

# OUR SPIRITUAL ARMOR

EPHESIANS 6:10-18

## ABOUT OUR ENEMY, THE DEVIL...

1. The areas of spiritual battle including the Church are the flesh, the world, and the demonic realm (James 4:1-7).
2. **Our spiritual battle is not against people but against the demonic**, spiritual enemy. This enemy is highly strategic, organized and in unity! (Ephesians 6:12)
  - Mark 3:23-27 *So Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can rob his house."*
3. **He is subtle, crafty, calculating, and scheming.**
  - 2 Corinthians 2:11 *...in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.*
4. **He is a spirit but with limitations.**
  - Job 1:12 *The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger."* (Job 2:6)
5. **He is fully committed to his cause.**
  - John 10:10 *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*
6. **He has the ability to influence and deceive.**
  - 1 Chronicles 21:1 *Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel.*
7. **THROUGH CHRIST, we have full and complete victory over our enemy.** We must fully rely on Christ's finished work on the cross (Colossians 2:15), to be strong in the power of the Lord, put on the whole armor and understand that character, not brute force, wins the spiritual battle.

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The Armor of God illustrates the character qualities we must put on by making them a very real part of our growing life in Christ.

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## **THE ARMOR OF GOD** Ephesians 6:10-18; Romans 13:12-13 (The armor of light)

### **1. The belt of TRUTH**

- Aletheia: The unveiled reality lying at the basis of and agreeing with an appearance. (John 8:31)
- **Point:** A key in winning the spiritual battle is to have a true understanding of reality, what is really taking place. In confusion we may attack each other, etc. (2 Chronicles 20:22-23; Luke 22:49-51).

### **2. The breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS**

- Diakaios: Conforming to God's rightness, to fulfill God's claims in contrast to the lawlessness of this world. In essence, it is obedience to God's Word and to His ways, doing right. (1 Samuel 15:22-23; Song of Solomon 2:15; Psalm 19:13-14; John 14:30)
- **Point:** Satan has authority over a life which is not submitted to God and filled with sin. David cried out to God after his horrific sin with Bathsheba and Uriah and asked that he be restored and filled with God's Spirit. (2 Samuel 11-12; Psalm 51) The warrior's character and right behavior growing from a right heart is a great defense.

### **3. Footwear of READINESS**

- Hetoimasia: Preparation, adjusted, to be ready (Matthew 25:13; Mark 14:32-42; 1 Corinthians 16:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:6; 2 Timothy 2:21; Revelation 16:15)
- Because Peter was asleep and not ready to stand against what was about to take place (the soldiers coming to arrest Jesus just before the crucifixion), he not only reacted against the soldiers but did not have the power to stand with Jesus that night. The result was that he denied the Lord and fell away. (Matthew 26:69-75)
- **Point:** Being ready requires we are *always* ready. Here are 5 areas to assist us: 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.*

### **4. The shield of FAITH**

- Pistis: To be persuaded in belief and in action, choosing to believe God and His word in the face of conflicting reality. (2 Chronicles 20:20-24; Hebrews 11:1-2, 6, 32-40)
- **Point:** Satan's arrows are his lies, deceptions and perversions of reality. True faith is active and powerful (James 2:17-26) and stands firm in the battle.

### **5. The helmet of SALVATION**

- Soterion: The confident and anticipative hope of salvation, past, present and future. (1 Thessalonians 5:8-9)

- **Point:** The helmet both protected the soldier and provided a striking symbol of military victory. With His helmet we can block out the lies of the enemy and place our focus on God's Word and winning the battle. Salvation is our hope in the battle and our victory is a spiritual and public statement over the devil!

## 6. The sword of the Spirit, GOD'S WORD

- Rhema: The subject matter of the Word, the personal revelation of the Logos, the Word of God. (Matthew 4:1-11; Romans 10:17; Hebrews 4:12)
- **Point:** The battle is spiritual and must be fought in God's strength, with God's Word. Jesus used God's Word accurately against the enemy as He was being tested in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). When God's Word is used with personal understanding and genuineness, we have a powerful weapon!

## 7. The action of warfare, PRAYER

- In the armor of God and in His strength, "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 saints." (Ephesians 6:18)
- **Point:** Prayer IS the very action of Spiritual Warfare. Just having the armor on without prayer is religion, but with the armor and standing firm in prayer is victory.

*Romans 13:12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.  
So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.*

