

Series: Ephesians  
Title: The Whole Armour of God  
Text: Ephesians 6: 10-18  
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When God quickens and calls his child, the moment he gives us faith and we believe, we are called into battle. We are called to “Fight the good fight of faith.” (1 Tim 6: 12) It is a real fight, difficult and dangerous. Everything pertaining to this fight is supernatural.

## **OUR STRENGTH IS THE LORD**

The first thing we need for this war is strength, ‘Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.’ (Eph 6: 10)

Believers have no strength in us. None of the exhortations we have studied up to this point will be performed in our own strength. We certainly will not prevail against our spiritual enemies in our own strength.

Our strength is the Lord Jesus Christ, “be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.” The Lord told the apostle Paul, “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. [We are strong by] the power of Christ [resting] upon [us.]...When [we are] weak [so as to look only to Christ] then [are we] strong.” (2 Cor 12: 9-10) “In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.” (Rom 8: 37)

A branch gets all its strength from the vine. Separate the branch from the vine and it withers away because it is cut off from its life and strength. Likewise, the believer’s life and strength is from Christ living in us. Our Lord said, “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” (Jn 15: 4-5)

So the Holy Spirit turns us to our strength, “Put on the whole armor of God.” (Eph 6: 11) Our armor for this fight is of God: God provides it, God gives it, God is the sum of it and God is the efficacy of it. “The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.” (2 Cor 10: 4)

## **THE ENEMY**

In order to fight this war we must know who are enemy is. Our enemy is the devil and a host of fallen, wicked powers, “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.” (Eph 6: 11-12)

We do wrestle against our own sinful flesh and we are opposed by wicked men. But our chief adversary is not man but the wiles of the devil. “Principalities and powers” are unseen spiritual demons, fallen angels (2 Pet 2: 4). “The rulers of the darkness of this world” expresses their power and authority over all men all over the world who are in the darkness of spiritual death. “Spiritual wickedness in high *places*” means they are wicked spirits, celestial beings, which are fallen, wicked angels. Satan is called “the prince of the power of the air. (Eph. 2:2.) Believers wrestle against innumerable, invisible, wicked spirits which are all around us, which are under the power of the devil.

This enemy is dangerous not only because invisible and strong, but because the devil is subtle, “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” (Gen 3: 1) Someone said that the devils chains of bondage are made of satin so as to feel good to our sinful flesh.

## **OUR WEAPONS ARE SPIRITUAL**

Every believer is to take our spiritual weapons, “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” (Eph 6: 13)

There was a picture of this armory under the old covenant. We read of “the tower of David, builded for an armory, whereon there hung a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men.” (SOS 4: 4) There was Hezekiah’s “house of armor.” (2 Kings 20:13). There was “the armor of the house of the forest.” (Isaiah 22:8). There were Solomon’s “three score valiant men, the valiant of Israel, who held swords, being expert in war: every man having his sword upon his thigh, because of fear in the night’ (SOS 3:7, 8).

That earthly armory in earthly Jerusalem pictured our heavenly armory in heavenly Jerusalem made by our heavenly David, our heavenly Solomon, Christ Jesus. “The Lord hath opened His armory, and hath brought forth the weapons of His indignation.” (Jer 50: 25)

So he says “take the whole armor of God and “put on the whole armor of God.” He says take the whole armor of God. The armor is whole: complete and perfect. We are to take this armor, not make the armor. No part is to be neglected but all is to be “taken” and “put on.”

The reason is “that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand.” Each believer is to with-stand—to oppose, to resist. We are to “stand-with Christ our Captain; to “stand-with” the army, Christ’s church. Believers are not deserters, “we are not of them that draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.” (Heb 10: 39)

“And having done all to stand”—the real battle sometimes comes after you have withstood the initial temptation. It comes in the form of pride or vain-glorifying and so on. We need these weapons at all times—before, during and after the temptation, so that after Christ has made us stand, we might continue to oppose and resist the evil.

“The evil day” is not some great day in the end of time. It is trial, conflict and temptation we face every day.

JOSEPH HART wrote,

Gird thy loins up, Christian soldier;  
Lo! thy Captain calls thee out;  
Let the danger make thee bolder;  
War in weakness, dare in doubt.

Buckle on thy heavenly armour;  
Patch up no inglorious peace;  
Let thy courage wax the warmer,  
As thy foes and fears increase.

## **THE GIRDLE OF TRUTH**

We must know what our heavenly armour is so that we can put it on. First, is the girdle of truth, “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth.” (Eph 6: 14) This is the first piece of armor, the under-armor, the bullet proof vest. Without this, the rest of the armor will not fit properly—“have your loins girt about with truth.”

Christ is the Truth—he said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man can come to the Father, but by me.” (Jn 14:6) “This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” (Jn 17: 3)

We must have a living union with Christ the Truth. We must have a union with Christ who is God; with the Christ who accomplished the redemption God’s elect; with the true Christ who is risen and reigning over heaven and earth as the Head of church; with that Christ who shall call out each of his sheep through the Holy Spirit and lose none. We must have a union with the successful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The literal translation reads “having your loins gird about in truth.” This union must be a real union with “the truth as it is in Jesus.” To enter on this spiritual conflict ignorant or doubting, would be to enter battle blind and lame. We will never withstand Satan’s assaults, if our mind is filled with man-made theories, our own speculations, traditions of men, or dead letter systems of doctrine. If our inward man is not girded with Christ the Truth, when the day of evil comes "instead of a girdle there shall be a rent" (Is 3:24; Jer 13:7.) So first and foremost, by God’s power and grace, lay hold of Christ the Truth in truth.

## **THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Also, we must put on “the breastplate of righteousness.” (Eph 6: 14) Many say this is our own righteousness and integrity. But it cannot be anything produced by us or maintained by us.

I read an old story about a battle against the Chinese. This army came upon a Chinese fort. They saw them walking on the walls in shining armor. After exchanging gunfire, the fort was overtaken. It turned out the armor of the Chinese was only glittering paper made to look like steel to frighten away the enemy. It was shiny to the eye but weak as water. That is our righteousnesses.

This breastplate of righteousness is Christ our Righteousness. The righteousness of Christ imputed to us through faith in Christ. He said “be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”

Indeed, Christ is formed in us so that in all we do, in every relationship, the believer seeks to do that which is right according to Christ’s word. Yet, Satan could find much with which to accuse us. Sin is mixed with all we do. But as Joseph Hart wrote:

Righteousness within thee rooted  
May appear to take thy part;  
But let righteousness imputed  
Be the breastplate of thy heart.

Why do we need Christ our Righteousness? Satan is the accuser of the brethren. He tries to use the body of Moses—the law of Moses—to accuse us to God. But here is what Christ does for his people,

Zechariah 3: 1: And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. [to accuse Joshua to God using the law of Moses] 2: And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: *is* not this a brand plucked out of the fire? 3: Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. 4: And he answered and spake unto those that stood

before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. 5: And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by.

Romans 8: 33: Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. 34: Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Believer, Christ Jesus is our Righteousness, the righteousness of God. He put away our sin, justified us freely. He robed us in his righteousness and gave us his breastplate of righteousness to cover our heart—our inward man. He stands to make intercession for us as our Advocate with God.

Romans 8: 1: *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2: For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 3: For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

1 John 2: 1: My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

## **THE BOOTS OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE**

We must put on the shoes of the gospel of peace, “And your feet shod with the preparation [preparedness] of the gospel of peace.” (Eph 6: 15)

Remember, God said the devil would bruise Christ's what?—“his heel.” If possible, the devil will bruise the believer's heel or trip us up or make us lame altogether. But infinite mercy has provided gospel shoes for the believer's feet. The good news of Christ gives peace by giving us a firm foundation on which our feet can firmly stand with all confidence.

1 Corinthians 3: 11: For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Psalm 40:2: He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

2 Samuel 22: 34: He maketh my feet like hinds' feet: and setteth me upon my high places....37: Thou hast enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip.

## **THE SHIELD OF FAITH**

Believers must have the shield of faith, “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.” (Eph 6: 16)

Christ has promised us, "My sheep shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." (John 10: 28, 29) By the gift of faith, we believe Christ.

The promise God made to the Son in the everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and sure, is that "his seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven." (Psalm 89:29) By the gift of faith, we believe him.

Abraham overcame by trusting Christ, "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform." (Rom 4: 20-21)

Therefore, we flee to Christ in faith "wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." The apostle Peter knew this better than anyone. He said, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith." (1 Pet 5: 6-9) As Joseph Hart,

But when dangers closer threaten,  
And thy soul draws near to death;  
When assaulted sore by Satan,  
Then object the shield of faith;  
Fiery darts of fierce temptations,  
Intercepted by thy God,  
There shall lose their force in patience,  
Sheathed in love, and quenched in blood.

## **THE HELMET OF SALVATION**

Then we take "the helmet of salvation." (Eph 6: 17)

The devil will aim at your head, your reasoning, your intellect. It was Paul's greatest fear, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." (2 Cor 11: 3)

He will use the world's order of things to attempt to make you think that God's order is not right. He aims to make you reason that it is not fair for God to choose whom he will, for Christ to give eternal life to as many as the Father has given him, for the Spirit to regenerate and sanctify his people and receive all the glory, for Christ to rule and for those he places in authority to rule over us. Worst of all he will make you doubt whether or not you are saved! He'll try to turn you to add something to Christ's work.

"But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thess 5: 8-9) Do not let Satan turn you from the simplicity that is in Christ. God has appointed us to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. Joseph Hart continued in his song, writing,

Shod with gospel-preparation,  
In the paths of promise tread;  
Let the hope of free salvation,  
As a helmet, guard thy head.

## **THE SWORD OF THE WORD**

Then we have an offensive weapon, "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Eph 6: 17)

The weapon which Satan's gates cannot prevail against is the word of God, the gospel we preach, which is made effectual by the Holy Spirit.

Brethren, read and heed the word of God daily. Hear Christ speak through his word and totally ignore this world's way. And knowing the word shall never return void, let us run throughout this whole world with this sword! Brother Hart wrote,

When beset with various evils,  
Wield the Spirit's two-edged sword,  
Cut thy way through hosts of devils,  
While they fall before the Word.

### **THE WEAPON OF PRAYER**

There is one more weapon which is prayer, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak." (Eph 6: 18-20)

Christ Jesus promises us, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." (Jn 15: 7) Joseph Hart finished out his song with these words,

Though to speak thou be not able,  
Always pray and never rest;  
Prayer's a weapon for the feeble;  
Weakest souls can wield it best.

Ever on thy Captain calling,  
Make thy worst condition known;  
He shall hold thee up when falling,  
Or shall lift thee up when down.

**AMEN!**