



Title: Ephesians: The Art of War

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-24

Date: 4/2/23

Bible Version: NLT

BOTTOM LINE: To effectively make war against the spiritual battles in our life, we need to know who our enemy is and understand where our true power and protection comes from.

The Art of War: How to Fight Spiritual Battles

- There is a war over who will rule your heart.

There is no neutral ground in the universe. Every square inch, every split second is claimed by God, and counterclaimed by Satan. – C.S. Lewis

Vs. 10

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

- Lean on the Lord. You don't go into battle in your strength, but the Lord's strength and power.
- You can have the best armor and weapons, but if you don't have the strength of the Lord, that armor and weapon is useless.

Vs. 11

Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

- Put on ALL of God's armor and stand firm.
- We have a spiritual enemy who is out to do battle.

Vs. 12

For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

- Your battle may seem physical, but your enemy is spiritual.

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. John 10:10

- If you don't know who your enemy is or their tactics, you won't be successful, because you can't defeat what you don't define.
- We must learn to discern a spiritual attack and resist with spiritual weapons.

Vs. 13

Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

- You can only resist the attacks of Satan to the degree that you are protected with the whole armor of God.

Vs. 14

Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness.

- We put on the belt of truth before battle because truth protects us in battle.
- As a believer your body armor is Christ's righteousness. It's not our own righteousness, but the righteousness of Christ that protects us from the accusations of Satan.
- Condemnation (Satan) leads to death. Conviction (Spirit) leads to life.

Vs. 15

For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared

- *The gospel of peace will give us confidence and direction as we navigate life's challenges.*

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. – Philipians 4:7

Vs. 16

In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.

- The shield of faith protects us from the fiery arrows of doubt and fear that Satan throws our way.
- Your shield is most powerful when you interlock it with others and fight in unison. You are not to struggle alone but are called to be in community to best resist the attacks of the enemy.

Vs. 17

Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

- Paul is reminding us to let the truth of God's love and grace cover our minds and saturate everything we think about ourselves.

Our spiritual standing in Christ must protect our thinking. If you don't clearly understand the gospel – that it is God's power "for salvation" (Rom 1:16) – you will not operate as one whom God promises to deliver from the power and penalty of sin. – Tony Evans

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires – Hebrews 4:12

- We need to know our weapon well and trust God's Word when we are tempted.

Vs. 18

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

- We put on the armor of God through prayer and we pray through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We can say that it is through prayer that spiritual strength and the armor of God go to work. In theory, the prayerless Christian can be strong and wearing all the armor; but never accomplishes anything because he fails to go into battle through prayer. – David Guzik

Vs. 19-20

And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.

- Paul knew there was power in prayer and desired boldness to spread the gospel.

Vs. 21-24

²¹ To bring you up to date, Tychicus will give you a full report about what I am doing and how I am getting along. He is a beloved brother and faithful helper in the Lord's work. ²² I have sent him to you for this very purpose—to let you know how we are doing and to encourage you. ²³ Peace be with you, dear brothers and sisters, and may God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you love with faithfulness. ²⁴ May God's grace be eternally upon all who love our Lord Jesus Christ.


- Paul ends his letter with the reminder of four wonderful words: peace, love, faith, and grace!
- We can rest in the fact that we do not fight for victory, but from victory, Jesus Christ has won, Satan has been overcome!

The Art of War: How to Fight Spiritual Battles

1. Know Your Enemy: Know his tactics – recognize his deception.
2. Know Your Power: Be strong in God's power – you don't fight alone.
3. Know Your Protection: Put on the Armor of God – suit up and pray up daily.

3D Guide

DO.

BOTTOM LINE: To effectively make war against the spiritual battles in our life, we need to know who our enemy is and understand where our true power and protection comes 

1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



1. How can you practically put on God's armor – put on Christ – each day, so that you are prepared for whatever battle you might face?
2. How can you use the sword of the Spirit in a situation you are facing right now?
3. Since the Armor of God doesn't cover our back how can other believers cover us?



DO.

Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that were studied. Try the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.