



What is the Armour of God?

Message by Samuel Verbitsky, 21st July, 2019

Now, as Christians we continuously face overwhelming trials and oppressive circumstances, Would that be safe to say? Any objections?

And even more so, we face onslaughts of spiritual battles. Yet, as believers, we must not despair. We have a solution – we have Ephesians chapter 6. You're probably thinking, "Yip ...yeah, of course, Ephesians chapter six."

So how does Ephesians 6 help us fight the Good fight against these spiritual attacks of enemy? It's simple; look at the heading in your bible. Before verse 10, in Ephesians chapter 6, it says **the armour of God**.

Perfect, aye! So all you need to do is to go down to your local blacksmith and get a custom-made suit of armour and bless it with some holy water and we will be fine, yes !!!

So easy, right? I will make a deal with you. You provide the armour and I will provide the water. Now that's quite a concept isn't it; sounds expensive.

I could take us down lots of bizarre paths with that kind of thinking, jeeppers, so let's see what scripture says about the amour of God.

I invite you to open your Bibles to Ephesian's 6:10-18.

Let's read the text.

The Whole Armour of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints

Let's look at each verse and break them down and try and get some insight and gain some understanding of what is the armour of God that we use to battle against the evil one.

Verse 10: Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

The mighty apostle, Paul, is saying here in verse 10 that we need to be strong in Christ and in his strength and might, because we all battle temptation regularly. For me, daily.

Let's face it, we all face temptations of lust, pride, gluttony coveting and idolatry, and what we can take away from this verse is: The Lord's power, the strength of his Spirit and the force of biblical truth are required for victory with these temptations.

I like what Matthew Henry says about this verse. By the way, Mr. Henry was a master of bible commentaries of the late 1600s and I highly recommend him for great insight and depth for biblical texts. He states that when looking at this verse we need to take note that...

...spiritual strength and courage are very necessary for our spiritual warfare. Be strong in the Lord, either in his cause and for his sake or rather in his strength. We have no sufficient strength of our own. Our natural courage is as perfect cowardice, and our natural strength as perfect weakness; but all our sufficiency is of God. In his strength we must go forth and go on. By the actings of faith, we must fetch in grace and help from heaven to enable us to do that which of ourselves we cannot do, in our Christian work and warfare.

To be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

How we apply this verse is that the power of prayer and soaking in his word daily renews our strength and might to continue in this walk. We know that we fall into temptation when we are not continually engaging with our Most Holy God, We need the stability of this continual engagement with our Holy God before we can put on the armour of God and fully wield it.

We need a strong spiritual foundation when we in verse 11: **Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.**

Put on the whole armour of God.

The words "Put on" in this verse convey the idea of stability, indicating that armour should be sustained, as I mentioned before, and it's a life-long attire and discipline and commitment. Furthermore, it's a requirement if we're going to survive on this journey, walking in this world.

Schemes of the devil

As the verse says, to stand against these attacks these schemes of the devil, we need to understand what they are! And to help understand, I think we need to understand what is meant by schemes. What is a scheme? Well, a scheme carries the idea of cleverness, crafty methods, being cunning, being deceptive, causing deception.

Who, here, has been caught up in a scheme lately? Just the other day I had one of the phone scammers ring and say my computer has a virus and they need to walk me through the process to fix it. Well, they're lying of course, and they are just trying to get access to my computer and all my personal information for their financial gain. That's a scheme. . Hah! Little do they know that I've been a student for the last two years and even if they were successful they would have been welcome to the last 10 cents in my bank account.

Now this text is talking about the **schemes of the devil, which are astoundingly evil**. Satan's schemes are cultivated through the evil world system over which he rules, and are carried out by his demon hosts. "Schemes" is all-inclusive, encompassing every sin, immoral practice, false theology, false religion, and worldly enticement.

The devil is crafty and sneaky and powerful. to bring context let's have a look at what scripture says about him, Scripture refers to the devil as:

"an anointed guardian cherub" (Ezekiel 28: 14), "the prince of demons;" (Luke 11: 15);
"the god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4),
"the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2).

Scripture depicts him:

- opposing God's work (Zech. 3: 1),
- perverting God's word (Matt. 4: 6),
- hindering God's servant (1 Thess. 2: 18)
- hindering the gospel (2 Corinthians 4: 4)
- snaring the righteous (1 Timothy 3: 7), and
- holding the world in his power (1 John 5: 19).

Pretty intimidating stuff.

So his effect on us is summed up in the next verse and it describes what the war is; it sums up what happens in battle. ..Let's look at verse 12.

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

This verse describes the spiritual battle that exists in the lives of believers. It does so perhaps better than any other words in Scripture. First, Paul affirms our battle is indeed spiritual, not physical. The enemies we face, ultimately, are not people or objects. The Devil may use those as part of his attack, but our true opponent is not other people, it is sin.

Second, Paul identifies our spiritual enemies. This list is commonly interpreted as a vague listing of the "ranks" within the demonic armies. "Rulers" seem to indicate a top level of evil spiritual forces. "Authorities" refer to general forces of evil attacking believers. "Cosmic powers" seems to refer to the worldwide nature of this spiritual battle. "Evil in the heavenly places" again emphasizes a battle beyond this world.

Spiritual battles can occur at all levels, anywhere across this world and beyond. As a believer must be prepared for all types of attacks, that's why we need to wield the battle armour of God. What is this armour?" you might ask. "And what are we meant to do with it?" Let's have a look at what scripture says.

So, verses 13 and 14 say:

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

The first element of our armour Paul describes here is the belt of truth. This is easy to understand, since Satan is the "father of lies" (John 8:44). Deception is high on the list of things God considers to be an abomination.

in ([Proverbs 6:16-17](#)) it says “lying tongue” is one of the things God describes as “detestable to Him” .

How do we combat this , it is by speaking the truth. let our yes be our yeses and our no's be our no's, when we walk in truth and speak truth it is a reflection of the truth in us , we need to be aware of this to benefit of those to whom we witness.

The truth will set you free. The truth with set the people we witness two free.

Next we are told to put on the breastplate of righteousness.

Now A breastplate in roman times shielded a warrior's vital organs from blows on the battle field that would otherwise be fatal.

This breastplate of righteousness Paul is describing here is not a physical one and not one of works of righteousness done by men.

Rather, this is the righteousness of Christ, imputed by God and received by faith, which guards our hearts against the accusations and charges of Satan and secures our innermost being from his attacks.+++++++

Verse 15 says and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

Verse 15 speaks of the preparation of the feet for spiritual conflict. In warfare, sometimes an enemy places dangerous obstacles in the path of advancing soldiers.

The idea of the preparation of the gospel of peace as footwear suggests what we need to advance into Satan's territory, aware that there will be traps, hindrances, burden's put in our way by the enemy because the message of grace the gospel of Christ is so powerful he wants to stop us at all costs but we can break through the enemy's defence to win souls to Christ. The power of preaching the Gospel cannot be stopped

If we put on our steel capped boots of the Gospel of peace and keep marching forward for the lost. Preach Christ Crucified

16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

The shield of faith spoken of in verse 16 makes Satan's sowing of doubt about the faithfulness of God and His Word ineffective. Our faith—of which Christ is “the author and perfecter” (Hebrews 12:2)—is like a golden shield, precious, solid, and substantial.

The shield is our faith , this shield is strengthen by his word and our continual trust in God's word and promise it reveals to us, holy scripture in all circumstances provides us with the knowledge and power necessary to protect us from temptations to every sort of sin.

For example scripture tells us in the 7th commandment thou shall not commit adultery, All sin comes when the victim falls to Satan's lies and promises of pleasure, if we fall into the pleasure of adultery the ramifications a horrendous, broken marriage, mistrust, pain, shame the list goes on this happens when we reject the better choice of obedience To God and His word, it is there to Guide and Protect Us . See, Temptations are likened to the flaming arrows shot by the enemy because they can be fatal to us like a real arrow to the chest. sins are deadly

So we need to be vigilant and be continually taking up the shield of faith to defend against these arrows that cause spiritual death.

Now let's move onto verse 17

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

The helmet of salvation in verse 17 is protection for the head, keeping viable a critical part of the body. We could say that our way of thinking needs preservation. The head is the seat of the mind, which, when it has laid hold of the sure gospel hope of eternal life, will not receive false doctrine or give way to Satan's temptations.

The unsaved person has no hope of warding off the blows of false doctrine because he is without the helmet of salvation and his mind is incapable of discerning between spiritual truth and spiritual deception.

The phrase "**sword of the Spirit**" is found only once in Scripture, in Ephesians 6:17 so it is extremely significant and powerful. And Verse 17 interprets itself as to the meaning of the sword of the Spirit—it is the Word of God.

While all the other pieces of spiritual armour are defensive in nature, the sword of the Spirit is the only offensive weapon in the armour of God. It speaks of the holiness and power of the Word of God. A greater spiritual weapon is not conceivable. In Jesus' temptations in the desert, the Word of God was always His overpowering response to Satan. What a blessing that the same Word is available to us!

The more we know it the more strength we have to use it.

18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,...

In verse 18, we are told to pray in the Spirit (that is, with the mind of Christ, with His heart and His priorities) in addition to wearing the full armour of God. We cannot neglect prayer, as it is the means by which we draw spiritual strength from God. Without prayer, without reliance upon God, our efforts at spiritual warfare are empty and futile. The full armour of God—truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, the Word of God, and prayer—are the tools God has given us, through which we can be spiritually victorious, overcoming Satan's attacks and temptations.

In conclusion:

We need to remember **we are always going to battle**. As believers, it's a given, for the bible tells us so and we all experience it; but as we have just looked at, God has given us a suit of armour far more powerful than the one we buy from our local blacksmith.

Remember **the belt of truth**. The devil is the father of lies and we need to remember and know what the bible says about us, for the word is the ultimate truth and that truth will set us free.

Put on **the breastplate of righteousness** is not works of righteousness done by men. **Rather, this is the righteousness of Christ, imputed by God and received by faith, which guards our hearts against the accusations and charges of Satan**

Remember our mighty footwear, **the gospel of peace** we need to advance into Satan's territory and preach the gospel and keep marching forward no matter what Satan throws at us because we have our shield of faith to quench those fiery darts that he will fire at us.

Put on **the helmet of salvation** to protect us from the lies of the enemy and use the greatest offensive weapon in history, the sword of the spirit, the word of God. Dig deep, read the scriptures, soak and meditate on them day and night for they are the power to fight back against the enemy. I know that for me, when I battling against the enemy because of my

continual time in the word, the right scriptures come to mind always at the right time to ward off his schemes. You have everything to gain, so please read, read, read this treasure daily of the word of God.

Last but not certainly least, prayer **we need prayer for spiritual strength and substance.** Pray for forgiveness of your sins, pray for others, pray for burdens and longings of your heart, pray for God's mighty will to be done.

I want to finish with a comment from the great protestant reformer, John Calvin, on the armour of God.

John Calvin comments, **“There will be no danger which may not be successfully met by the power of God; nor will any who, with [the armour of God], fight against Satan, fail in the day of battle.”**

Daily we are to remember our identity in Christ, putting on His grace and casting off our rebellious impulses that we possess in Adam. In doing so, we are guaranteed success in our spiritual conflicts and are assured of a hero's welcome in glory.

