

## Battle Ready

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Dwight D. Eisenhower

34th President of the United States: 1953 - 1961

Instituted the Executive Order 10631—Code of Conduct for Members of the Armed Forces of the United States

August 17, 1955

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, and as Commander in Chief of the armed forces of the United States, I hereby prescribe the Code of Conduct for Members of the Armed Forces of the United States which is attached to this order and hereby made a part thereof.

Every member of the armed forces of the United States is expected to measure up to the standards embodied in this Code of Conduct while he is in combat or in captivity. To ensure achievement of these standards, each member of the armed forces liable to capture shall be provided with specific training and instruction designed to better equip him to counter and withstand all enemy efforts against him, and shall be fully instructed as to the behavior and obligations expected of him during combat or captivity.....

### **This is a portion of the Code of Conduct For The Members of The United States Armed Forces**

#### Article I

I am an American fighting man. I serve in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

#### Article 2

I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command I will never surrender my men while they still have the means to resist.

#### Article 5

.....I will never forget that I am an American fighting man, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.

The Code of Conduct for Members of the Armed Forces of the United States was created as a result of the number of Korean war prisoners who cooperated with the enemy.

In fact, one out of every three POWs collaborated with the enemy.

An unprepared, underequipped soldier will stand little chance against his waiting enemy.

**Our God has given us a Code Of Conduct in His Word The Bible. If we live by it, we will win this Spiritual War.**

“The nature of the enemy's warfare in your life is to cause you to become discouraged and to cast away your confidence. Not that you would necessarily discard your salvation, but you could give up your hope of God's deliverance. The enemy wants to numb you into a coping kind of Christianity that has given up hope of seeing God's resurrection power.”

— Bob Sorge, Glory: When Heaven Invades Earth

**Ephesians 6:10-17 (NKJV)** ~ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup> above all, taking the shield of faith with which, you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

**I. 1. Paul is telling the believers at Ephesus, LIFE IS A BATTLEFIELD, YOU ARE IN COMBAT; THE ENEMY IS REAL....**

2. Unless the believer applies the Code of wearing the **Battle Dress Uniform** he or she will cave in to temptation and sin and end up walking through life just as most men do:

- not experiencing the abundance and joy of life.
- not experiencing the power and deliverance, care and concern, love and fellowship of God's daily presence.
- being uncertain and unsure of the future.
- not having the confidence of being acceptable to God.
- not being sure of your salvation in Jesus Christ

2. But if you follow the CHRISTIAN CODE OF CONDUCT, YOU WILL BE VICTORIOUS.

The bible says, to Be *strong in the Lord, in the power of His might. Put on the whole* armor of **God**. The believer is to be strong in the unlimited power of the **Lord**—in the power of **His** might, in **His** ability to use **His** power exactly as it should be used.

*"That he would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man" (Ephesians 3:16).*

**II. The Devil has a strategy:**

1. *Ephesians 6:11 ~ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the<sup>1</sup> wiles of the devil.*
2. The word "wiles" means the deceit, craftiness, trickery, methods, and strategies which the devil uses to wage war against the believer. (The devil has a playbook)
3. During the Korean war, the prisoners were subjected to intense Brain washing. Many did whatever their captors told them to do because their minds had been altered.
4. If Satan can convince humanity that our redeemer has forgotten us, we would lose hope.
5. Satan's strategy is to cause the believer to forget where his help comes from.

*Psalm 121:2 ~ My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.*

6. The point is this: one of the biggest strategies of the devil is to deceive man with doubt and a false message.
7. Genesis 3:1..... "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" V4 .... "You will not surely die.
8. The believer is doomed unless he is clothed in the *full armor* of God.
9. **2 Corinthians 2:11 (NKJV) ~ lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.**

"take advantage" and "ignorant," strongly implies that Satan targets the believer's mind, but God has provided protection by exposing Satan's schemes, and He-God gives us the truth.

### III. **OUR WARFARE IS NOT HUMAN, BUT SPIRITUAL (v. 12).**

1. **Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV) ~ For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**
2. Kenneth Wuest has a descriptive picture of the believer's spiritual struggle:

*"In the word 'wrestle,' Paul uses a Greek athletic term....When we consider that the loser in a Greek wrestling contest had his eyes gouged out with resulting blindness for the rest of his days, we can form some conception of the Ephesian Greek's reaction to Paul's illustration. The Christian's wrestling against the powers of darkness is no less desperate and fateful."*

3. Paul is saying, if we lose this war, we will lose sight of God.
4. We must be fully dressed for Battle.
5. The point to see is that the believer's struggle is not against flesh and blood.
6. His enemies are not human or physical; they are spiritual—
7. Note exactly what is said: the believer fights...

- against principalities.
- against power.
- against the rulers of darkness.
- against spiritual wickedness.

8. **Darkness in the Bible means the ignorance of truth.**
9. **John 8:32** ~ *And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*
10. **If** we think we're fighting human elements, our focus will be on the seen and not the unseen world.
11. Some people laugh at the idea of a real devil or demons who actually exist in a so-called spiritual world.

Think of all the wickedness and evil in the world.

- division     · arguing
- prejudice   · selfishness
- favoritism   · immorality
- anger        · arrogance
- hate         · stealing

HAVE YOU EVER FOUND YOURSELF FIGHTING THESE LIES WITH YOUR OWN PHYSICAL ABILITIES?

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" (Ephesians 6:12).*

*"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds" (2 Corinthians 10:4).*

**Only the truth of God's Word can defeat satanic Lies.**

#### IV. **The Battle Ready Dress Uniform**

**Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV)** ~ *Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,<sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;<sup>16</sup> above all, taking the shield of faith with which, you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.<sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

- A. The armor of God represents the defense we must take in our spiritual lives.
- B. The Bible tells us that we are fighting a war against Satan, who seeks to destroy us. Therefore, we must take action and put on God's armor.

#### 1. **First.....<sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth,...**

- A. This belt represents the truth of God as revealed in the gospel.
- B. This Truth is foundational to all the other parts of the believer's armor.
- C. Without Salvation everything else falls apart.
- D. It is impossible for a spiritually dead person to have a relationship God.

- 2. Second,.....<sup>14</sup> *having put on the breastplate of righteousness,***
- the breastplate, which covered the chest from blows and arrows.
  - It represents a holy character and moral conduct. Obedience to the “truth”.
  - The breastplate was used to protect the heart.
  - The believer's heart is focused on the Lord Jesus Christ and His righteousness, and that focus must be protected.
  - Proverbs. 4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.*
  - Heart** could often be translated “mind”. Since the Hebrews had no separate word for “mind,” the word “heart” often served to represent the seat of the intellect.
  - The key to the whole man is his mind. Whatever captures the mind captures the man. (King James Study Bible Commentary)*

**3. Third, <sup>15</sup> *and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;***

- The sandals of the gospel.* The sandals were a sign of readiness—readiness to march and to do battle.
- The gospel gives peace to the believer, freeing him from anxiety though he comes against such a powerful opponent.
- 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.

**4. Forth, <sup>16</sup> *above all, taking the shield of faith with which, you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.***

- The shield of faith in God.*
- The shield of faith** means taking God at His word by believing His promises.
- This kind of trust will protect us from doubts induced by Satan.

Satan has his fiery darts—those things that cause the believer...

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| · to question his salvation.          |   |
| · to question his call.               | · to become discouraged, depressed, and defeated. |
| · to question if he is worthy.        |   |
| · to question if he can really serve. |   |
| ·You're worthless.                    | You're all alone.                                 |
| ·You're not important.                | ·You are ugly.                                    |
| ·You're just a victim.                | ·You are a failure.                               |
| ·Nobody likes you.                    | ·You are rejected.                                |

**5. Fifth, <sup>17</sup> *And take the helmet of salvation,***

- The helmet covered the head and the mind of the soldier.
- His thinking ability was the most important factor in determining his victory or defeat.

- C. God knew that the battle for the mind would be ferocious at times.
- D. Church Guard Your Mind.
- E. If your mind is on sin, you will surely sin.
- F. Whatever your mind dwells on you will find it.

**6. Sixth .....<sup>17</sup> the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;**

- A. By living in the Scriptures, we protect ourselves from the fiery darts of the enemy.
- B. Jesus Christ Himself overcame the attack of the devil by using Scripture (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10).
- C. IT IS WRITTEN
- D. *Psalm 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way?  
By taking heed according to Your word.*
- E. <sup>11</sup>Your word I have hidden in my heart,  
That I might not sin against You.

Conclusion:

After Paul Dresses us with God's Armor he gives us this view at how the battle is really won.

**Ephesians 6:18 – 20 (NKJV)** ~ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—<sup>19</sup>and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

**Prayer is not mentioned as part of the armor; but I believe it's the dressing room where the armor is applied.**

**Prayer is the key to being BATTLE READY**

Our relationship with our Heavenly Father that is developed through prayer; tailor makes our Battle Dress Uniform fit perfectly and makes us:

**BATTLE READY**