

The Believer's Arsenal/ Weapons of Spiritual Warfare

Lord's Prayer Series – Deliver us From Evil

ROL – September 17, 2023

I. Intro.:

- A. We started by revealing the strategy of the enemy – Eight Arrows
 - 1. We don't want to be negative by focusing on evil – But, we do want to be aware of the enemies strategies
 - 2. Today – we switch to talking about the offensive weapons God gives us to fight the spiritual battle
- B. "Colin's Vision"
 - 1. A mighty storm coming our way
 - 2. Great Darkness
 - 3. Pieces of armor swirling in the winds of the storm – People not rightly wielding their armor
 - 4. A tower standing strong in the midst of the storm
- C. Many other similar visions and Words from the Lord

II. Ephesians 6:

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

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

12 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.

13 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.

14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

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

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

18 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. - NIV

A. Imagine Paul, A prisoner of the Lord Jesus Christ

- 1. Ephesians was one of the prison letters of Paul
- 2. What an example for us - Paul was a prisoner of Rome, but He considered himself a prisoner of Jesus; Paul, the prisoner of the Lord Jesus Christ"
- 3. Paul had been through the arrest and rigged trial in Jerusalem.

4. He had been through the shipwreck, where he encouraged all that they would be saved.
5. Finally, he finds himself a prisoner in Rome
 - a) *Paul's imprisonment took different stages:*
 - b) *He is under house arrest with some freedom*
 - c) *At times during his arrest and transport, he was chained to a Roman Soldier*

B. In the midst of all - Paul receives inspiration from the Lord about the spiritual battle!

1. He knew the enemy was not flesh and blood - The Roman soldiers, the Jews who wished him dead.
2. The real battle was with spiritual forces of wickedness.
3. Then, the Lord opens up wisdom to Paul through his surroundings - The armor of his captors!

C. Stand firm, so when the DAY of EVIL comes. What is the Day of Evil?

1. From the Cross of Jesus onward - **THE BATTLE WAS ON, ALL TURF & EVERY SOUL WAS TO BE CONTENDED FOR!**
2. All indications in the Word show that as the time for Jesus' return approaches and Satan's days are numbered, the spiritual war will be come more intense.

III. The Full Armor of God:

A. ONE - The Belt of Truth:

1. The Word of God is both an offensive weapon and defensive weapon
 - a) *The belt – The truth we live in obedience*
 - b) *The Sword – The truth we speak and proclaim in power*
2. The belt of truth is defensive armor
 - a) *The sword would hang upon the belt in Roman armor*
 - b) *The belt kept all the rest of the armor in place*
 - c) *In the same way – Being secured in truth is the foundation of all of our spiritual armor*
 - d) *If our life is not based in His truth – the rest of our armor is compromised!*
3. **TRUTH** - It is a life of honesty & Integrity, a life lived in the light of God's revelation!
 - a) *It is truth applied through obedience in our lives*
 - b) *To say something is true is not enough – This is LIVED TRUTH*
 - c) *It means a life of honesty with ourselves, AND with others.*
4. Ephesians 5:9, We live in truth when the light of God transforms our lives.

- a) Ephesians 4: 25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. - NIV
- b) Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) - NIV

- 5. There is freedom in living in the truth
 - a) *Deception takes a great amount of energy. It saps the life from a person.*
 - b) *Christians that are not living in truth are not experiencing abundant life and joy in the Lord.*
- 6. Not living in truth makes us vulnerable to the attack of enemy.
 - a) *This is the root of hypocrisy*
 - b) *When our life lacks integrity of right standing with God and people – There are doors open to spiritual attack*
 - c) *Deception puts us in the Devil's domain.*
- 7. The belt holds other parts of the armor in place!

B. TWO - Breastplate of Righteousness

- 1. What does Paul mean by righteousness?
 - a) *I don't think He is talking about our justification - how we have secure standing with God through grace in Christ Jesus.*
 - b) *That is addressed by the Helmet of Salvation.*
 - c) *This breastplate refers to our own obedience in walking in God's righteousness.*
 - d) *God calls us to be holy as he is holy: to no longer live as we used to before we came to know Him.*
- 2. If we love Him, we obey Him and we stay in His Love
 - a) *If we disobey Him, then we compromise the presence of God in our lives.*

b) I John 3:

18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 19 This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence 20 whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 24 Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is

how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

(1) To stay in God's love means that we need a walk of obedience and referencing Him

Romans 6:13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

c) Is righteousness your breastplate?

(1) ILLUS *John Di Frances, Reclaiming the Ethical High Ground* - During the time of the twelve Caesars, 45 BC to 96 AD) the Roman army would conduct morning inspections. As the inspecting Centurion would come in front of each legionnaire, the soldier would strike with his right fist the armor breastplate that covered his heart. The armor had to be strongest there in order to protect the heart from the sword thrusts and from arrow strikes. As the soldier struck his armor, he would shout "integritas" [in-teg-ri-tas], which in Latin means material wholeness, completeness, and entirety. The inspecting Centurion would listen closely for this affirmation and also for the ring that well kept armor would give off. Satisfied that the armor was sound and that the soldier beneath it was protected, he would then move on to the next man.

(2) At about the same time, the Praetorians or imperial bodyguard were ascending into power and influence; drawn from the best "politically correct" soldiers of the legions, they received the finest equipment and armor. They no longer had to shout "integritas" to signify that their armor was sound. Instead, as they struck their breastplate, they would shout "Hail Caesar," to signify that their heart belonged to the imperial personage not to their unit, not to an institution not to a code of ideals. They armored themselves to serve the cause of a single man.

(3) A century passed and the rift between the legion and the imperial bodyguard and its excesses grew larger. To signify the difference between the two organizations, the legionnaire, upon striking his armor would no longer shout "integritas," but instead would shout "integer" [in-te-ger].

(4) Integer means undiminished, complete, perfect. It not only indicated that the armor was sound, it also indicated that the soldier wearing the armor was sound of character. He was complete in his integrity, his heart was in the right place, his standards and morals were high. He was not associated with the immoral conduct that was rapidly becoming the signature of the Praetorian Guards.

C. THREE - Feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace

1. Posture and attitude of preparation and availability to God
2. Interesting - He talks about PEACE, as part of the armor for war.
 - a) *Peace is not usually thought of as a part of armor for war.*
 - b) *The gospel – because of what God has done for us - means we are at peace with God*
3. St. John Chrysostom says that when we make peace with God we inherit war with His enemies
 - a) *There is a strength & resolve that comes from that peace.*
 - b) *God's peace in battle, helps us to be clear-minded.*
 - c) *5. It is the same kind of peace and focus that many athletes seek right before a competition – an absence of any distractions.*
4. He has promised us a peace that is not based on logic or circumstance - A peace that passes understanding.
 - a) *It is a peace that comes from God's presence within us and not because of our external circumstances.*
5. We are ready to move quickly in obedience to HIM, when we have that peace - lack of inner conflict or conflict between us and God.

D. FOUR - The shield of faith

1. Faith comes from hearing the Word of God - Not the written word, BUT God's revealed Word that makes the soul jump, His now Word that gives life and strength.
 - a) *Romans 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. (Rhema not logos)*
 - b) *If You haven't taken time to be with God - You won't hear that kind of word.*
2. When Jesus said that mankind does not live by bread alone - BUT by every Word that comes from God - He was talking about the Word made alive
 - a) *It is faith that defeats the fiery arrows or darts that come our way!*

- b) *We need a fresh word from God daily!*
 - c) *We need to store the Word of God in our hearts and minds ready for use when we need it!*
 - 3. This morning – praising/ praying through Hebrews 1
 - a) *I could feel faith rising in my heart*
 - b) *God was quickening His Word to me*
- E. FIVE - The helmet of salvation
 - 1. This is the security of our standing in Christ
 - a) *We don't have to walk with insecurity wondering if God will accept us today.*
 - b) *We have a covenant between God the Father and God the Son on our behalf!*
 - c) *We don't stand in our own righteousness – but we are in Christ Jesus*
 - 2. Our salvation has been secured with something more sure and precious than our own salvation
 - a) *The sacrifice of Christ on the Cross & His subsequent resurrection.*
 - b) *There is power in the Blood of the Covenant*
- F. SIX – Sword of the Spirit
 - 1. *We have only one offensive piece of armor, instead of defensive: the Sword of the Spirit, or, the Word of the Lord*
 - a) The sword mentioned in Ephesians belongs to the Holy Spirit.
 - b) Both offensive and defensive in nature, a sword can protect a soldier against the blows of an enemy.
 - c) Soldiers have to know how to properly wield a sword for maximum effect.
 - 2. *The Sword is the Word of God spoken in power & authority*
 - a) Jesus shows us the way
 - b) Matthew 4:3-4, “The tempter came to him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’ Jesus answered, ‘It is written: “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.””
 - 3. *Learn to wield your sword correctly*
 - a) Rightly dividing or interpreting the Truth
 - b) 1 Peter 3:15 *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, - NIV*
 - c) 1 Corinthians 2:12 *What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words*

taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. - NIV

4. Praising God in truth and the Word

a) Psalms 149:66 May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands, - NIV

b) Hebrews 4:12.12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. - NIV

IV. IN CONCLUSION

A. A final word to ROL

B. Armor is not just a personal assignment

1. We need to connect our armor together – The Roman Turtle (1st century tank)

a) Usually 27 roman infantry working as a team

(1) Dropping down on one knee

(2) Outside soldiers set their shields locked together

(3) Interior soldiers raised their shields on top of their helmets

(4) After being unsuccessfully assaulted they would rise and surprise their enemy

b) The interlocking shields of the Roman army made them fearsome and undefeated for generations

c) They stood together and plugged any gaps.

d) The discipline of all and unwillingness to yield became

e) legendary.

f) This is probably what Paul was thinking when he talked about standing firm.

g) The Romans became a moving wall that was indefensible.

h) In the same way, we need to cover one another - no gaps means strong healthy relationships! Walking in unity!