

I. Introduction

Ephesians 6:12-13 (NKJV) – ¹²*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

¹³*Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand*

A. Wrestle = a contest between to opponents in which each endeavor to throw the other.

B. There is an enemy!

C. We are not in a contest to win our salvation. Jesus FOUGHT and WON our victory. He bought and paid for our salvation. It is a FREE gift to us – simply by faith.

D. So what are we fighting for?

1. Our fight is against the enemy who attempts to withhold from us what Jesus paid for.
2. Our fight is to receive and appropriate to ourselves what Jesus made available to us, by standing against the enemy's opposition. Satan always opposes what God does in our lives.
3. Although Satan has been defeated and Salvation has been freely given to us, he will work to cause defeat and loss in various areas of our life.
 - a. He works against your peace of mind.
 - b. He works against your spiritual progress.
 - c. He works against your health.
 - d. He works against your relationships – marriage, family, etc.
 - e. He works to STEAL, KILL and DESTROY – **John 10:10**

4. Our warfare is to stay in faith and oppose him – refusing to allow him to work in our lives. This allows us to experience the VICTORIOUS LIFE!

II. The Armor of God

Paul instructs believers to put on the whole armor of God! This is essential to living in victory! Without the armor of God, Satan will continue to gain ground in the life of the believer, keeping us from living in victory as God intends.

Ephesians 6:11 – *Put on the WHOLE armor of God that you may be able to stand against the WILES (STRATEGIES) of the Devil*

Ephesians 6:14-17 (NKJV) – ¹⁴*Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;¹⁵ and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*

A. Truth

1. **John 8:32 (NKJV)** – *And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*
2. There were two major groups of people that Jesus encountered in his earthly ministry.
 - a. Those who would receive the TRUTH regarding who He is and what He was sent to do.
 - b. Those who refused the truth – they didn't receive Him for who he was – thus they couldn't receive what He was sent to do in their lives.
 - c. Jesus couldn't do anything for these people!
3. Truth in the armor of God is simply – TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD ACCURATELY.

4. One of the greatest tools of resistance against the enemy is TO KNOW/UNDERSTAND God's word accurately!
 - a. To know what the truth is about salvation.
 - b. Healing, deliverance, blessing, etc.
 - c. Hosea 4:6 – My people are destroyed for the lack of knowledge
– *truth*

B. Righteousness – *The breastplate of righteousness*

1. We are righteous.
2. Jesus is our righteousness.
3. **2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)** – *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him*
2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT) – *For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ*
4. **Romans 3:21-22 (NLT)** – ²¹*But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. ²²We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are*
5. Why is righteousness listed as part of the armor of God?
 - a. If you do not have confidence in your right standing with God, you will never have the confidence needed to stand up to the devil.
 - b. As part of your armor – you are to continually remind yourself of the righteous standing with God that you have been freely given by Jesus.

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- c. We are to be more *Righteous Minded* – THAN – *Sin/Failure Conscious*. IF WE ARE to overcome the enemy and live the victorious life.
- d. Although righteousness has already been applied to your heavenly position – PUT IT ONLY DAILY – in your mind – lest you lose sight of it.
- e. **Isaiah 54:17 (KJV)** – *No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.*

C. Having your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

- 1. Feet fitted with preparation – readiness
- 2. You put your shoes on for daily travel
- 3. We are to be prepared for *DAILY WALKING* in the light of the Word/Truth/Gospel
- 4. Every day, my feet are prepared for daily walking (Whatever I must walk through). Walking by the Word of God – Acting on the Word – being a DOER of the Word.

D. Shield of Faith

- 1. We QUENCH every fiery dart of the enemy with the shield of faith in God's word
- 2. Satan sends all kinds of darts.
- 3. We need to build/develop our shield.

4. Shields of faith
 - a. Healing when sickness comes
 - b. Strength when weakness comes
 - c. Overcoming power when temptation comes
 - d. Resistance when the enemy comes
 - e. Fully developed in all areas of faith.

E. Helmet of Salvation

1. Knowledge of our position in God because of redemption, which includes knowing who you are in Christ and your rights and privileges in Christ.
2. This “Knowing” who you are – protects your mind from wrong thinking, which is the enemy’s primary battleground.
3. I’m Saved – What does this mean to you?
4. Develop in thinking – “In Him” – I am.....
 - a. **Acts 17:28** – In him we move and have our being
 - b. **2 Corinthians 1:20** – In him the promises of God are yes and amen
 - c. **Colossians 2:10** – In him we are made full
 - d. **Ephesians 2:10** – We are created in Him for good works
 - e. In him we have been justified, redeemed, and sanctified.
 - f. In him, I am seated in heavenly places above all principalities and powers of the enemy – Ephesians

F. Sword of the Spirit – the Word of God

1. This is the using of the spoken Word against the enemy.
2. We are to answer his attacks by speaking the Word of God, just like Jesus did when facing temptation.

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3. All other pieces of the armor are defensive, but this our only offensive weapon.

4. Speak the Word of God boldly in the face of attack.

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

III. **CLOSING NOTE: When we are dressed in the armor of God, we are equipped to overcome any attack of the enemy. WE are ready for the victorious life!**