

Intro: Read Eph 6:10-12 and you are tempted to think, “Paul, I think you are overstating the case a little bit, right?”

“Our struggle: Our “wrestling match” is not against flesh and blood...”

Not if you are familiar with the Scripture! Look at what the bible says you are up against!

1Pe 5:8 *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

Joh 10:10 *The thief (Satan) comes only to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...”*

Look at the ways he does that!

- Mixes error with truth to confuse: Gen 3:4 Eve
- Quotes (misquotes!!!) Scripture: Matt 4:6 Jesus
- Masquerades as an angel of light: 2 Cor 11:14
- Sends False Apostles 2 Cor 11:13
- Imitates God, claims falsely to be God 2 Thes 2:1-4
- Shows up where he is totally unexpected Matt 24:15
- Promises us that good can come from evil actions Luke 4:6-7

With that kind of opposition, no wonder Paul tells us, Be on your Guard!!! Get Ready!!! Grab your Weapons!!!

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The Armor of God (6, 7 pieces)

Paul uses the image of a Roman soldier to make his point. He doesn't use every single piece that is possible, but instead picks and chooses the pieces he needs to make his point. While he has the Roman Soldier he is chained to as an example, unlikely those soldiers had every single piece Paul details for us all the time. They are inside, with him, guard duty...taking off point.

<<<SHOW THE VISUAL>>>

1. Three Actions We All Have To Take:

Vs 10-13

- **Put On:** Pick up your clothing and put it on: Paul Assumes that there are some actions we must take! With Each of the pieces of armor Paul references I am going to give you a suggested application Not the ONLY application. May be other ways you can respond. These are practical, easy, Available
- **Take up:** Take to yourself something that is offered; To receive and pull close This references the fact that the Armor is offered...but it is not Ours...It is His!!! God provides That said, He offers it...YOU have to put it on. Sometimes I have actually prayed through
- **Stand:** 3 or 4 different times Paul talks about standing: But it is not a PASSIVE standing (Military) What he is saying is STAND OFFENSIVELY, STAND VICTORIOUSLY, STAND DETERMINED We PLANT ourselves, side by side, with others...and march forward, together defending

APP: Paul is highlighting for us that we have some spiritual responsibility for our own defense.

God is going to provide everything we need...But WE have to be the ones that will take it up...put it on...stand!

2Co 10:3-4 “For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.”

2. Six Pieces of Armor God Provides:

Vs 14-20

- **Belt of Truth:**
 - >First piece to go on...Hold everything else together!
 - >Many of the other pieces connect to this, and are dependent upon this
 - >Sword hung off of the belt, Breastplate attached to this and was held in place by it
 - >Spiritually, Truth is revealed to us two different ways:
 - ~By the Word of God...which reveals truth to us
 - ~By knowing Jesus...who is truth
- APP: 1. Know the Word of God (Bible Memory Small Group)
2. Know Jesus: Know His so well that you can recognize His hand, work, ways, even when it is not explicit
John 14:6 (Read the Gospels for 6mths...year!)
Illus: I have known my wife for 38 yrs: Told me, she saw someone in need and gave them her new coat
- **Breastplate of Righteousness:**
 - >Often known as the heart protector! “Injury there and it is all over!”
 - >Neck to waist, Front and back
 - >Metal plates or Chain mail, often mounted on leather
 - >Two kinds of Righteousness Possible here
 1. Positional Righteousness: Ours in Jesus
2Co 5:21 “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God”
 2. Practical Righteousness: Our “right living” by the power of the Holy Spirit in us
Eph 4:24 “...put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Quote: *The life we live either fortifies us against attacks or makes us vulnerable.”*

APP: We will NEVER be strong enough in our own righteousness: BUT: Find the “Gap” and work on Filling it!

The place between HIS Righteousness...and OURS...THAT IS WHERE HE ATTACKS: SHORE THAT UP!

- *Feet Fit With The Readiness of The Gospel of Peace:*
 - >Here you are talking about the footwear: Sandles:
 - >Known as one of the keys to the success of the Roman Army! (Hobnail sandles)
 - >Josephus (Contemporary Jewish historian) Shoes thickly studded with sharp nails
Credited with victories taking place because the Romans could march long distances quickly over rough terrain!
 - >Two different ways of understanding this concept
 1. We are able to stand against any attack because we have our feet firmly planted in the peace of God in our hearts
Nothing can shake us, nothing can rattle our confidence...when we KNOW we are His beloved...we can stand!
1Jn 5:13: "I have written so that you might KNOW you have eternal life!"
 2. We are able to go forward against any attack! "The evil one has declared war...God has declared Peace!"
Our message is a message of peace from God to man; "*Glory to God in the highest and on earth PEACE to all men!*"
- APP: Study to both KNOW your peace with God...AND How to share that peace
Is 52:7, Rom 10:15 "*How beautiful are the feet of those that bring good news.*" The news of peace with God

- *Shield of Faith:* (Two different words, two different kinds of Shields)
 - >Not the small round shield for swordfighting, but the large rectangular one, 2X4, Wood covered leather, Interlocking
 - >The soldiers could interlock and either stand...or go forward in offence., Formed a solid wall
 - >One of the keys to notice here...They were designed for connection...Not for being in battle alone!
 - >Probably not talking about SAVING Faith here...Rather...LIVING Faith!

The faith that we need day to day, trusting in God, depending upon Him, leaning into Him,

APP:

 1. Who are you connected with? Are you walking into battle alone every day...Formula for defeat!
Connect in a small group, Bible study class, Others can encourage you, build you up, Support
 2. KNOW what you believe: Again, you need regular study of the Word of God to strengthen you
Ro 10:17 *Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*

- *Helmet of Salvation:*
 - >Take up: This is where the personal action and responsibility comes into play
 - >God offers us the confidence we know Him, 1Jn 5:13: But sometimes we don't appropriate it
 - 1. *Protect your Mind:* One of the FIRST attacks that comes...is the attack on the mind
See that in the Garden: *Did God REALLY say? Is God holding back, Withholding, Keeping, Not treating you right*
2 Cor 11:1-3 "*Just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning...minds may be lead astray*"

APP: How do we equip ourselves for this battle?

2. *Keep Growing LISTEN: YOU HAVE TO BE growing!*

2 Peter 3:18 "*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*"

You HAVE to be developing the KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS! Constantly growing in your faith

All too often we enter a phase where we are on cruise control: I Know Enough! As soon as you say that: Vulnerable!

Heb 5:12-14: Author is telling people how to protect themselves spiritually, how to keep growing, says

"By this time you should be ready to teach...but you need to go back to basic training

Are you where you SHOULD be?

- *Sword of the Spirit: Which is the Word of God*
A material sword is designed to pierce the body: The Sword of the Spirit pierces the heart!
The sword of the spirit is the word of God
Heb 4:12-13: It is living and active!
We have talked about this before, but you know when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness: Responded with Word
Key: He didn't reach in his handy backpack, pull out bible, iPhone, tablet. Memorized Hidden in His heart!
APP: Small group that meets in between the services: Incredible opportunity to start preparing your heart
Unfortunately...some of us, when the battle comes...standing with NO sword...we will not carry the day!

CONCL: When you leave the door this morning...go home...are you armored...equipped...ready for the battle?

When you get up tomorrow...leave for work...And the adversary gets in the car with you...ready?

When you arrive at work...or at school...or you come home in the afternoon or evening...ready for battle

Because THIS I can promise you...your Adversary, the Devil, is like a roaring lion...seeking who he can devour

Are you an easy meal? Does He even have to think about taking a bite out of you...or does he do whatever he likes

- Know Jesus: Read the Gospels...
- Claim His righteousness...and live out yours! (Find weakness and go to work)
- Prepare yourself with the Gospel of Peace...Internally...and with a readiness to share
- Pick up Shield of Faith...Don't go it alone...get in a group! Do it NOW...before the battle comes!
- Helmet of Salvation...Keep Growing...Don't let your guard down...Stay focused and on target
- Pick up your sword...start memorizing the word of God...Get ready for the struggle