

## Spiritual Warfare Study Guide Two Ephesians 6: 13-20

Paul address the soldier's battle armor that keeps the believer both protected and prepared for battle.

**I (6:13)** There is the duty of the Christian soldier. His duty is to take the *whole armor* of God. It is an absolute necessity. Why? Because of the "evil day." What is the "evil day?"

⇒ It refers to *today*—to the onslaught of evil that is in the world today: "the days are evil" (Ephes. 5:16).

⇒ It refers to *any day*—to the onslaught of temptations and trials that confront us at any given moment during a day.

**"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armor of light" (Romans 13:12).**

**II. (6:14-17)** There is the armor of the Christian soldier.

1. *The belt of truth.* The sign of the Christian soldier is the belt of truth...

a. What specifically is the belt of truth? What is God's truth that the believer is to put on?

⇒ First, Christ is the truth. The believer is to put on Christ.

**"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).**

**"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).**

⇒ Second, the Word of God is truth. The believer is to put on the Word of God. He is sanctified by the Word of God. **"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17).**

⇒ Third, speaking and living a life of truthfulness is the truth.

**"Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another" (Ephes. 4:25).**

**"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently" (1 Peter 1:22).**

2. *The breastplate of righteousness.* The breastplate covered the body of the soldier from the neck to the thighs. It was used to protect the heart. The believer's heart is focused upon the Lord Jesus Christ and His righteousness, and that focus must be protected. The sign of the Christian soldier is righteousness. When a man is saved, God imputes the righteousness of Jesus Christ to him, or to say it another way, God counts him righteous. However, it is not enough to stand in the righteousness of Christ. The Christian soldier must protect his heart. This he does by living righteously. Righteousness keeps the heart from ever being wounded and losing its focus. The Christian soldier is...

- to strive after the very righteousness of Jesus Christ.
- to live righteously in this present world.

**"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Cor. 5:21).**

**"Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God" (Phil. 1:11).**

3. *The sandals of the gospel.* The sandals were a sign of readiness—readiness to march and to do battle. The Roman sandals were made with nails that gripped the ground firmly even when it was sloping or slippery. The sign of the Christian soldier is readiness—a readiness to march and to bear witness to the gospel.

ref. **Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8**

**"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16).**

4. *The shield of faith in God.* The word "shield" does not mean the small round shield which the soldier held in his hand to fight off the weapons of the enemy. It means the great oblong shield worn by the soldier to protect his body from the fiery darts thrown by the enemy. Such fiery darts often assault the mind—one doubting and evil thought after the other—fighting against the will—struggling to get hold of the mind and subject it to doubt or evil.

**"But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill" (Psalm 3:3-4).**

**"Our soul waits for the LORD: he is our help and our shield" (Psalm 33:20).**

**"For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11).**

5. *The helmet of salvation.* The helmet covered the head and the mind of the soldier. The head, of course, was the core of a soldier's power to wage war. His thinking ability was the most important factor in determining his victory or defeat. Therefore, the soldier needed a helmet to protect his head and mind.

The Christian soldier desperately needs the helmet of salvation. The *helmet of salvation* means the knowledge and hope of salvation. Knowing that we are saved and hoping for the glorious day of redemption...

- stirs us to keep our minds and thoughts upon Christ and off of sin and this world.
- arouses us to focus upon Christ and His mission to carry the gospel to a needy and dying world.

**"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (Romans 8:6).**

**"And be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).**

**"That you put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that you put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Ephes. 4:22-24).**

**"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusts in thee" (Is. 26:3).**

6. *The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God.* This refers to the short sword used in close combat and was a weapon used for both defense and offense. The sword was used both to protect and to fight off and slay the enemy. The sign of the Christian soldier is his use of the Word of God. The written Word is the one weapon that assures victory for the Christian soldier, for the "Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword.

**"For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).**

**III.** (6:18-20) There is the supernatural provision of the Christian soldier—prayer—a *constant spirit* of prayer. The soldier enters the conflict fully dressed and armed, but something else is essential: great confidence and assurance and courage. Such comes from a spirit of prayer.

The following things need to be noted about the soldier's prayer.

1. He must pray—always pray. The Christian soldier must pray all the time to maintain a constant unbroken consciousness of God's presence and care. This is the type of prayer that gives the needed assurance, confidence, and courage.

**"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matt. 7:7).**

**"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Phil. 4:6).**

**"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving" (Col. 4:2).**

2. He must pray "in the Spirit," that is, in the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the only living and true God. Prayer to any other god or to one's own thoughts or to some other man-made *god* is empty and useless.

**Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because he makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26-27).**

3. He must be *sleepless in prayer*. The Christian soldier must concentrate and persevere in prayer. He must go to the point of being *sleepless* in prayer, just like a soldier standing watch for the enemy's attack.

**"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41).**

**"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 22:26).**

**"Pray without ceasing" (1 Thes. 5:17).**

4. He must pray unselfishly. The soldier is not in battle alone; many are engaged in the same warfare. The outcome of the battle is determined by the welfare of all involved. The Christian soldier must pray for those who fight with him. The Christian soldier must pray as much and as intensely for his fellow soldiers as for himself.

**"Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers" (Ephes. 1:15-16).**

**"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Ephes. 6:18).**

5. He must pray for leaders in particular. Leaders, their decisions and example, often determine the outcome of the battle. The Christian soldier has leaders who teach and preach and administer throughout the church and around the world. Boldness and decisiveness and purity are needed to put the enemy to flight and to capture souls for the gospel.

**"Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in your prayers to God for me" (Romans 15:30).**

**"Brethren, pray for us" (1 Thes. 5:25).**

**"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you" (2 Thes. 3:1).**

(adapted from Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible – Commentary)