

WE MUST TAKE UP OUR HOLD OF GOD, OUR SHIELD
IT'S NOT WHAT WE BELIEVE, IT'S HOW WE BELIEVE AND IN WHOM WE BELIEVE. RELYING ON THE PERSON, PURPOSES, AND POWER OF GOD

SPURGEON- We are not to neglect our sincerity, our righteousness, or our peace, but above all, as the most important, we are to see to it that our faith is right, that it be true faith, and that it covers all our virtues from attack. There is no respect in which faith is not useful to us, therefore, whatever you leave out, see to your faith; if you forget all besides, be careful above all that ye take the shield of faith. And then, again, we are told above all to take the shield of faith, because faith preserves from all sorts of enemies. The fiery darts of the wicked! Does that refer to Satan? Faith answers him. Does it refer to wicked men? Faith resists them. Does it refer to one's own wicked self? Faith can overcome

that. Does it refer to the whole world? “This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” It matters not who the enemy may be; let the earth be all in arms abroad, this faith can quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. Above all, then, take the shield of faith.

WE MUST REST OUR WHOLE WEIGHT ON GOD

HELMET OF SALVATION

Ephesians 6:17 NIV

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

TAKE/DECHOMAI/RECEIVE, ACCEPT

PAUL IS SPEAKING TO CHRISTIANS SO HE IS NOT TALKING ABOUT ATTAINING SALVATION BUT RATHER THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION. SATAN WANTS TO CAUSE DOUBT AND DISCOURAGEMENT TO GOD’S PEOPLE TO TAKE THEM OUT

Hebrews 6:10-12 NIV

¹⁰ God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. ¹¹ We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. ¹² We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

A HELMET PROTECTS THE HEAD, THE BRAIN, YOUR THOUGHTS.
HOW YOU THINK LARGELY DICTATES HOW YOU ACT, HOW YOU
ACT LARGELY DICTATES THE COURSE OF YOUR LIFE

WE MUST REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE BEEN SAVED
(JUSTIFICATION), WE ARE BEING SAVED (SANCTIFICATION),
AND WE WILL BE SAVED (GLORIFICATION)

THIS MATTERS IN THE MIDST OF THE BATTLE

SALVATION IS THE FOUNDATIONAL DOCTRINE TO
UNDERSTAND COGNITIVELY AND TO KNOW EXPERIENTIALLY

SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

Ephesians 6:17 NIV

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the
Spirit, which is the word of God.

SWORD/MACHAIRA/ REFERS TO THE ROMAN GLADIUS, A
SHORT TWO-EDGED SWORD ABOUT 2FT. LONG USED FOR
CLOSE HAND TO HAND COMBAT

THIS IS THE ONLY CLEARLY OFFENSIVE WEAPON IN THE LIST
PAUL MENTIONS

WORD/RHEMA/TO SPEAK, TO SAY, REFERS TO THE SPOKEN
WORD WITH PRECISION AND UNDERSTANDING

WORD/LOGOS/WRITTEN WORD, GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

TO EFFECTIVELY USE THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT IS TO HOLD GOD'S WORD AS THE FINAL INNERRANT, INFALLIBLE, AND ETERNAL TRUTH

THE HOLY SPIRIT INSPIRED THE WRITINGS OF THE WORD, HE ILLUMINATES IT TO THE BELIEVER, AND HE STRENGTHENS US WITH IT SO WE CAN USE IT. HE ALSO HELPS US USE IT FOR OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE SPIRITUAL WARFARE

IF YOU KNOW YOUR GOING INTO BATTLE (AND WE ARE) WOULDN'T YOU PRACTICE THRUSTING YOUR SWORD BEFORE THE FIGHT? A SUPERIOR WARRIOR FIGHTS WITH INSTINCT, ALREADY KNOWING WHICH POSITION OF THE THRUST WILL BE MOST EFFECTIVE

WHEN JESUS WAS TEMPTED BY SATAN IN THE DESERT, HE SAID "IT IS WRITTEN"

Hebrews 4:12 NIV

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.

THE WORD FIRST CUTS AWAY AT OUR SINFUL BEHAVIORS THEN, AS WE SUBMIT IN OBEDIENCE, WE TURN AROUND AND USE IT AS A WEAPON AGAINST THE DEVIL AND THE FLESH

Ephesians 6:18 NIV

¹⁸ 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.

PRAYER IS A WAR-TIME WALKIE-TALKIE NOT A DOMESTIC INTERCOM

John 15:16-17 NIV

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

A PRAYING CHURCH IS A STRONG AND UNIFIED CHURCH
NO MATTER HOW COMPLETE THE ARMOR, THE SKILLS OF
BATTLE, AND COURAGE, WITH OUT PRAYER WE SHALL BE
DEFEATED

MEANINGFUL HEARTFELT PRAYER MOVES GOD'S MIGHTY
HAND

Ephesians 6:19-20 NIV

¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

LIKE PAUL, PLEASE PRAY FOR ME