

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

v10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

v11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

v12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- v13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.
- v14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,
- v15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

v16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

v17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

v18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ Every believer is enlisted in the God's army
- ❖ Paul chose to use the military concepts to illustrate the believer's conflict with Satan
- ❖ He himself was chained to a Roman soldier (Eph 6:20), and his readers were certainly familiar with soldiers and the equipment they used

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

❖ As Christians, we face three enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil (Eph 2:1-3)

v1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

v2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

v3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ "The world" refers to the system around us that is opposed to God, that caters to "the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (1 John 2:15-17)
- ❖ "The flesh" is the old nature that we inherited from Adam, a nature that is opposed to God and can do nothing spiritual to please God.

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ By Christ's death and resurrection, He overcame the world (John 16:33; Gal 6:14), and the flesh (Rom 6:1-6; Gal 2:20), and the devil (Eph 1:19-23).
- ❖ Know Our Enemy. Unless we know who the enemy is, where he is, and what he can do, we will have a difficult time defeating him. God instructs us about the enemy throughout the Bible, so there is no reason for us to be caught off guard.

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ The leader, the devil has many names
- ❖ 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), the murderer and the liar (John 8:44)

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ 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).
- ❖ 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

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ How does he accomplish so much in so many different parts of the world?
- ❖ One third of the angels fell with Satan when he rebelled against God. (Rev 12:4, and Daniel wrote that Satan's angels struggle against God's angels for control of the affairs of nations (Dan 10:13-20)
- ❖ Satan rely on his army of fallen angels

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ The important point is that our battle is not against human beings. It is against spiritual powers
- ❖ The admonitions Paul gave indicate that Satan is a strong enemy (6:10-12), and that we need the power of God to be able to stand against him

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ Paul uses the word "wrestle" indicates that we are involved in a hand-to-hand battle and are not mere spectators at a game
- ❖ Satan wants to use our external enemy, the world, and our internal enemy, the flesh, to defeat us

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ God has provided us the "whole armor" against the enemies in the spirit world
- ❖ Paul commanded his readers to put on the armor, take the weapons, and withstand Satan, all of which we do by faith

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ The belt of truth (v. 14 a). Satan is a liar (John 8:44), but the believer whose life is controlled by truth will defeat him
- ❖ It holds the other parts of the armor together, including the sword and truth is the integrating force in the life of the victorious Christian
- ❖ Unless we practice the truth, we cannot use the Word of truth

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ The breastplate of righteousness (v. 14 b). This piece of armor, made of metal plates or chains, covered the body from the neck to the waist
- ❖ It symbolizes the believer's righteousness in Christ (2 Cor 5:21) as well as His righteous life in Christ (Eph 4:24). Unless we practice the truth, we cannot use the Word of truth

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ The life we live either fortifies us against Satan's attacks or makes it easier for him to defeat us (2 Cor 6:1-10)
- ❖ When Satan accuses the Christian, it is the righteousness of Christ that assures the believer of his salvation
- ❖ without practical righteousness in our daily life, it only gives Satan the opportunity to attack us

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ The shoes of the Gospel (v. 15). The Roman soldier wore sandals with hobnails in the soles to give him better footing for the battle
- ❖ If we are going to "stand" and "withstand," then we need the shoes of the Gospel
- ❖ We have the peace with God (Rom 5:1) that comes from the Gospel, we need not fear the attack of Satan or men

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ We must be at peace with God and with each other if we are to defeat the devil (James 4:1-7)
- ❖ But the shoes have another meaning. We must be prepared each day to share the Gospel of peace with a lost world
- ❖ Satan has declared war, but you and I are ambassadors of peace (2 Cor 5:18-21); and so we take the Gospel of peace wherever we go

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ The shield of faith (v. 16). The shield was large, usually about four feet by two feet, made of wood, and covered with tough leather
- ❖ The "faith" mentioned here is not saving faith, but rather living faith, a trust in the promises and the power of God
- ❖ Faith is a defensive weapon which protects us from Satan's fiery darts

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ Satan shoots "fiery darts" at our hearts and minds: lies, blasphemous thoughts, hateful thoughts about others, doubts, and burning desires
- ❖ We never know when Satan will shoot a dart at us, so we must always walk by faith and use the shield of faith

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ The helmet of salvation (v. 17). Satan wants to attack the mind, the way he defeated Eve (Gen 3; 2 Cor 11:1-3)
- ❖ When God controls the mind, Satan cannot lead the believer astray
- ❖ The Christian who studies his Bible and learns the meaning of Bible doctrines is not going to be led astray too easily

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ We are to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18)

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ The sword of the Spirit (v. 17 b). This sword is the offensive weapon God provides us
- ❖ Heb 4:12 compares the Word of God to a sword, because it is sharp and is able to pierce the inner man just as a physical sword pierces the body
- ❖ A physical sword requires the hand of a soldier, but the sword of the Spirit has its own power, for it is "living and powerful" (Heb 4:12)

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, He used the sword of the Spirit and defeated the enemy
- ❖ Note that Satan can also quote the Word: "For it is written" (Luke 4:10) but he does not quote it completely
- ❖ Satan tries to use the Word of God to confuse us, so it is important that we know every word that God has given us

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ The "whole armor of God" is a picture of Jesus Christ
- ❖ Christ is the Truth (John 14:6), and He is our righteousness (2 Cor 5:21) and our peace (Eph 2:14)
- ❖ His faithfulness makes possible our faith (Gal 2:20); He is our salvation (Luke 2:30); and He is the Word of God (John 1:1,14)

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ Prayer is the energy that enables the Christian soldier to wear the armor and handle the sword
- ❖ Prayer is the power for victory, but not just any kind of prayer. Paul tells how to pray if we would defeat Satan.
- ❖ Pray always. "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess 5:17) "Always be in communion with the Lord

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ Pray with all prayer. There is more than one kind of praying: prayer, supplication, intercession, thanksgiving (Phil 4:6; 1 Tim 2:1)
- ❖ Thanksgiving is a great prayer weapon for defeating Satan. "Praise changes things" as much as "prayer changes things."
- ❖ Intercession for others can bring victory to our own lives

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18

- ❖ Pray in the Spirit. The Bible formula is that we pray to the Father, through the Son, and in the Spirit
- ❖ Pray with your eyes open. Watching means "keeping on the alert."
- ❖ Keep on praying. The word perseverance simply means "to stick to it and not quit."

Armour of God Eph 6:10-18 - Applications

Maintain our full armour daily by:

- ❖ Be a man or woman of integrity, with a clear conscience - belt of truth
- ❖ Always walking right with God - breast plate
- ❖ Keeping the sword of the spirit sharp
- ❖ Be a witnessing Christian - shoes of gospel

THE ARMOR OF GOD

EPHESIANS 6:10-18
"... Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." v. 10, 11

The Shield of Faith (Eph. 6:16)
Faith is being sure that God will keep His promises. Faith in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.

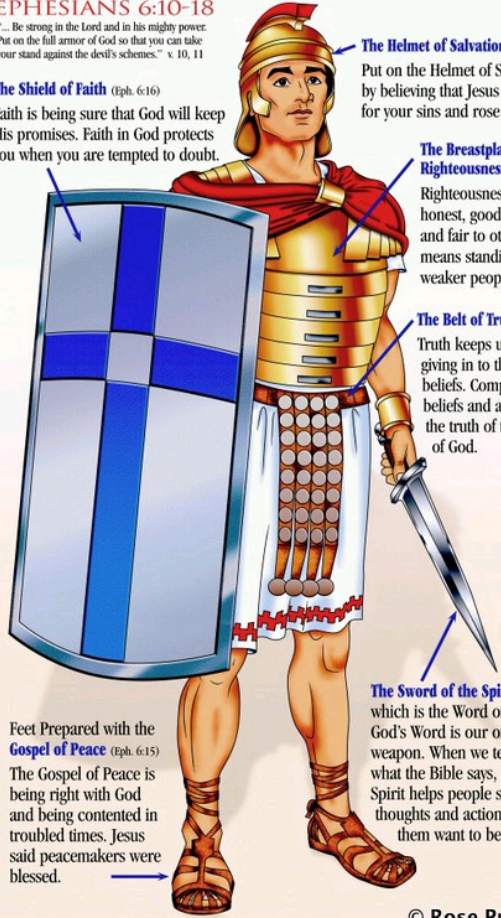
The Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17)
Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

The Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6:14)
Righteousness is being honest, good, humble, and fair to others. It means standing up for weaker people.

The Belt of Truth (Eph. 6:14)
Truth keeps us from giving in to the world's beliefs. Compare your beliefs and actions to the truth of the Word of God.

The Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17)
which is the Word of God. God's Word is our offensive weapon. When we tell others what the Bible says, the Holy Spirit helps people see their bad thoughts and actions, and makes them want to be forgiven.

Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15)
The Gospel of Peace is being right with God and being contented in troubled times. Jesus said peacemakers were blessed.



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Armour of God Eph 6:10-18 - Applications

Maintain our full armour daily by:

- ❖ Guard our minds from corrupt thoughts - helmet of salvation
- ❖ walk by faith - shield of faith
- ❖ Renew our strength through praying and praising daily

