

**Eph 6:10–13 (ESV)** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>(11)</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>(12)</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil 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 firm.

## 1. Having dealt with the issues of being strong in the Lord

A. Now we start to turn to Paul's second exhortation – Put on the whole armor of God

**Transition:** I want to look at a few foundational thoughts before we dig into the specifics of the Armor

# I. THE PROPER ORDER IF WE ARE GOING TO FIGHT WELL

## 1. The Holy Spirit is accurate in the way he lays out the order of scripture

A. It's no accident we are exhorted to be strong in the Lord and in the Power of His might

Before we are told to put on the whole armor of God so we can stand

B. Why? Because it does no good to hand a sword to those who are too weak to swing it

1). So Paul starts with strength – be strong in the Lord -then you'll be able to use the armor

**Paul speaking about his life – see this balance: 2 Cor 6:7 (NIV)** (Lived) in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;

a). He lived out his Christian life in the power of God

b). That power enabled him to use the weapons of righteousness

**Transition:** So we must do what is necessary to be strong in the Lord

Depending upon him to supply all the power we need

And disciplining ourselves in the things that strength comes into our life through

## 2. We must also put on the armor of God

**Eph 6:11 (ESV)** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

A. Must be careful to read this correctly – fully – understand and apply all that it is saying

1). It is common to speak about being strong in the Lord's power

2). But rarely hear about the necessity of putting on the armor?

a). Not good because Paul says both must be done if we are to be victorious in this fight

B. Biblical example of being strong but still being vulnerable

**1 Co 10:12 (ESV)** Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

1). Picture of a strong man who feels filled with power – believes he's able to stand – invincible

a). But notice the danger – let him take heed lest he fall

**Question:** We all know what Paul is saying because of our experience

1). Truth is – we can be the most vulnerable when we feel the strongest

a). Maybe just been used by God – feel strong – powerful – God is using ME!

1a). We start acting like Thor! I am mighty!

2a). We let our guard down – lower our shield and stop depending upon God

And wham! We're down - defeated

b). One of most vulnerable times for a Pastor is Sunday afternoon

1a). Especially if the sermon went well – he feels victorious - relaxes

2). I've discovered how careful I have to be after victory over a stubborn sin

a). You wrestle in an area – through God's power you finally have victory

1a). Doesn't it seem – as soon as we think that sin is dead – we've won

Next thing you know – here comes a strong temptation and we fall again

b). I have learned I must remain vigilant when I think the victory is won

1a). I must not let my guard down – thinking the battle is over in that area

**Thought:** Do you see why we need to do all this in the Lord's strength?

- A. We are not strong enough to use the shield – swing the sword... consistently like I must
  - 1). But when God is strengthening us – we have all the power necessary

**Transition:** So we see we need the power of God to use the armor

- A. In my own strength I will get tired and lay that armor down – I will be defeated
- B. But we've been seeing how to stand strong in the Lord and the power of his might
  - 1). By faith we depend upon him to provide the strength for everything we do
  - 2). AND we take advantage of those means that bring his strength into our life
    - a). The word. Prayer. Fellowship. Obedience
- C. Now let's see how to put on the armor – some foundational thoughts

## II. PUTTING ON THE ARMOR

### 1. Why we need to take our time in this section

- A. We live in a society that is addicted to quick and easy – instant gratification
  - 1). We don't want to dig in and learn – we want an app that does it for us
    - a). That's fine with a lot of things – but here it hurts us
- B. We don't take time to learn the important details about the armor
  - 1). What attacks each piece protects us from
  - 2). We don't take time to learn how to use it
    - a). It would be like stepping onto the battlefield in Iraq or Afghanistan  
You have amazing weaponry with you – the best the USA has to offer
      - 1a). But you just never took the time to learn about it
      - 2a). You don't know how to fire it – how to reload it – how to aim it
    - b). So you've been given fantastic weaponry but it remains ineffective
      - 1a). You'll still be defeated
  - 2). When I was working as an artist at Hughes Aircraft early 80's
    - a). Apple set a computer on my desk and said "Just play with it"
    - b). I did and thought it was useless piece – this thing can't do anything
    - c). One day decided to read the manual – Oh! – all of a sudden it became indispensable

**Point:** Details – instructions are important

- A. We have been given armor forged in heaven – able to withstand the fiercest blows of the enemy
  - 1). This is armor we can have complete confidence in
- B. But if we don't know how to use it – when to use it – what it protects us against
  - 1). We can still be defeated – all that potential can be wasted
    - a). This is why the devil doesn't want us to dig in – just skim the surface

**Transition:** This would be a good time to talk about what the armor is and isn't

- A. As I've said we need details about the armor – but they must be the right details
  - 1). This armor is able to withstand anything life or the devil throws at us  
But it is possible to be standing with armor that is not forged by Scripture
    - a). Armor that is not God's armor given to us will never win this fight

## III. WHAT THE ARMOR IS AND ISN'T

## What the Armor Isn't

If I can just get this across this morning I'll be happy

### 1. It isn't mystical and magical

- A. I've heard "I wake up in the morning and imagine myself putting on the belt, then I picture myself putting on a helmet and grabbing a sword..."
- 1). Ask that person – But what is that armor made of? How do you use it?  
How does it stop the attacks the devil is bringing into your life?
    - a). Do you understand the armor at all?
  - 2). Do you really think that imagining yourself putting on some helmet will stop the devil
- B. I did a search on Amazon for books on the Spiritual Armor and I was shocked
- 1). Book after book on specific prayers that beat the devil – certain words strung together
    - a). Memorize this prayer – say it in just the right order – it will bind him and defeat him
    - b). That is more like an incantation than prayer  
A string of words rattled off that magically does something

**Question:** Where do you find anything like that in the Scriptures? Just say this correctly

- A. Closest thing we have is the Lord's prayer
- 1). But that isn't to be used in a ritualistic way – say it just like this  
That was just headings – an outline - showing us what to pray for
    - a). You don't ever see Jesus, Peter, Paul reciting that prayer
  - 2). We have to be really careful about all these little techniques that regularly arise in the church
    - a). Easy ways that keep us from doing the hard work to understand what the Bible says
- B. Found a website – all about a deliverer extraordinaire – Brother Carlos
- 1). The ad I clicked on said  
"Get set free from demons, curses and witchcraft. *Free spiritual warfare prayers.* Multiple payment options."
    - a). Again – the incantations you recite word for word and you're good to go
  - 2). Those spiritual warfare prayers were for such things as
    - a). Breaking strongholds – self-deliverance – curse breaking – financial curse breaking
  - 3). For \$25.95 you can purchase anointing oils that brother Carlos has prayed over.
    - a). Evil-eye breaker. The millionaire anointing oil. Exorcist anointing oil.
    - b). Exorcist anointing oil for pets (Might explain some cats I know)
- C. Brothers and sisters be careful – there is so much nonsense out there
- 1). Read of a group learning about spiritual warfare – these demons are everywhere folk
  - 2). Things weren't going so well so of course they had to do spiritual warfare with the demons
    - a). Eventually they discerned the demons were in the chandelier  
So they took the chandelier down – tore it apart and cast them out

**Thought:** To see that kind of foolishness must give the demons great joy

"Can you believe I convinced them the Chandelier was possessed. Do you now how much time they wasted on that!"

**Question:** Want to know where much of these modern warfare techniques come from? Demons!

- A. As they were being cast out – they were commanded to tell the exorcist how they could be defeated
- 1). The demons told them – Great! Now we've got them
- B. Do you see any problem with that?
- 1). Aren't demons known for lying? They follow the one who is the father of lies

**1 Ti 4:1 (ESV)** Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to *deceitful spirits and teachings of demons*,

- 2). And do you think they would really tell you the truth if they were speaking “Sure I’ll tell you how to defeat me!”
  - a). Wouldn’t you tell them something foolish – do this!  
Then laugh as they do that! They thought that would work!
- C. There are many in the church that fight this war using strange – unscriptural tactics
  - 1). They also get strength to fight in strange ways – the NAR churches – *Grave sucking*
    - a). They go to the grave of a great saint and lie on it face down – sucking in the anointing
    - b). Don’t need to go to a dead saint we go to a living God and receive all the power we need

**Transition:** I just wanted to show – warn you – of just a bit of the nonsense that is out there

- A. But there is one other way we shun the armor that seems much more reasonable

## 2. The armor isn’t based on man’s wisdom or common sense

- A. Lloyd-Jones used the example of worrying
  - 1). The enemy uses this tactic a lot – overwhelming us with the problems of life
    - a). He wants us to feel defeated – have no joy – to steal our effectiveness
  - 2). So many times believers do nothing more than the world would do  
We approach the problem with mere human common sense – a pep talk  
“Why are you thinking like that? What is the use of worrying about something that hasn’t even happened yet?”  
Or if it has happened: Why worry about something that has happened but you can’t change? Why cry over spilt milk!”
    - a). Of course all that makes sense. But does it deal with the problem?
  - 3). Here is the problem. If a person is being attacked by the devil like this  
Stopping worry is the very thing they cannot do. They would if they could
    - a). One caught up in worry will admit – I know this is stupid but I can’t get over it  
It is gnawing at me – keeping me up at night
    - b). Why? The enemy won’t leave them alone! He wears them down  
He gets them so focused on circumstances they can’t think of anything else

**Point:** The answer isn’t using mere human wisdom or giving yourself a pep talk

- A. You need to understand the Armor of God – what piece to use and how to use it

**Transition:** Let’s see what the armor is – please lock on now – it may be different than what you think

## What the Armor is

### 1. The armor is based on Scripture

- A. Not on our imaginations – not on man’s common sense – not on something we heard from a demon
- B. Each piece of the armor is a different doctrinal truth that protects us from specific attacks
  - 1). This truth is sufficient to beat the devil at every point
  - 2). What did Jesus do when he was tempted in the wilderness by the devil? Matthew 4
    - a). Did he start reciting some new prayer somebody came up with  
Use some new fangled technique – something a demon told him – No!
    - b). He quoted scripture – 3 specific attacks met by 3 specific scriptures
      - 1a). And the devil couldn’t defeat truth – understood and applied

**Point:** That is how you are clothed in the armor

- A. Why did the Bible record that event of Jesus being tempted?

- 1). It wasn't just because it was interested – really add some drama to the story
  - 2). It was our example showing us how spiritual warfare is waged – how to put on the armor
  - B. I'll use this for the third time in this series – but I need you to see this
    - 1 **Jn 2:14 (ESV)** I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and *the word of God abides in you*, and you have overcome the evil one.
      - 1). The word of God lives in you – dwells in you – is permanent in you
        - a). Because of that you are clothed – you can withstand the devil's attacks
- Transition:** Let's finish by looking at the extent of the armor we must put on

## IV. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

**Eph 6:11 (ESV)** Put on the *whole armor* of God...

**Repeats it: Eph 6:13 (ESV)** Therefore take up the *whole armor* of God...

### 1. To be victorious we must be wearing the whole armor of God – Why?

- A. Because of who we are contending with
 

**Eph 6:12–13 (ESV)** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>(13)</sup> **Therefore (because that is who we are contending with)** take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

  - 1). In this war it's going to take having the whole armor of God on

**Point:** We cannot pick and choose pieces we want to understand and apply
- A. We cannot put on the helmet of salvation but not the shoes of the gospel of peace
- B. What would happen if a soldier chose to wear only part of the protection he is supplied
  - 1). He would be vulnerable in a fight – that exposed area could destroy him
  - 2). If you're going to be victorious you need all the armor – a complete defense
    - a). In this fight our enemy is watching – he sees when you're missing a piece  
He is going to focus his attack to that area
      - 1a). He is going to try to steal your zeal – your passion  
Leaving you in an indifferent state – ineffective – defeated and devoured
- C. But God who understands all we go through has provided armor that is comprehensive  
Armor that leaves no opening for him to attack us in
  - 1). Armor that is able to defeat every scheme
    - a). When he tries to overwhelm us with problems  
When he tempts us to doubt God's love and ability
    - b). When he tells us we don't belong to God and we are going to end up in hell
    - c). When he attempts to drive a wedge in-between spouses and family members  
Or shoots in those fiery arrows of lies
    - d). When he lures our flesh with the temptations of the world
    - e). It may be Christians fighting with other Christians – tempting to gossip etc.
  - 2). Hudson Taylor wrote about spiritual warfare amongst the missionaries
 

**J. Hudson Taylor:** ... the feeling among us appears to have been worse than I could have formed any conception of. One was jealous because another had too many new dresses, another because someone else had more attention. Some were wounded because of unkind controversial discussions, and so on. Thank God for bringing it out and removing it.

    - a). Jealousy, gossip, infighting, worldliness, indifference, apathy = all part of the struggle
- D. The truth is that the armor will protect us fully against every attack

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- 1). But we must put it all on – to the extent we don't we will be vulnerable
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## CONCLUSION: WHAT HAVE WE SEEN?

### 1. The order of these verses are important

A. To use the armor you must be strong enough to use it – that takes God's strength

- 1). Make sure you're doing what you need to do to be strong in Him

### 2. The necessity of the armor

A. Some think being strong in the Lord is all that it takes – Paul says it takes both strength and armor

### 3. What the Armor isn't?

A. Mystical, magical or just human common sense

### 4. What the armor is

A. It is comprised of truth – each piece a different doctrinal truth that will enable us to stand against specific attacks

### 5. We must put on the whole armor of God

A. We can't pick and choose – really like that piece – that one not so much

B. But when we put it on we will be safe – protected from all attacks

- 1). Our example is Jesus standing in the wilderness

**Next week: Start digging in – see what each piece is and how it protects us**

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## COMMUNION

### 1. Today I want to remember why Jesus came to earth

A. He came to live the life we were required to get into heaven

- 1). He obeyed the law perfectly so that in him God sees us as obeying the law perfectly

**Rom 5:19 (NIV)** For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

- a). The moment I trusted in Christ an incredible transaction took place

- 1a). God took his righteousness – earned through a perfect compliance to the law  
And gave it to me as a free gift

B. He also died the death we should have died because we couldn't live that life

- 1). I wasn't a law keeper I was a law breaker

- a). I hadn't earned God's favor – the only thing I earned was hell

- b). And each day I was alive outside of Christ the wrath I earned was increasing

**Ro 2:5 (ESV)** But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are *storing up wrath* for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

- 2). But Christ shed his blood for you and me

- a). Paul calls him the "Passover lamb"

**1 Co 5:7 (ESV)** ... Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

- 1a). Why? On the last night before the Children of Israel left Egypt

- 2a). God instructed the Jews to sacrifice a lamb and paint the doorposts with its blood

- 3a). When God went through the land pouring out his wrath

When he saw that blood he would "Passover" that home

- b). That is what happens now isn't it?

- 1a). God sees the blood of Christ shed for us and his wrath passes over us

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**Eph 1:7 (NIV)** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace