

Putting on the Armor of God

Eph. 6:11-17

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Introduction- With all the chaos that is going on in the world, it is easy for us as believers to lose sight of the fact that God is still in control. As believers, we should not be shocked to see the world turn so much because God has made us aware, through His word, how crazy the end time will be. He's told us there will be rumors of wars (Matt. 24:6). He has told us that nations will rise up against nations and that there will be terrors in the world (Luke 21:11). He has told us that due to wickedness a believer's love will grow cold and that they will begin to betray each other (Matt. 24:9-12). Since God has made us aware of all that is to come, we can also believe Him when He says the gates of hades will not overpower His church (Matt. 16:18). He's told us that He will let his might be known to the world through the church (Eph. 3:9-10). He's told us that as Christ's body we are his fullness (Eph. 1:22-23) We have to ask ourselves, are we still willing to stand firm on His word as He has told us when the world is constantly going against Him.

Our Opponent- Ephesians 6:11-12

VS. 11

- God tells us that the full armor of God will help us stand firm against the devil's schemes
 - **Schemes**- scheming, craftiness, strategies
 - Paul says we are not ignorant of His schemes (2 Cor. 2:11)

- His ultimate plan is to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10)
- We see how he deceived Eve in the Garden (Gen. 3:1-8)
- We saw his attempt to get Jesus to sin by using scripture (Matt. 4:1-11)
- Against all his schemes, God still lets us know the armor of God will allow us to stand firm.
 - One commentary reads- “the present picture is not of a march, or of an assault, but of the holding of the fortress of the soul and of the Church for the heavenly King”

Vs. 12

- We need to understand as Christians that our battle is not a physical battle but a spiritual
 - **Rulers-** an authority figure who initiates activity or process, ruler, authority
 - Jesus refers to Satan as the ruler of this world (John 12:31, John 14:30; 2 Cor. 4:4)
 - **Powers-** bearer of ruling authority
 - of transcendent rulers and functionaries: powers of the spirit world
 - **World Forces-** the world-rulers of this darkness i.e. the rulers of this sinful world
 - **Spiritual Forces-** Evil Army

- One Commentary Reads- ‘Satan, who is in the heavens (2:2) until he will be cast out in the middle of the Tribulation (Rev. 12:9–10), is trying to rob believers of the spiritual blessings God has given them (Eph. 1:3).’”

Vs. 13

- The Greek Imperative of “take up” indicates to believers that putting on God’s armor is something that we must do ourselves.
- **Resist-** to be resistant to power
- **The Evil Day-** The evil day, to which particular reference is made, indicates a time when the conflict will be most severe, due both to persecution from without and trial from within the Christian fellowship
- **Stand Firm**
 - This phrase is repeated 3 times from verses 11-14.
 - Christians are not to attack Satan, or advance against him; they are only to “stand” or hold the territory Christ and His body, the church, have conquered. Without God’s armor believers will be defeated by the “schemes” of the devil which have been effective for thousands of years.

Vs. 14

- The first 3 elements of the armor of God are preceded by the mandate to stand and this is how we stand.
- We gird our Loins with Truth
 - **Truth-** the content of what is true, truth; especially of the content of Christianity as the ultimate truth

- Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the Life (John 14:6)
 - Only God and those who stand with Him are true, everyone else is a lie (Rom. 3:4)
 - The belt of truth refers not to the facts of the gospel but to subjective truth, a believer's integrity and faithfulness. As a soldier's belt or sash gave ease and freedom of movement, so truth gives freedom with self, others, and God.
- We put on Righteousness
 - **Righteousness**- the quality or characteristic of upright behavior, uprightness, righteousness
 - **The breastplate of righteousness** refers not to justification, obtained at conversion (Rom. 3:24; 4:5), but to the sanctifying righteousness of Christ (1 Cor. 1:30) practiced in a believer's life. As a soldier's breastplate protected his chest from an enemy's attacks, so sanctifying, righteous living (Rom. 6:13; 14:17) guards a believer's heart against the assaults of the devil (cf. Isa. 59:17; James 4:7).

Vs, 15

- We Shod our Feet with Peace
 - **Peace**- a state of well-being, peace
 - We have peace with God through Christ (Rom. 5:1)
 - We are not under condemnation (Rom. 8:1)
 - Nothing can separate us from Christ (Rom. 8:35)

Vs. 16 & 17

- **Faith-** state of believing on the basis of the reliability of the one trusted, trust, confidence, faith
 - Paul used the phrase, in addition to all this. *Of faith* is a genitive of content; the shield consists of faith. The idea, then, is that a Christian's resolute faith in the Lord can stop and extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one aimed at him. (Cf. "evil one" [Satan] in John 17:15; 1 John 5:19.)
- **Salvation-** pert. to salvation, saving, delivering, preserving, bringing salvation.
 - Having one's head guarded by a helmet gives a sense of safety, so the helmet of salvation refers either to present safety from the devil's attacks or to a future deliverance, "the hope of salvation as a helmet" (1 Thes. 5:8).
- **Sword of the Spirit-** Finally, a Roman soldier would take in hand his sword, his only offensive weapon. **Of the Spirit** refers to the source or origin of **the sword**; hence it is "the sword given by the Spirit." "The sword of the Spirit" is specified as **the Word of God**. "Word" (*rhēma*; cf. Eph. 5:26; Rom. 10:8, 17; 1 Peter 1:25) refers to the preached Word or an utterance of God occasioned by the Holy Spirit in the heart. Believers need this "sword" to combat the enemy's assault, much as Christ did three times when tempted by the devil (Matt. 4:1–11).