

Put on the full armor of God

Salvation



Righteousness



Truth



Word
of
God

Sword
of the
Spirit



Gospel



Faith



Ephesians 6:10-18

This article may be used for the Glory of God

Unless otherwise marked, Scripture quotations are from the NASB Bible.

“Scripture quotations taken from the (NASB®) New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. All rights reserved. www.lockman.org”

Contents

Introduction	3
Setting the Stage.....	3
The Full Armor of God.....	3
Eph 6:10	3
Eph 6:11-13	3
Eph 6:14	4
Eph 6:15	4
Eph 6:16	4
Eph 6:17	4
Eph 6:18	5
Conclusion.....	5

Introduction

The letter to the Ephesians describes our struggle as being against the spiritual forces and not the physical realm. Paul uses the analogy of a soldier's armor and weapon to illustrate how to wage this war. There is a combination of God's work and our response. Without the armor of God, we are vulnerable and subject to defeat. In a sense, the whole letter builds to this picture of the Armor of God.

Setting the Stage

He addresses the letter to the "saints that are faithful in Jesus Christ" (Eph 1:1). They have been blessed and redeemed through Jesus' blood. They have been predestined and sealed by the Holy Spirit. Paul is praying for wisdom, enlightenment and the boundless greatness of His power toward those that believe and that they would experience the power and love and fullness of God. He introduces the theme of Christ being far above every rule, authority, power and dominion (Eph 1:22-23). Paul goes on to talk about the sinful life that they have come out of, and how God made us alive together with Christ and has seated us with Christ in the heavenly places. He urges them to be unified and that the people would exercise the gifts that have been given to build up the body of Christ and not be shaken by false doctrines. (Eph 4:1-16). They are encouraged to move on from their old way of life, rid themselves of all falsehood and evil and to put on the new self which is in the likeness of God (Eph 4:17-32). Living in the old way of sin gives the devil an opportunity. Eph 5:1-21 focusses on walking in love and turning away from all evil. He advocates for the husbands to love their wives and for the wives to respect their husbands (Eph 5:22-33).

The Full Armor of God

Eph 6:10

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

In leading up to the armor of God, he establishes that they are to be strong in the Lord and that it is through God's might that they will be fighting. This requires courage. Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather a choice to face danger.

Eph 6:11-13

Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

In order to fight against the devil and his forces, which are the real enemy that they are fighting, they need to put on the full "armor of God" so that they will be able to stand. The obvious implication is that if they do not put on the armor of God, they will not be able to

stand. The “schemes of the devil” may be obvious frontal attacks or the more common deceptive tricks that we can easily miss. The different words that are used for the enemy signify all of the rebellious spiritual beings that are working against God and all people. Paul has really laid out the situation here. They are in a battle that can only be won through His power, the salvation that He has provided and our standing against the enemy. It is a spiritual battle that requires spiritual weapons.

Eph 6:14

Stand firm therefore, having belted your waist with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness

Truth and righteousness go together as God requires people to be truthful and deal honestly and uprightly with other people. The belt was used to hold up the garment to allow better maneuverability and keep from tripping. Lying will trip believers and give the enemy an advantage. Righteousness as a breastplate protects the believer from a fatal wound. It is important for believers to live righteous lives by turning away from all sin to keep from falling.

Eph 6:15

and having strapped on your feet the preparation of the gospel of peace

The Gospel provides a sure footing to be able to fight. This would involve the acceptance and application of the Gospel for oneself and provide peace in the battle.

Eph 6:16

in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*.

As the enemy shoots arrows in the forms of lies, accusations and deceptions, we need to hold on to the truth by faith in God. An example of this would be an attack that gets us to doubt that we are indeed saved. The Scriptures are very clear that once we have accepted Jesus as our Savior by faith, we have eternal life and nothing can take that away. In this case, believing the Scriptures by faith shields us from the attack.

Eph 6:17

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

The fact of salvation protects our head and mind and provides hope for eternal life. Salvation is crucial in this battle. The only offensive equipment is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. It is also an effective defensive weapon. Without knowing the Word and using it, we will not be able to defeat the enemy or protect ourselves. Jesus used the Word when Satan tempted Him. The Devil had to flee when Jesus used it. In the same way, we need to know the Word and be able to use it against all the lies, deceptions and accusations that the evil one brings against us.

Eph 6:18

With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be alert with all perseverance and every request for all the saints,

The finishing touch, so to speak, was being in constant communication with God through prayer, being alert, persevering and interceding for other believers. This constant communion with God is essential in the battle.

Conclusion

We are in a spiritual battle that has to be fought with spiritual weapons. The first step is accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior so that we will have eternal life and have the Holy Spirit indwelling us. We need to study the Word in order to know God's will, the truth and to be able to use it against the attacks of the enemy.

Jesus command was

“YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ “This is the great and foremost commandment. “The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ “Upon these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40 NASB)

Loving God requires following His commandments. (1 Jn 5:2). We need to continually strive to know God's commands and implement them in our lives, to build each other up and turn away from evil. As we do this, we will be able to defeat the work of the enemy in our lives and live lives that are honoring and pleasing to God. Just as Jesus countered the attacks of the devil, we need to use Scripture to counter the attacks of the evil ones.