

Intro: Today I want us to pick up where we left of last week in our study of the Armor of God in Eph 6.
Turn in you bible with me to Eph 6:10-20 Eph 6:10 Page 830

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.”*

Look at the battle we are in!

- It is a war “not of this world” John 18:36
- Weapons are “not of this world” 2Cor 10:3-3
- We are in a “fight” for the faith 1Tim 1:18
- It requires the “power of God” 2Cor 6:7
- We are “soldiers” in the army of faith 2Tim 2:3
- We are to “guard” the gospel entrusted to us 1Tim 6:20
- We are at “war” with the sin that dwells within us Rom 7:23
- We are at “war” with the sinful desires of this world 1Peter 2:11

With that kind of opposition, no wonder Paul tells us, Be on your Guard!!! Get Ready!!! Grab your Weapons!!!
The Armor of God (6 pieces: 3 and 3)

<<<SHOW THE VISUAL>>>

1. Three Actions We All Have To Take:

Vs 10-13

- Put On: Practical Application: We need to take responsibility
- Take up: Personal Appropriation: We need to take ownership
- Stand: Personal Action: We need to take action

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!

2. Three Pieces of Armor God Provides:

- Three Last Week
 - >Belt of truth: Knowing Jesus...and Knowing Spiritual truth
 - >Breastplate of righteousness: Positional and Practical
 - >Shoes of Gospel of Peace: Peace within and Peace offered

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

- **Shield of Faith:** (Two different words, two different kinds of Shields)
 - >Not the small round shield for sword fighting, but the large rectangular one, 2X4, Wood cover 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!
 - >Two Different Kinds of Faith:
 1. Saving Faith: Faith in the finished work of Jesus (Gospel)
Do you have that confidence and assurance 1Jn 5:13 *“That you might KNOW”*
 2. Living Faith: The faith that we need day to day, trusting in God, depending upon Him, leaning into Him,

APP: 1. Do you know Jesus?

2. KNOW what you believe: Again, you need regular study of the Word of God to strengthen you

3. 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

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”*

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!

You HAVE to be developing your spiritual relationship with Jesus: Growing in your faith

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?

APP: How do we equip ourselves for this battle?
We have to be regularly engaged in the study of the Word of God!
Heb 5:12: "The mature, who by constant use have trained themselves!!!"

- **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:
The Sword of the Spirit is:
>It is living: Spiritually Alive: Jn 6:33 "The words that I have spoken are spirit and life!"
>It is active: Spiritually Impactful: Active; Operative; Effectual; Powerful
>It penetrates: Spiritually Cutting To reach through or pierce between soul and spirit
>It divides: Spiritually detach To cut, pierce, separate or tear apart
>Judges: Spiritually Evaluates To determine the quality and kind of something
>Reveals: Spiritually Expose To make transparent, open, expose

The Word of God does that TO us: Shines the light of God into our life
The Word of God does that FOR us: Shines the light of God on the world around us
(Don't be surprised when the reaction isn't positive! Hide from light)
John 1

Key: We have talked about this before, but you know when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness: Responded Word
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: There is a spiritual battle raging all around you every day:
Sometimes we are like Elijah's servant...the one that couldn't see! (2Kings 6) What shall we do?

- Put On, Take Up, Stand
- Know and Use the Armor of God
 - >Shield of Faith Come Accept Him
Lean into Him
 - >Helmet of Salvation Know Your Faith
Grow Your Faith
 - >Sword of Spirit: Know Your Bible!
ABS, Growth Group