

Ephesians Bible Study

Lesson 23/ Ephesians 6:10-17

Standing Firm in the Armor of God

Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you through this week’s lesson.

Think about it.

The faithful Christian life is a battle. When God begins to bless, Satan begins to attack. When was a time that you became especially aware that you were engaged in spiritual warfare? What did you do? How did you respond? Explain. _____

Sometimes in the Christian culture we live in where personal comfort and self-satisfaction are the idols of choice, it’s easy to become complacent and even oblivious to the spiritual battle we are facing. As Dwight L. Moody once said of Christians, *“We can stand affliction better than we can prosperity. For in prosperity we forget God.”* How do these dynamics tempt you to retreat from the battle or disengage from ministry that may stretch you? (See Duet. 8:11-20) _____

NOTE:

*Before getting into our verses for today, it is important to note that the Scriptures we are studying end before Paul’s section on prayer (vs 18-20). Keep in mind that prayer is the key component to appropriating the resources contained in the armor of God! As one author stated, *“Prayer is the spiritual breath of the soldier.”* Without a lifestyle of prayer, the armor of God is simply incomplete.

Read Ephesians 6:10-17

1. In verses 10-12 Paul describes the believer’s conflict as well as the source of his strength. What do you notice about the source of his strength? _____

What do you notice about the source of his conflict? _____

-
-
2. Using these verses describe some of the qualities that characterize the strength of the Lord. (Ps. 18:1-2, Jer. 32:17, Rom. 8:37-39, Eph. 1:19-22, 3:20, 2 Cor. 12:9-10, 2 Thess. 3:3)

3. Using these verses describe some of the qualities that characterize the strength of our enemy. (Col. 1:15-17, Gen. 3:1, John 10:10, 2 Cor. 4:3-4, I Peter 5:8, I John 5:19, Rev. 12:10-11, 20:3)

4. According to verse 11 and 13-14, what is the ultimate goal for the believer in his spiritual battles?

5. As MacArthur reminds us, *"The battle has already been won, but we can lose the skirmishes."* What does he mean by this and why is it important to understand? (Phil. 1:6)

6. How does the above truth shape the way we view our battles? (Rom. 8:31-39)

7. In verses 14-17 Paul begins to describe the armor of God. Remember he calls us to put on all of it, not just some of it! This is a lifelong- continual process that each believer must commit to if he wants to walk worthy of the Lord. According to verse 14 Paul writes, ***"Stand therefore having fastened on the belt of _____"*** Primarily, this has to do with sincerity in our commitment to the Lord- full allegiance to our Master, where our lives are free of hypocrisy. In what ways would this type of heart commitment be shown in our actions, even when we sin? (See Ps. 51:6, 86:11, Prov. 16:6, I John 1:8)

8. In vs 14 Paul also says to, **“put on the breastplate of _____.”** Here Paul references Is. 59:17 which speaks of the divine warrior, Jesus Christ, who, **“put on righteousness as a breastplate and a helmet of salvation on his head.”** In what ways do you find that gratitude for your justification (you are clothed in Christ’s righteousness) drives your daily pursuit of a practical holiness? (Rom. 6:1-4) _____

9. How have you found a loving and Christ-centered pursuit of holiness protects you from **“the schemes of the devil?”** _____

10. In verse 15 Paul describes the footwear of the effective soldier. Think of how important shoes are in a battle! The terrain soldiers travel on are often harsh and dangerous, and without proper protection their feet can become badly injured. With this likely in his mind, the apostle says, **“and as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the _____ of peace.”** Why is the gospel of peace the only sure footing believers can stand on? (Gal. 1:6-7, 3:10-11, I Cor. 3:11) _____

11. What happens when you begin to lose sight of the Gospel and start trying to put off sin by the flesh rather than the Spirit? How do you know when you are doing this? Give an example. _____

12. In vs. 16 Paul says, **“in all _____ take up the shield of _____ with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.”** How does an unwavering trust in the sovereignty of God empower you to resist sin?

(See Hab. 3:19) _____

13. In vs 17 Paul also speaks of **“the helmet of _____.”** This is speaking of assurance of salvation and a hope that is sure and settled in our souls. When the enemy tempts you with doubt regarding your eternal salvation (or even doubt that God has the power to save you from sinning today!) what do you do? Explain how God has used these times of doubt to draw you closer to Himself? (Heb. 10:19-23)

14. Finally, in vs 17 Paul also says to take **“the _____ of the Spirit, which is the _____ of God.”** Describe how the Word of God is a weapon that enables you to kill sin in your life. What does that really look like for you? Be specific. (Matt. 4:1-11)

15. After studying this passage, what would you say is the part of your armor that tends to be most vulnerable? Pray for strengthening in this area and praise God for the ultimate victory that is ours in Christ. _____
