

Made to win more

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1. RECAP

Ephesians 1:22-23 “... and God placed all things under his feet, and he appointed Jesus to be the head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.”

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”

- 1.1. BE** – Workmanship: Who am I created to be? A son of God and a disciple of Jesus.
- 1.2. DO** – Good works: What am I called to do? Core mission is to make disciples.
- 1.3. GO** – In advance: Where am I called to go? Core position is to GO to opportunities where we live, work and play.

2. WE WILL FACE OPPOSITION

- 2.1.** We need to wake up. Not only to our mission, but also to the call on us to be warriors.
- 2.2.** When you are mobilized you are a target. We have a very real enemy who wants to stop us.
- 2.3.** The enemy’s plan is both individual and corporate. Individually he will make us doubt our identity, ability and mobilisation so that corporately we won’t go out and mobilise others.

Ephesians 6:10-12 “A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 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.”

- 2.4.** The battle isn’t just out there in the world. It begins here, in our heads and in our minds.
- 2.5.** The battle is also not just out there, it is sometimes in the church.

3. THE ARMOUR OF GOD

Ephesians 6:13-18 “Because of this, you must wear all the armor that God provides so you’re protected as you confront the slanderer, for you are destined for all things and will rise victorious. Put on truth as a belt to strengthen you to stand in triumph. Put on holiness as the protective armor that covers your heart. Stand on your feet alert, then you’ll always be ready to share the blessings of peace. In every battle, take faith as your wrap-around shield, for it is able to extinguish the blazing arrows coming at you from the Evil One! Embrace the power of salvation’s full deliverance, like a

helmet to protect your thoughts from lies. And take the mighty razor-sharp Spirit-sword of the spoken Word of God. Pray passionately in the Spirit, as you constantly intercede with every form of prayer at all times. Pray the blessings of God upon all his believers."

- 3.1. Each part of the armour calls us to action! We are not meant to just have this armour, we are meant to use it!
- 3.2. Ephesians, like most of the bible, is not only written for individuals. It rather speaks to the community of believers, the body.
- 3.3. We are called as a body to be unified. The enemy wants to divide us in order to conquer us.

Luke 11:17 (NIV) "Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall."

- 3.4. The armour of God is us as a body standing arm in arm, united as one. It is that unity that keeps the enemy away from our community.
- 3.5. If we as a body united represent the armour of God and we are to take action, then what if the belt of truth is a collection of believers in community that speak the truth to each other in love? When we speak the truth in love the enemy can't infiltrate us and we are protected by the armour.
- 3.6. The breastplate of righteousness is the community of believers standing arm in arm and behaving right towards each other. When we do that we trust one another and that doesn't allow the enemy a gap to infiltrate us. Hence... the armour.
- 3.7. The feet fitted with the gospel of peace - As an action we should be pursuing peace. In the body as well as out there in the community. We should be at peace with one another.
- 3.8. What if the shield of faith is a collection of believers in a community being faithful to one another?
- 3.9. What if the helmet of salvation is a group of believer standing against the enemy's lies and trusting together for a world that has the mind of Christ. What if we stood together and away from presumption and negative thoughts towards each other.
- 3.10. The sword of the Spirit / The word of God - A sword enables the church to attack. Think of Jesus in the desert. He is being tempted just as the church gets tempted and he fights back with the word. The word is an action not just a noun. Not a book on your shelf, rather a force to be reckoned with.
- 3.11. Then Paul says we should pray in the Spirit. Prayer is an action and prayer in the spirit is a spiritual action. Not just for us individually but also for the body of believers and the community out there.
- 3.12. Our enemy is not against flesh and blood. When we think that way we destroy each other. When we realise who we are up against and we start to wear the armour as a community and rally together, we win!

4. SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Ephesians 6:10-18 (TPT) “Now my beloved ones, I have saved these most important truths for last: Be supernaturally infused with strength through your life-union with the Lord Jesus. Stand victorious with the force of his explosive power flowing in and through you. Put on God’s complete set of armor provided for us, so that you will be protected as you fight against the evil strategies of the accuser! Your hand-to-hand combat is not with human beings, but with the highest principalities and authorities operating in rebellion under the heavenly realms. For they are a powerful class of demon-gods and evil spirits that hold this dark world in bondage. Because of this, you must wear all the armor that God provides so you’re protected as you confront the slanderer, or you are destined for all things and will rise victorious. Put on truth as a belt to strengthen you to stand in triumph. Put on holiness as the protective armor that covers your heart. Stand on your feet alert, then you’ll always be ready to share the blessings of peace. In every battle, take faith as your wrap-around shield, for it is able to extinguish the blazing arrows coming at you from the Evil One! Embrace the power of salvation’s full deliverance, like a helmet *to protect your thoughts from lies*. And take the mighty razor-sharp Spirit-sword of the spoken Word of God. Pray passionately in the Spirit, as you constantly intercede with every form of prayer at all times. Pray the blessings of God upon all his believers.”

Sermon Discussion Guide

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OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

1. What oppositions are you facing in your life at the moment? Do you see it as an attack from the enemy or do you think that it is just bad luck or even an attack from other people?
2. Do you think that you are using the armour of God or are you just wearing it?
3. Do you tend to fight your battles alone? Can you see how it will be more beneficial to fight our battles corporately, as the body of Christ, rather than individually?