

Walking to Battle
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Ephesians 6:10-18 (The Armor of God)

Did you see the original movie “The Incredibles?” There is a famous line in that movie uttered by the character Lucius (AKA the superhero Frozone.) The city is under attack, superheroes had been outlawed and had to come out of retirement. Lucius frantically tears through his closet yelling to his wife, “*Honnnney! Where is my super suit?*” Lucius couldn’t fight the forces of evil without his “super suit.”

In a sense, followers of Christ find ourselves in the same situation. We face the forces of evil (Satan) every day and we can only prevail with the supernatural equipment God provides to every believer. Paul called it the “armor of God.”

Paul didn’t want us to be naïve about our battle against “the world, the flesh, and the Devil.” Satan is vicious but we can be victorious because Christ has defeated Satan. In these final words Paul teaches us how to “take up” and “put on” our supernatural equipment to do battle with Satan in the power of God’s “might.”

Big Idea: Spiritual warfare is real and Satan’s schemes are dangerous; but God has equipped every follower of Christ to “stand firm” in the “power of His might.” We need to deploy our supernatural “armor” daily to be victorious in battle. The most important thing to remember: “[H]e who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. (1 John 4:4) and “we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” (Romans 8:37)

In these verses we’ll learn to 1. Know the ENEMY, 2. Know our EQUIPMENT, and 3. Know how to EXECUTE in putting it on and taking it up in this battle. Let’s begin by understanding our ENEMY.

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor 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.

- There’s a popular phrase in our culture, “the struggle is real.” We need to understand that the spiritual warfare of Satan against God’s people and purposes is real. We equally need to grasp that God is greater than Satan.
- Paul calls us to “be strong” not in ourselves but “in the Lord” and “the strength of His might.” We can’t fight this battle in our own strength.
- Paul tells us “put on” the whole armor of God.

- Can't you imagine Paul, who was under arrest as he wrote, thinking about what illustration to use to describe this concept? There was likely a Roman soldier covered in armor and carrying a sword a few feet away.
- We need armor because of the "schemes" of the devil. The devil is cunning, ruthless, and strategic, constantly sizing up our weaknesses.
- Here are some things we know about our enemy Satan: (Wiersbe) *"Devil means 'accuser,' because he accuses God's people day and night before the throne of God (Rev. 12:7–11). Satan means 'adversary,' because he is the enemy of God. He is also called the tempter (Matt. 4:3), and the murderer and the liar (John 8:44). He is compared to a lion (1 Peter 5:8), a serpent (Gen. 3:1; Rev. 12:9), and an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:13–15), as well as 'the god of this age' (2 Cor. 4:4, NIV)."*⁴
- Chuck Swindoll writes, *"Satan would like nothing better than for us to picture him as the little red imp on our shoulder, whispering naughty ideas into our ears. As long as we think of him as a pesky little pest that we can brush away like a mosquito, we won't realize just how insidious he is. Pay attention to the nature of the arsenal with which we believers have been supplied: 'the strength of His might' (6:10). The reality is that in our own strength, we are no match for Satan or any of his wicked minions. Only when we rely on Christ's strength can we hope to defeat such a deceptive and destructive foe."*ⁱⁱ
- We also need to understand what is NOT true about Satan. (Wiersbe) *"Since he is a created being, and not eternal (as God is), he is limited in his knowledge and activity. Unlike God, Satan is not all-knowing, all-powerful, or everywhere-present. Then how does he accomplish so much in so many different parts of the world? The answer is in his organized helpers."*ⁱⁱⁱ
- The forces deployed against God's people and purposes are not "flesh and blood" but a well-organized, invisible, demonic army. On one hand we need to be very realistic that Satan and his minions are constantly trying to defeat us. On the other hand, we don't need to hide under our bed in fear because God is greater than Satan and He equips us for battle.

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

- Notice Paul stresses that we take up the "whole" armor. No soldier would rush into battle leaving part of the armor at home!
- God's armor is not to be kept behind a glass door that says, "break glass in case of emergency." The armor of God needs to be hanging by our front door so we can put it all on every time we go into the world!
- God commands us to "be strong" and "stand firm" not cower in fear. We can only live in that battle-ready posture if we're wearing His armor.
- We know our enemy. Let's get to know our EQUIPMENT.

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,

- The soldier's belt wasn't just to keep their pants up. It allowed them to be supported, upright, and agile so that nothing tripped them up in battle.
- What is the "belt of truth?" The truth of God's word and the truth about our position in Christ. Satan is the "father of lies" (John 8:44) constantly lying to followers of Christ. **What are some of Satan's favorite lies?**

The Casting Crowns song "Voice of Truth" is a picture of pushing back on Satan:

*"But the waves are calling out my name and they laugh at me
Reminding me of all the times I've tried before and failed
The waves they keep on telling me
Time and time again, "Boy, you'll never win!"
"You'll never win"*

*But the voice of truth tells me a different story
And the voice of truth says, "Do not be afraid!"
And the voice of truth says, "This is for My glory"
Out of all the voices calling out to me
I will choose to listen and believe the voice of truth^{iv}*

- The "breastplate of righteousness" – This piece of armor covered the vital organs. The "breastplate" of a believer is that we are covered by the "righteousness of Christ."
- Satan: *"There's nothing righteous about you!"* Me: *"Satan, you need to read 2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV) For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*
- If I've trusted Christ as Savior and Lord I'm covered in HIS righteousness. That is known as my "positional" righteousness in Christ.
- His Spirit living in me empowers me to strive to live a holy life in HIS strength and that is my "practical" righteousness.
- What about the "shoes" of "readiness given by the gospel of peace?"
- If you've ever owned hiking or hunting boots you know the "peace" that comes from steel toes and soles that a sharp stick or nail won't puncture your feet. We can live on the "firm footing" of Romans 5:1 *"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Peace with God prevents being a "wobbly" soldier.
- The shield of faith – In this case it's not just saving faith but it's my faith that I'm saved and shielded by God. **What kind of "fiery darts" does Satan shoot at believers? How can we use our faith as a shield?**

- (Wiersbe) *“In Paul’s day, arrows, dipped in some inflammable substance and ignited, were shot at the enemy. Satan shoots “fiery darts” at our hearts and minds: lies, blasphemous thoughts, hateful thoughts about others, doubts, and burning desires for sin. If we do not by faith quench these darts, they will light a fire within and we will disobey God.”*^x
- The helmet of salvation – Satan loves to “get in our heads” about whether or not we are saved. If you want to keep Satan out of your head, constantly put God’s word INTO your head! Some good examples:

John 10:28 (ESV) ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Romans 8:38–39 (ESV) ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 John 1:9 (ESV) ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- “The sword of the Spirit which is the word of God” – All the other armor is defensive but this is the one OFFENSIVE weapon, God’s word.
- **How is God’s word like a sword in our battle? How can we use it?**
- Our best example of how to use our sword is to read Matthew 4:1-11 or Luke 4:1-13’s account of Satan tempting Jesus. How many times did Jesus say, “it is written” as He slashed through Satan’s lies with the sword of the Spirit? This is why we need both group and personal Bible study!
- How do we EXECUTE in using our EQUIPMENT against our ENEMY?

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,

- **How can we pray at all times?**

So, What’s the Takeaway?

- Spiritual warfare is real but God is greater than Satan and all his demons.
- Spiritual warfare can have physical manifestations like sickness, death, and the trials, but notice that much of Satan’s attacks are psychological warfare? Satan is constantly whispering lies and temptations in our ears to divert us from the truth of our position in Christ and from doing His will.
- Paul didn’t say stay home and keep the doors locked. He said put on your armor so you can “stand firm” while under attack. He said strap on the truth of God’s word so you can swing it against Satan’s schemes and lies.
- The armor of God isn’t kept in a glass case for emergencies. It’s to be “put on” every day as we go out to battle “in the power of His might.”
- When you leave the house, don’t forget your “super suit” from God.

ⁱ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 57). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

ⁱⁱ Swindoll, Charles R.. Insights on Galatians, Ephesians (Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary Book 8) (pp. 300-301). Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.. Kindle Edition.

ⁱⁱⁱ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 57). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

^{iv} <https://castingcrowns.com/music/voice-of-truth/>

^v Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 58). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.