



## Week 6: Sunday, July 12, 2020

The enemy's tactics are to deceive, discourage, divide, and ultimately destroy God's people. However, we are equipped through the power of the Holy Spirit to stand firm and to engage.

*The demons say one thing to get us into sin, and another to overwhelm us in despair. – John Climacus*

### Setting the Scene:

- To be strong for the Lord, one must put on spiritual armor daily. It must be a deliberate choice each day.
- Notice the pronoun, we in verse 12. This battle is done shoulder to shoulder with other believers.
- Application Spiritual armor is to be used for protection and engagement, not for show.
- Think of Spiritual armor as a checklist each day as you wake up. Do not go about your day unprotected. "The Belt of Truth" (God is the truth), "Body Armor of Righteousness," the application of living our truth, Shoes of peace that comes from the Gospel, We are called to be agents of peace. Man can be reconciled with God through Jesus Christ.

### We will engage the enemy when...

1. We take significant steps of faith for spiritual growth.
2. We are invading enemy territory (Through Evangelism)
3. We repent and make a clean break with the world, a long-held sin pattern, or an unholy relationship
4. God is preparing us, individually or corporately, for great work.<sup>1</sup>

### Hold up the Shield of Faith (Ephesians 6:16)

The Roman shield, a large oblong or oval piece, approximately four feet high by two feet wide, made of wood and leather, often with an iron frame. Sometimes the leather would be soaked in water to help extinguish flaming arrows. The ancient "flaming arrow" or "fire dart" was made of cane with a flammable head that was lighted and then shot to set fire to wooden shields, cloth tents, etc. For Christians, this shield is faith—complete reliance on God.

The LORD is my strength and **shield**. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving. Psalm 28:7

<sup>10</sup>Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, "It has come at last—salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ.<sup>10</sup> For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth—the **one who accuses them before our God day and night**. Revelation 12:10

Faith shows **the reality** of what we hope for; it is the **evidence** of things we cannot see.<sup>2</sup> Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation.<sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that **the entire universe was formed at God's command**, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen. Hebrews 11:1-3

plerophoria (πληροφορία, 4136), "a fullness, abundance," also means "full assurance, entire confidence"; lit., a "full-carrying" (pleros, "full," phero, "to carry"). Some explain it as full fruitfulness (cf. RV, "fullness" in Heb. 6:11).<sup>2</sup>

- **Faith Stops the Fiery Arrows of the Devil.**

Temptation – Focus on the Source of your strength

Doubt – Focus on Scripture

Despair & Persecution- Fortify your faith

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us **strip off** every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And **let us run with endurance** the race God has set before us. <sup>2</sup> We do this by **keeping our eyes on Jesus**, the champion who initiates and perfects our

<sup>1</sup> "The Invincible War, by Chip Ingram, pg.122

<sup>2</sup> Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). [Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words](#) (Vol. 2, p. 43). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.

faith.<sup>[a]</sup> Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Hebrews 12:1-2

### **Put on the Helmet of Salvation (Ephesians 6:17)**

The helmet protected the soldier's head. Helmets were made of leather and brass, or sometimes bronze and iron—no sword could pierce a good helmet. Isaiah 59:17 describes God wearing a helmet of salvation. The dressed soldier would take his helmet and sword from an armor bearer. In the same way, believers are to take this helmet of salvation, for it is handed to them by God himself. First Thessalonians 5:8 calls believers to put on "the hope of salvation as a helmet."

- Before heading out into battle, you would be handed your helmet. We all need to protect our minds, or we will not survive.
- Satan wants to make us doubt God, Jesus, and our salvation. The helmet protects our minds from doubting God's saving work for us.

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. <sup>2</sup>Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, **but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.** Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Romans 12:1-2

- How do we do it? Scripture memory, worship, music, teaching others, Spending time with other believers.
- Christ-followers who do not fill their minds with scripture go out into battle without a helmet.

### **Take up the Sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17)**

This refers to the short sword used in close combat. The sharp, short sword was one of Rome's great military innovations. The Roman army was called the "short swords" because of its use of the short swords in winning battles. The sword's double edges made it ideal for "cut and thrust" strategy. <sup>3</sup>

- Jesus engaged the enemy by using scripture. (Matthew 4)
- The Holy Spirit helps us to remember God's Word. Use God's word when temptation is high.

<sup>12</sup>For the word of God is **alive** and **powerful**. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and Spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Hebrews 4:12

<sup>105</sup>Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

<sup>9</sup>How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word. Psalm 119:9

<sup>11</sup>I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11

### **Final Thoughts**

- Maintain Strong Spiritual Disciplines
- Remind yourself who you are in Christ. Look at the, "I am" Statements
- Ask God to reveal to you evil things. (Schemes, stories, situations)
- Speak God's Promises Outloud

<sup>4</sup>But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. 1 John 4:4

<sup>4</sup>For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. <sup>5</sup>And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God. 1 John 5:4-5

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<sup>3</sup> Barton, B. B., & Comfort, P. W. (1996). [Ephesians](#) (p. 134). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.