

Stand Firm and Fight

Please re-read Ephesians chapters 1-3!!!!

Ephesians 6

Vs. 11 – *“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”*

Vs. 13,14 – *“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand...stand therefore...”*

The Battle – The war is not glamorous, abstract or a game...it is a bloody mess. The Devil is real and Hell is for real. Eternity and our souls are at stake.

The Enemy – The Devil, Satan, is like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8).

The Battlefield – In the spiritual realm, the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12; 2 Cor. 10:3-5).

The Conqueror (Aaron)

- The phrase “whole (full) armor” is from the Greek word *panoplia*, which is a compound word simply meaning the complete armor.
- This word is first used when Jesus talks about how he is binding the strong man (the Devil) who is “fully armed” and will completely overpower him and conquer him (Luke 11:21-22).
- Jesus, through the resurrection, disarmed the Devil, displaying the “strength of His might.”
 - Colossians 2:14-16 – Jesus “disarmed” the Devil at the cross.
 - Ephesians 1:18-21 – Notice certain terms / words here in Ephesians 1 that are also used in Ephesians 6.
 - **In the strength of His might** – Where did Jesus display His dominance over the devil? At the cross and in the resurrection (Gen. 3:15; Hebrews 2:14-15).
 - **In the heavenly places** – Where does Jesus rule with absolute authority? In the spiritual realm, including over the forces of darkness led by Satan.
 - **Power** – The Greek word *dunamis*, from where we get our English word “dynamite,” is used in various ways here in Ephesians.
 - The “exceeding greatness of His POWER” (1:19)
 - Be STRONG (Be EMPOWERED) in the Lord (Ephesians 6:10).
 - So that you will BE ABLE (3 times – Ephesians 6:11,13,16).

The Full Armor of God

Two pictures here:

- The armor of a Roman soldier, clearly understood by Paul's audience.
- The armor that Jesus Christ the Lord Himself wore as He defeated the Devil.

The Armor of God

- A quick overview of Ephesians 6:10-20
 - Our war is in the heavenly places against the Devil and the forces of darkness. Jesus rules over that realm with absolute authority!
 - Be strong (Be Empowered) in the Lord and in the strength of His might

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

- Put on the full armor of God – The panoply of God
- So that you will be able (have power, 3 times – vs. 11,13,16)
- Stand firm (3 times – vs. 11,13,14)
- This is the same armor that Jesus used to disarm and conquer the Devil
 - Belt of faithfulness (Isaiah 11:1 -5)
 - Feet bringing the gospel (Isaiah 52:7)
 - Helmet of salvation (Isaiah 59:17)
 - Breastplate of righteousness (Isaiah 59:17)
 - Sharp sword coming out of His mouth (Isaiah 49:2)
 - Jesus was constantly in prayer!
 - How did Jesus overcome the Devil, with the TRUTH... “It is written” (Matthew 4).
- As I wear this armor, I have to understand that I have to wear the “whole” armor of God.
 - **The belt of truth** – Just as the first piece of armor the Roman soldier put on was the belt. We must first and foremost commit ourselves to God's absolute standard of truth (John 8:31-32). The Devil's main weapon is deception and lies (John 8:44).
 - **The breastplate of righteousness** – My heart and my vitals must be covered with God's righteousness, and not my own.
 - **Feet shot with the preparation of the gospel of peace** – I must go into battle standing on the gospel which saves me and those who hear me (1 Timothy 4:16; Romans 1:16).
 - **Shield of faith** – Anything the Devil throws at me, I can extinguish through the shield of faith. That faith is established and strengthened through the hearing of God's word (Romans 10:17). But we as fellow soldiers must lock our shields together and build a wall to protect us all.
 - **Helmet of Salvation** – My head, my thinking must be covered in combat as I war with the Devil. Getting hit in the head could be a fatal blow, but as a Christian our heads (our minds and thinking) are guarded by God's salvation, which again is found in the gospel, the word of God.
 - **Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God** – Our main offensive weapon in this battle against the Devil and the forces of darkness is the Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. We attack the Devil with Truth. We defeat lies with God's word. We overcome temptation with an “It is written.”
- Praying always!
 - Paul continues by telling the Ephesians to keep praying.
 - To pray in the Spirit – Our minds must be in tune with the Spirit, led by the Spirit and with an understanding that the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christians and helps intercede for us to the Father (Romans 8:26-27). But another aspect of this is that the Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. By praying in the Spirit, I must be praying the Word. Use the words of the Holy Spirit as you pray to God. Use the Psalms! Use Paul's prayers!
 - Paul asked for their prayers on his behalf.
 - For his attitude – boldness
 - For his mouth – that his mouth will be speaking the gospel as God wants him to speak.
 - He wanted their prayers more for his attitude, his mouth, and most importantly God's glory than the ending of his temporary suffering.