



EPHESIANS

GOD'S PLAN

Prepared for Spiritual Warfare

Eph. 6:10-18a



Ephesians 6:10-17

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 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. 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.

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Silent Killer or Roaring Lion?

- **Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed.... Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. (Acts 19:13, 18-19)**
- **As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. (Eph. 2:1-2)**

Schemes



The Devil's Schemes

- All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. (2:2-3)
- Target: desires and thoughts
- Ephesians church – silent drift, losing zeal and hope
 - In Doctrine: every wind of teaching (4:14)
 - In Church: ‘outsiders’, falsehood, anger, stealing (2:11; 4:25-28)
 - In Family: independence, selfishness (5:21)
 - In Private Life: impurity, greed (5:3)

Example of Jesus' Temptation

- Jesus confronted in physical weakness (Matt. 4)
- The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread...."
- "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down [from this temple]. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"
- "All [these kingdoms] I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."





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Isaiah's Picture of the Messiah

- **Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. (Isa. 11:5)**
- **He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head. (Isa. 59:17)**
- **How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace. (Isa. 52:7)**
- **And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. (1:13)**

“Put On” Christ for Growth and for Defense

- **Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.... Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (4:13, 22-24)**
- **Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. (6:10-11)**

The Armor of the Messiah

1. The Belt of truth
2. The Breastplate of Righteousness
3. The Gospel of Peace
4. The Shield of Faith
5. The Helmet of Salvation
6. The Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.
7. [Pray in the Spirit]

The Belt of Truth

- **The revelation of God's character, actions and plans, bearing the fruit of integrity & trustworthiness**
 - **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)**
 - **That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. (4:20-21)**
- **Helps resist which temptations?**

The Breastplate of Righteousness

- **God's gift of justification in Christ, bearing the fruit of moral servants**
 - **For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (2:8-10)**

- **Helps resist which temptations?**

The Gospel of Peace

- **God's gift of peace with Himself for all, bearing the fruit of reception and peace in the Church and evangelism in the world**
 - **His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross.... For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. (2:14-18)**
 - **Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (4:3)**

- **Helps resist which temptations?**

The Shield of Faith

- **God's promises of forgiveness, protection and power, bearing the fruit of belief and trust**
 - **If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ... Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. (Rom 8:31-34)**
 - **In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. (3:12-13)**
- **Helps resist which temptations?**

The Helmet of Salvation

- **God's gifts of rescue, blessing and inheritance through Jesus' death and resurrection, bearing the fruit of hope**
 - **For he chose us in him to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ.... In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.... When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession. (1:3-7, 13-14)**
- **Helps resist which temptations?**

The Word of God

- **God's gifts of communication, bearing the fruit of understanding, transformation and training**
 - **All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)**
 - **For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword ... it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Heb. 4:12)**
- **Helps resist which temptations?**

Armor of the Messiah

- Enables us to be strong and stand our ground, in heart & mind
- Truth: reality of God in the world → understanding, integrity
- Righteousness: God's character & mercy → moral servants
- Gospel of Peace: peace with God → Church at peace, accepting all believers, evangelizing the world
- Faith: God's promises → belief and trust
- Salvation: God's rescue & inheritance → hope
- Word of God: God has spoken → understanding & training

Jesus' Temptation – 1

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 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.’”

(Matt. 4:1)

What is the temptation? Which armor did Jesus use?

Jesus' Temptation – 2

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

**““He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”**

Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” (Matt. 4:5)

What is the temptation? Which armor did Jesus use?

Jesus' Temptation – 3

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’” (Matt. 4:8)

What is the temptation? Which armor did Jesus use?

Putting on the Armor

- We push back in specific situations with truth, righteousness, peace, and faith
- We build a foundation for battle from Scripture, the Gospel of salvation and obedience
- We draw strength from God through faith and prayer
- We learn in our failures where our head and heart are at.
“For it is God who works in you to WILL and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” (Phil. 2:13)

- **“A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it.” (G.K. Chesterton)**
- **“There are two ways of renouncing the devil,” said Father Brown; “and the difference is perhaps the deepest chasm in modern religion. One is to have a horror of him because he is so far off; and the other to have it because he is so near. And no virtue and vice are so much divided as those two virtues.” (G.K. Chesterton)**