

## Ephesians 6:10-20

### Spiritual Warfare

#### Section 1: 6:10-13 – It's All God

*<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. <sup>13</sup> For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.*

#### God's Strength

- Throughout Scripture we see a theme of relying upon God for wisdom, understanding, hope, joy, faith, patients, grace, mercy, etc. So, it only makes sense that our strength is found in the Lord as well. We are very obviously involved in a spiritual war: remember the garden, Abraham, Joseph, Job, Moses, Daniel, Isaiah, Elijah and the disciples. How do we train for a spiritual war? We fix our eyes upon Jesus. We rely upon the strength of the Lord.

#### God's Armor

- Specifically, we are called to put on the full armor of "God". Not the armor of man, power, strength, wisdom, America, Rome, Egypt, etc. The armor we need comes from God Himself.

#### Our Struggle

- Our battle is not against flesh and blood. The people stoning Stephen were not his enemies. They may have appeared to be, but in reality, they were just slaves to sin and the enemy. Which is why Stephen asked God to forgive them.
- Acts 7:57-60 (CSB): *<sup>57</sup> They yelled at the top of their voices, covered their ears, and together rushed against him. <sup>58</sup> They dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. And the witnesses laid their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" <sup>60</sup> He knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" And after saying this, he fell asleep.*
- Remember...we do not battle against people. We love people...even those that appear to be our enemies.

#### God is our Hope

- We can resist the evil day, be prepared and take a stand with God's Armor. God is our only hope in surviving the Spiritual War that we are going to face.

## Section 2: 6:14-17 – God’s Armor

*<sup>14</sup>Stand, therefore, with truth like a belt around your waist, righteousness like armor on your chest, <sup>15</sup>and your feet sandaled with readiness for the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In every situation take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit—which is the word of God.*

### Belt of Truth

- Jesus is the Truth. John 14:6 (CSB): *Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

### Breastplate of Righteousness

- Jesus is our Righteousness. 1 Corinthians 5:21 (CSB): *He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

### Gospel Shoes

- The good news of Jesus. 1 Corinthians 15:1-5 (CSB): *Now I want to make clear for you, brothers and sisters, the gospel I preached to you, which you received, on which you have taken your stand <sup>2</sup>and by which you are being saved, if you hold to the message I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup>For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve.*

### Shield of Faith

- Jesus is the source of our faith. Romans 10:17 (CSB): *So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.*

### Helmet of Salvation

- Jesus is our salvation. Acts 4:12 (CSB): *There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.”*

### Sword of the Spirit

- Word of God. Hebrews 4:12 (CSB): *For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Ephesians 1:3 (CSB): *Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ.*

## Section 3: 6:18-20 – God’s Message

*<sup>18</sup>Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. <sup>20</sup>For this I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I might be bold enough to speak about it as I should.*

What do you pray for? That in any and all situations you will boldly proclaim the gospel? Or are we continuously praying for an easy life?