



# Spiritual Warfare

## Taking up the whole armor of God against our enemy

Note: Scripture used in this Bible Study is from the New King James Version.

### **Ephesians 6:10-18**

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

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

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13 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.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--

### **How is our struggle as Christians in this world like warfare?**

- Not only do we struggle with the common calamities of human life we also struggle with the opposition of the powers of darkness, and with many enemies who would keep us from God and heaven.
- We have enemies to fight against, a captain to fight for, a banner to fight under, and certain rules of war by which we are to govern ourselves.
- Paul liked the analogy of our struggle being like that of soldiers:  
2 Tim 2:3-4 - You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

### **Where do you think this battle takes place?**

- Not in the nightclubs or on skid row or in the underworld or Mafia the devil already has these place securely in his grip.
- The devil is more likely in church on Sunday morning.

### **Why is that?**

- In church is where the spiritual battle is being fought. It is in church where the lost person might hear the gospel and where the saved might be convicted of something God is calling them to do.
- The spiritual battle is being fought wherever the Word of God is being given out... that is the place the devil wants to destroy.

### **What is the danger in where Satan does his evil work to Christians?**

- Too many sleepy Christians are unaware of the spiritual battle going on around them.
- Too many Christians seem intent on laboring to transform society when they need to be closing their mouths from gossiping and criticizing.

### **Would you think that a dangerous place to be was in the Upper Room with Jesus where He instituted the Lord's Supper?**

After Jesus identified Judas Iscariot as the one who would betray Him to John by giving him a piece of bread, it says "*Satan entered him*" (John 13:27).

### **Why are we told to pray, "deliver us from the evil one" in the model prayer Jesus gave us in Matthew 6:13?**

Because spiritual warfare is very real and we need God's help to resist the spiritual hosts of wickedness in high places.

### **v10 - Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.**

### **From where does a good soldier of Christ get his strength?**

In the power of the Lord's might.

### **If you rely on God's resources rather than your own, what characteristic of a good soldier should you have?**

Courageous.

### **Why is it important to be courageous in our struggles?**

- Those who have so many battles to fight, and who, in their way to heaven, must dispute every pass with sword play, have need of a great deal of courage.
- A soldier may be well armed with the latest advanced-technology weapons but if he is not courageous, he is of no use on the battlefield.

**v11 - Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

**What else must a good soldier of Christ do?**

They must be well armed: "Put on the whole armor of God"

**What does it mean to put on the armor of God?**

- Make use of all the proper defensives and weapons for repelling the temptations and stratagems of Satan.

**Why does it say "whole" armor of God?**

- Obtain and exercise all the resources available to Christians, the whole armor, that no part be naked and exposed to the enemy.
- Put on Christ...  
Rom 13:13-14 - Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

**How is putting on Christ described in Romans 13:13-14?**

Walking properly, not making provision for the flesh by fulfilling lusts.

**Why are the defenses that we are studying called the armor "of God"?**

It is God who both prepares and bestows it.

**Are human defenses of any value?**

Not in spiritual warfare, any armor we would craft for ourselves will eventually not stand up to the test of battle.

**What is our role in applying the armor of God?**

This armor is prepared for us, but we must put it on.

**How do we put on the armor of God?**

We must pray for God's grace (unmerited favor), we must use it when given the opportunity.

**Why must the Christian be completely armed?**

So that he may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil—

1 Pet 5:8 - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

**How is it that the devil devours people?**

- He causes them to be consumed by Satan agenda which is anything that is opposed to God's will.
- Thus unbelievers stay outside God's Kingdom and believers become unuseful to God.

**What are the wiles of the devil?**

- The devil makes assaults against us using both force and deception. He plots against us and lays snares for us to lure us away from God's will for us.
- He has a thousand ways of beguiling unstable souls: hence he is called a serpent for subtlety, an old serpent, experienced in the art and trade of tempting. Satan revealed his strategy in Genesis 3 where he lied by subtly changing what God said.

**What does it mean to stand against these wiles of the devil?**

To be able to hold out and not give in to whatever enticements to turn away from God that the devil throws at us.

**v12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**

**How is it that we wrestle not against flesh and blood?**

The combat for which we are to be prepared is not against ordinary human enemies, not against men of flesh and blood.

**Since we wrestle not against flesh and blood, is this just symbolic of our old nature that we wrestle against? Does this mean that we have met our enemy and they are us?**

- This is not talking about our old sin nature. We too are flesh and blood. Our old corrupt nature is part of our being human.
- It is not the flesh that is to be fought.
- It is not other men that are to be fought.

**How should we regard the flesh?**

The believer should reckon the flesh dead and yield to God. This means to have the same eternal perspective as God about the flesh, that since the destiny of the flesh is to die, you should consider it as dead already...

Rom 6:11 - Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**How else can we tell that this passage is not talking about our old sin nature?**

Verse 11 names the devil as our adversary who is a created being, a fallen angel...

**What do we know about Satan's origin?**

Satan is a created spiritual being, a powerful angel who chose to reject God...

Ezekiel 28:12-19

12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.

14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.

16 "By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones.

17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you.

18 "You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; therefore I brought fire from your midst; it devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you.

19 All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; you have become a horror, and shall be no more forever." "

#### **How do we know that this passage in Ezekiel is not referring to the human king of Tyre?**

This can not be the human king of Tyre because it says he was in the Garden of Eden (verse 13).

#### **Who besides Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden?**

#### **Why would the Bible refer to Satan as the king of Tyre?**

- The king of Tyre was a type of Satan. As Satan used human kings as his pawns, he was behind the power of the king of Tyre. There were many kings of Tyre but behind them all was Satan pulling the strings.
- Tyre was a place that God prophesied would cease to exist (Isaiah 23:1)... indeed Tyre was completely leveled by Alexander the Great.

#### **What do we learn about Satan from verse 12?**

We learn that Satan was created perfect, without sin.

#### **How is the perfection of Satan described?**

Full of wisdom and beauty.

#### **How does the biblical view of Satan clash with the world's view?**

The world always depicts Satan as an ugly horned devil but in reality he is very beautiful which makes him even more dangerous as a tempter. Note that the world view of Satan came out of mythology and human tradition.

#### **What do we learn about Satan from verse 13?**

Satan is well adorned with jewelry. I take it that this represents the wealth with which God blessed him.

#### **What are "timbrels and pipes"?**

Musical instruments... Satan is a musician using instruments God prepared for him!

#### **What does verse 14 tell us about Satan's origin?**

Satan was an anointed cherub in the presence of God.

#### **What does it mean Satan was "the anointed cherub who covers"?**

Satan was given authority by God and had the role of protecting God's throne from any unholiness. A study of cherubim in the Bible would show that this is what they did.

#### **If Satan was a musician and had authority in the presence of God, what does that make him?**

Satan was God's worship leader.

So what implications does the realization that Satan was God's worship leader have in regards to spiritual warfare? Serious conflicts in the church often manifest themselves as conflicts between pastor and worship leader. I've observed this and heard enough testimonies of this to reinforce it as a real concern.

#### **So as Christian soldiers, what should knowledge of this tactic of Satan cause us to do?**

Not only should we pray for our pastor, we should also pray for our worship leader.

#### **What happened to Satan in verses 15 & 16?**

Iniquity was found in him (he sinned – verse 16)... Satan chose to reject his relationship with God and became violent.

#### **What does verse 16 say that God did with Satan?**

God cast Satan out of His presence and will ultimately destroy him in the Lake of Fire.

#### **Does Satan still have access to God?**

Yes, see, Job 1:6-12.

#### **What does verse 17 say contributed to Satan's fall from grace?**

Satan's pride in his beauty corrupted his wisdom. Note that beauty can sometimes be more of a curse than a blessing.

#### **Another passage that reveals Satan's attitude that contributed to his fall away from God is Isaiah 14:12-19...**

Isaiah 14:12-19 - How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you

have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, Who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners?' All the kings of the nations, all of them, sleep in glory, everyone in his own house; But you are cast out of your grave like an abominable branch, like the garment of those who are slain, thrust through with a sword, who go down to the stones of the pit, like a corpse trodden underfoot.

#### **If our enemies are not flesh and blood, what are they?**

- They are spiritual enemies: Spiritual wickedness in high places, or wicked spirits, as some translate it.
- The several ranks of fallen angels, who have an organization which they exercise in this world.

#### **If the enemy is spiritual and the warfare in spiritual, what kind of weapons do we need?**

Spiritual weapons - the whole armor of God along with the spiritual power that comes from God (v10).

#### **How do we have victory over the devil?**

Obey the commands to "*put on the whole armor of God*" and "*stand*" (v11).

#### **How is it that the fallen angels have an organization?**

- God established order, the angels use the hierarchy of authority God established to organize...  
Col 1:16 - For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
- Satan not only deceived Adam and Eve, he lured his own kind, other angels to reject God and took them with him...  
Revelation 12:4 - His tail [of the fiery red dragon] drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.

#### **How does Paul characterize this enemy that we struggle against?**

- He is a powerful enemy: Principalities, and powers, and rulers. They are numerous, they are vigorous; and rule where there is darkness.
- There is a demonic world all around us.

#### **What are "*principalities*"?**

Demons who have regional responsibility and supervise other demons, they would be the senior officers in Satan army. They are however subservient to thrones and dominions (see Col 1:16).

#### **What are the "*powers*"?**

Powers are the privates of Satan's army, demons wanting to possess human beings.

#### **How does demon possession manifest itself?**

- In being tempted away from God.
- Delighting in darkness rather than light.
- They cause afflictions, physical and mental.

#### **Can demons possess Christians?**

No... because Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit:

1 Cor 6:19 - Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

With the Holy Spirit in you, there is no place for demons:

2 Cor 6:14 - For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

The Holy Spirit is able to protect Christians from any demon that would want to possess them...

1 John 4:4 - You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Jesus told a parable which indicated that a person can be purged of a demon but if he does not receive Christ into his life, the demon will return with friends...

Matt 12:43-45 - "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."

#### **What is the message of the parable given in Matthew 12:43-45?**

- That any purging of evil in your life would be temporary if Jesus is left out.
- Reformation through human effort may last for a season but will ultimately fail. So seek regeneration, not reformation.
- I have seen this in the life of a neighbor who is an alcoholic. She has had several bouts of getting dried out then falling off the wagon. It is an endless series that will eventually kill her if she doesn't turn to Christ.

**Since demons can not possess Christians, does this mean they are not a problem for born again believers?**

No, Eve was not possessed but was still tempted. Job was not possessed but was still afflicted.

### **What kinds of things do people do that open themselves up to demons?**

They allow sin to persist in their lives. They try to contact the spirit world outside of God Himself. This reminds me of a bumper sticker I saw which proclaimed, "where there is a witch, there is a way." This bumper sticker did not elaborate on the direction that path would lead.

### **What is the darkness of this age?**

- Satan's kingdom is one of darkness and deception; whereas Christ's kingdom is one of light and truth.
- The dark parts of the world are the seat of Satan's empire, where men are in a state of sin and ignorance:  
2 Cor 4:3-4 - But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

### **Who is the god of this age?**

It is Satan because most people follow him whether they recognize this or not.

### **Why does it say in 2 Corinthians 4:4 that Christ is the image of God?**

Jesus Christ looks like God because He is God. If it looks like a duck, quacks like a duck, and walks like a duck, it is a duck.

### **What are the rulers of the darkness of this age?**

Demons who have charge of Satan's worldly business who is the chief ruler...

Matt 12:24 - Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."

John 12:31 - "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out."

I clipped a little article from the Nov. 12, 2000 Houston Chronicle on satanic graffiti found on a firebombed church in Suffern, NY that said, "Satan rules the earth." This is very true but what those followers of Satan don't know is that this earth is headed for destruction.

### **What makes our enemy more dangerous than a physical adversary in the world?**

The devil is a spirit, a wicked spirit; and our danger is the greater from our enemies because they are unseen, and assault us where we are aware of them.

### **What do the wicked spirits do?**

- They chiefly provoke the saints to, spiritual wickedness, pride, envy, malice, etc; things that cause separation from God and conflict between people.
- These evil spiritual forces are working in the world against the believer, the church, and against Christ.

### **What does it mean that our enemies are in heavenly places?**

- Heaven has been taken as the whole expanse of the air between the earth and the stars, the air being the place from which the devils assault us. The Bible represents the earth's atmosphere as the first heaven (Daniel 7:13) and the stars as being the second heaven (Genesis 1:14-18). The third heaven is the spiritual realm where God resides (2 Corinthians 12:2).
- Satan is described as the prince of the power of the air... Eph 2:2 - you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience
- Spiritual wickedness in high places also refer to demons in the heavenlies who have charge of religion.

### **Are our enemies less dangerous to us because they are in heavenly places and we are in the world?**

- No, because they concern themselves with heavenly matters, there is eternal impact in their activity.
- Our enemies strive to prevent our ascent to heaven, to deprive us of heavenly blessings and to obstruct our communion with heaven.
- They assault us in the things that belong to our souls, and labor to deface the heavenly image in our hearts.

### **Can you think of any examples of spiritual warfare in the Bible?**

Daniel prayed three full weeks about a prophecy the Lord had given Him and an angel came to help him understand. This angel also explained why it took three weeks to answer Daniel's prayer:

Dan 10:12-13 - Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

The angel sent to help Daniel understand was in conflict with a demon and he needed backup that he received.

### **Is there a connection between what happens in the world and what happens in the spiritual realm?**

Certainly. I believe Jesus made this clear when He told us that Jesus would build His church on the foundation of knowing that Jesus is the Son of God:

Matt 16:15-19 - He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

### **What is the rock upon which Jesus is building His church, is it Peter?**

No, it is the answer Peter gave... Jesus is building His church upon the knowledge of who He is and why He came.

### **What does it mean that "whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven"?**

Success in the battle against evil on earth will be enjoyed in heaven and visa versa.

### **Do you think the church is generally aware of spiritual warfare today?**

No, I think that the church has largely lost sight of the spiritual battle... we feel that if we have a lovely building and are attracting crowds and if the financing is coming in then everything is going nicely. The financial condition of a church is not where the battle is... however this can indicate that the battle is being lost in the spiritual realm.

### **What are good signs of winning the spiritual battle in a church?**

- Are members of the church being built up in Christ?
- Is the Word of God being taught?
- Is there a spirit of love and cooperation among the members?
- Is gossip reduced to a minimum?
- (where there is a spirit of criticism and bitterness and hatred, the Spirit of God can not work.)
- Numbers of converts by itself is not a sign... where are they two years later?

### **What should happen when the numbers of people coming to church fall off?**

Recognize that there is a spiritual battle going on and don't criticize the pastor but pray for him. The devil gives him enough opposition. You don't need to join the crowd that sacrifices the man who is preaching the Word of God. Instead, uphold his hands as Aaron and Hur did for Moses on behalf of Israel.

### **v13 - 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.**

#### **So what is our Christian duty?**

To take up and put on the whole armor of God, and then to stand our ground, and withstand the enemy.

#### **Who is the enemy?**

Satan and the fallen angels who follow him

#### **What does it mean to stand?**

- Be ready for the attacks of the devil.
- We must not yield to the devil's allurements and assaults, but oppose them.
- Satan is said to stand up against us, <1 Chr. 21:1>. If he stand up against us, we must stand against him.
- Satan is the wicked one, and his kingdom is the kingdom of sin: to stand against Satan is to strive against sin.

#### **What is the significance of this passage saying four times that believers are to stand?**

- No where is the believer urged to attack and advance...
- The Bible speaks of believers as pilgrims... as pilgrims we are to walk through the world. As witnesses, we are to go to the ends of the earth. As athletes, we are to run with our eyes fixed on Christ. However, as fighters, we are to stand.

#### **If we are to engage the enemy, why do we only need to stand?**

It is the Devil who will make the attack, it is his nature...

Rev 9:11 - And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. [which means destroyer]

#### **Why is it better to stand than to attack?**

A defensive posture is always stronger than the aggressor, particularly if you can eliminate the element of surprise.

#### **How do we eliminate the element of surprise in the spiritual battle?**

By knowing the enemies tactics... studying the Bible helps us understand and thus be prepared for the wiles of the devil.

#### **What do the words, "and having done all" add to our standing against the devil and his kind?**

- This means that we should do all we can to avoid the devil's snares putting on all the armor that the Lord has provided for us.
- Our victory is incumbent on our being good soldiers of Jesus Christ.

### **What is the evil day?**

- This age we live in where Satan is free to ply his trade to tempt people to sin.
- Paul already said that we should make good use of our time (Satan will tempt us to just put off what we should do – sins of omission)...  
Eph 5:15-16 - See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

### **How do we stand against the devil?**

- We must resolve, by God's grace, not to yield to Satan  
James 4:7 - Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
- If we distrust our cause, or our leader, or our armor, we give him advantage.
- We must stand (oppose him) well armed with the whole armor of Christ.

### **v14 - Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,**

#### **What is the first piece of armor the Christian needs?**

Truth or sincerity

#### **What is truth?**

The Word of God... Praying to the Father, Jesus said,

John 17:17 - Your word is truth.

The Bible reveals Jesus Christ who personifies truth:

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

#### **Why is truth represented as a girdle?**

- It was prophesied of Christ:  
Isa 11:5 - Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist.
  - That which Christ was girded with all Christians must be girded with.
- God desires truth, that is, sincerity, in the inward parts.

#### **Why would truth be mentioned first?**

- This is the strength of our loins; and it is the base upon which all other pieces of our armor build.
- Truth is that which holds everything together. It is the foundation upon which the rest of the armor is built.

#### **Do we live in a truthful age?**

It is interesting to note that in our age, people have rejected truth claiming, "who can no the truth," they represent truth as "relative" saying what is true for one person may not be true for another. This is a symptom of our society turning even further from God and a sign of imminent judgment...

- In Romans 1, it is the third stage of God giving people over to their own ways... [1] uncleanness (v24-25 -

adultery), [2] vile passions (v26-27 - homosexuality), [3] debased mind (v28-32 - adopting many evil attitudes including approving of those who practice evil despite knowing the righteous judgment of God)

- Isa 5:20 - Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

#### **What does the next piece of armor represent?**

Righteousness must be our breast-plate (armor for the chest).

#### **What is righteousness?**

Being without sin.

#### **How is a breastplate an appropriate analogy for righteousness?**

The breast-plate protects the heart. If we took a wound in the heart, it would be fatal. The righteousness of Christ protects us from the worst kind of injury.

#### **How can we be without sin in this world with our old selfish nature still intact?**

Accept the provision God has made for our sins to be forgiven...

Rom 4:3-6 - For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:

#### **So if God imputes righteousness to us by believing in Him, why would this passage say we should put it on?**

God reckons righteousness to us and sees us as righteous in our eternal state because He is outside the confines of time but in this age in the world, we must cooperate with the Spirit to be righteous...

I Jn 3:7 - Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

The righteous desire to act righteously in this world out of gratitude for what the Lord has done for them.

#### **How do we learn to be more righteous?**

By studying God's Word...

2 Tim 3:16 - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness

#### **Why is righteousness important in the spiritual battle?**

It is a tough situation to have sin in your life when you are trying to carry on a battle. The battle can not be won that way.

**v15 - and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;**

**What is the next piece of armor?**

The preparation of the gospel of peace for our feet.

**Why do we need armor for our feet?**

To protect our feet and legs against traps and snares that threaten to take us out of the march as we go to the battle. A wound in our feet or legs would make us unfit to march.

**Given that we are commanded to stand, what role does our foot gear have in the midst of the battle?**

Shoes are necessary for standing comfortably, they speak of foundation... Christ is our foundation in the world...

1 Cor 3:11 - For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Therefore... our foot-gear serve a two-fold purpose: Standing in Christ & walking in the Spirit.

**What is the gospel of peace?**

It is the good news about how we can have all sorts of peace: with God, with ourselves (conscience), and with one another.

**Why does it say the preparation of the gospel of peace?**

The preparation of the gospel of peace signifies a prepared and resolved frame of heart, to abide by the gospel, which will enable us to walk with a steady pace along the path of religion, avoiding the difficulties and dangers in it. All the critical issues that could challenge your faith should already be resolved in your mind.

**v16 - above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.**

**What is the next piece of armor?**

Faith must be our shield

**What is faith?**

- Trusting God...  
Heb 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
- We are to be fully persuaded of the truth of all God's promises.

**What is a shield?**

It is a universal defensive piece of armor. It is movable and adjusts to protect where the enemy is striking.

**What role does faith play in using our shield?**

It enables us to stay behind the shield.

**What specifically is the shield of faith used to defend against?**

The fiery darts of the wicked one (the devil).

**What do the fiery darts or flaming arrows represent?**

- The devil's temptations are called darts, because of their swift and undiscerned flight, and the deep wounds that they give to the soul.
- McGee described them as questions about spiritual matters that you don't have an answer... he was so concerned about the Genesis record of creation that he considered getting out of the ministry but he learned that if he take this on faith now, God will give him the answer to his question later on.

**So how should you respond to someone who would say that archeologists have dug up something that disproves the Bible?**

- Put up the shield of faith and wait for God to reveal the truth.
- This happened with a Mars meteorite that was found in Antarctica, scientists eventually concluded that life-like bacterial structures were contamination from earth.

**Why do people who reject the Bible want so desperately to find life somewhere other than earth?**

- People want to learn that we are not that unique on the earth to reinforce the theory of random origins and take away the implied responsibility associated with being here for a purpose.
- If we are unique in our being here and there is a purpose behind it, there is Someone to whom we are accountable.

**Why are these darts called fiery?**

- To allude to the poisons they have on them that would inflame the parts which were wounded with them, as the serpents with poisonous stings are called fiery serpents (Numbers 21:6).
- Violent temptations, by which the soul is set on fire of hell, are the darts which Satan shoots at us.

**How does the shield of faith protect against these fiery darts?**

- Faith is the shield with which we must quench these fiery darts thus rendering them ineffectual, that they may not hit us, or at least that they may not hurt us.
- Knowing the truth of God's promises will help keep us from falling victim to temptations.

**Why does it say "above all" to take up the shield of faith? Is this saying that faith is the most important piece of defensive armor?**

Maybe, but I'm thinking that it is the piece that may be used above us, over our heads to protect against arrows raining down from above... Often our temptations and adversities appear to be sent from heaven but we know they were



launched by the wicked one. This may also be to protect us from “wickedness in high places,” fiery darts from “religion.”

### **Is our shield of faith adequate against the temptations of the devil?**

It is if we are using God's shield of faith...

1 Cor 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

### **v17 - And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;**

#### **What is the next piece of armor we should put on?**

The helmet of salvation.

#### **What salvation is this talking about?**

Eternal salvation, our resurrection... so this is really the hope of salvation as expressed in 1 Thess 5:8:

1Thes 5:8 - But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

#### **How is a helmet a good analogy for the hope of salvation?**

- The helmet protects the head where like the chest, we could receive a fatal wound.
- A good hope of salvation, well founded and well built, will both purify the soul and keep it from being defiled by Satan, and it will comfort the soul and keep it from being troubled and tormented by Satan.
- He would tempt us to despair; but good hope keeps us trusting in God, and rejoicing in him.

#### **How do we put on the helmet of the hope of salvation?**

- The helmet covers our head where we do our thinking so protect our minds from worldly thoughts...  
Rom 12:2 - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- Use our minds to pray and give thanks to God and think about things of God...  
Phil 4:6-8 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-- meditate on these things.

- The head is where we do our reasoning. Throughout the Bible God uses reason with men.  
Isa 1:18 - "Come now, and let us reason together," says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool."
  - We do not have blind faith. Our faith is logical.

#### **What part of the head is not covered by the helmet?**

The helmet does not cover our eyes.

#### **Since the helmet does not cover our eyes, how do we keep our eyes protected?**

We may keep our eyes protected by keeping them fixed upon Jesus...

Matt 6:22-23 – “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”

#### **What is the last piece of armor?**

The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

#### **Why is the sword called the Word of God?**

Because it is God who gives power to His Word...

Heb 4:12 - For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

#### **What is the sword used for?**

- It is used to wound and, like the shield, to deflect the attacks of the enemy.
- Since the devil is like a roaring lion, the sword scares him off (as a dog knows the meaning of a stick, a lion knows the meaning of a sword).

#### **Is the sword an offensive or defensive weapon?**

- It is both... it is true that the best defensive is a good offense.

#### **How may the sword be used as an defensive weapon?**

- Scripture-arguments are the most powerful arguments to repel temptation with.
- Christ himself resisted Satan's temptations with, It is written, <Mt. 4:4,6-7,10>.
- Scripture, being hid in the heart, will preserve from sin...  
Ps 119:11 - Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You!

#### **How may the sword be used as an offensive weapon?**

- There are certainly times when we should use the Bible to lead others to the light of Christ and away from the prince of darkness (this is an offensive action).

**Is there any significance to all this armor being to the front of the Christian?**

- There is no protection for the back, no provision is made for retreat.
- A retreating Christian would be open season for the enemy.

**v18 - praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--**

**What role does prayer have in our Christian armor?**

- Prayer must buckle on all the other parts of our Christian armor.
- We must request the help and assistance of God always.
- Like the sword, prayer is both a defensive and offensive weapon.

**What does it mean to pray always? Does this mean that prayer is all that we need to do?**

- Praying consistently in all situations about all things and not giving up.
- We must always keep up a disposition to prayer, and should intermix prayers with other duties, and with common business.
- It is not as though we were to do nothing else but pray, for God saved us for a reason, placing us where we are to put our faith into action at the proper time.

**What does it mean to pray with all prayer?**

- With all kinds of prayer: public, private, and secret, social and solitary, solemn and sudden...
- With all the parts of prayer: praising God, confession of sin, petition for mercy, and thanksgivings for favors received.
- ACTS... Acknowledgement, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication.

**What does it mean to pray with supplication?**

- Humility and respect – remembering to whom you are praying to and how it is even possible for God to hear your prayers.
- Paul distinguishes between prayer and supplication... prayer is general, supplication is specific.
- It also means to seek God's will.

**What does it mean we should pray with supplication for all the saints?**

- We should humbly beseech the Lord on behalf of others for specific needs.

- We must remember that we are no islands unto ourselves but part of the body of Christ, with responsibilities to each other... We are stronger standing together than standing alone.

**How is it that we should pray in the Spirit?**

- Not turning in a grocery list to God.
- It is our human spirit that communes with the Holy Spirit of God...

Rom 8:26 - Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

**What does it mean we should be watchful?**

We should look for the Lord to return

Matt 24:42 - Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

We should pray that the Lord should come, the model prayer the Lord gave us said:

Matt 6:10 - Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

We should also look for opportunities to serve the cause of Christ.

**What does it mean we should pray with all perseverance?**

- We must abide by the duty of prayer, whatever change there may be in our outward circumstances; and we must continue in it as long as we live in the world.
- We must persevere in a particular prayer; not cutting it short, when our hearts are prompting us, and there is time for it, and our occasions call for it.
- We must likewise persevere in particular requests, notwithstanding some present discouragements and repulses.