

The Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-18

Part 2

INTRODUCTION

Picking up where we left off last Sunday we must begin by remembering...

The Christian life is not a playground; it is a battlefield.

Barna Research Group in 2001

According to pollster George Barna, “the notion that Satan, or the Devil, is a real being who can influence people’s lives is regarded as hogwash by most Americans. Only one quarter (27%) strongly believe that Satan is real, while the majority argues that he is merely a symbol of evil.”¹

N.T. Wright

Paul clearly supposes that the forces of evil that put Jesus on the cross have been seriously upset by the victory of the **resurrection**. They are now positively panic-stricken at the thought that the message of this Jesus is everywhere challenging their power and authority, and that communities loyal to Jesus as Lord and king are springing up, bringing together peoples and communities in a new unity, a new humanity, that shows evidence of the creator’s sovereign power and hence of their own imminent destruction. They are therefore doing their best to oppose this gospel, to distract or depress the young Christians, to blow them off course by false teaching or temptations to anger or immorality (see *4:17–5:20*, where these are the main themes).

Sometimes this attack will take the frontal form of actual authorities in towns and cities who try to prevent Christians from spreading the message. Sometimes it will take the more oblique form of persuading Christians to invest time and energy in irrelevant side-issues, or to become fascinated by distorted teaching. Sometimes it will be simply the age-old temptations of money, sex and power. But in each case what individuals and the whole church must do is, first, to recognize that attacks are coming; second, to learn how to put on the complete armor which God offers; and, third, to stand firm and undismayed.²

Tim Keller

Believers are in a spiritual war against the devils who uses temptations and accusations to get believers to destroy themselves by their own power! The details of temptations and accusations are covered in depth. The solutions is to put on the full armor of God by knowing the truth, our righteousness of Christ (not ours), assured salvation, faith in the truth, using the Word of God as weapon for deliverance, going forth to preach the Gospel of Peace, communication with God and supplication for others. Essentially, to preach to ourselves and others the Gospels of Grace so that we can stand and overcome the devils devices.

¹Barna Research Group, Ltd., *Religious Beliefs Vary Widely By Denomination*, June 25, 2001; Barna Research Online, www.barna.org.

²Wright, T. (2004). *Paul for Everyone: The Prison Letters: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon* (pp. 75–76). London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

Ephesians 6:10-18

Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics of the Devil. For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens. This is why you must take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand. Stand, therefore,

with truth like a belt around your waist,
righteousness like armor on your chest,
and your feet sandaled with readiness
for the gospel of peace.

In every situation take the shield of faith,
and with it you will be able to extinguish
all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Take the helmet of salvation,
and the sword of the Spirit,
which is God's word.

Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert in this with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.³

I. Shield of Faith

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen.

II. Helmet of Salvation

David Seamands

“Many Christians... find themselves defeated by the most psychological weapon that Satan uses against them. This weapon has the effectiveness of a deadly missile. Its name? Low self-esteem. Satan's greatest psychological weapon is a gut level feeling of inferiority, inadequacy, and low self-worth. This feeling shackles many Christians, in spite of wonderful spiritual experiences and knowledge of God's Word. Although they understand their position as sons and daughters of God, they are tied up in knots, bound by a terrible feeling inferiority, and chained to a deep sense of worthlessness.”

What do we need to clothe our minds with?

1. Grace
2. Mercy
3. Wonder
4. Faith
5. Assurance
6. The Love of God
7. Truth
8. Protection
9. Humility
10. Glory

³[*The Holy Bible: Holman Christian standard version*](#). (2009). (Eph 6:10–18). Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.

II Corinthians 10:3-6

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.⁴

III. Sword of the Spirit

II Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.⁵

Ellen G. White, Great Controversy: Between Christ and Satan

“It is Satan's constant effort to misrepresent the character of God, the nature of sin, and the real issues at stake in the great controversy. His sophistry lessens the obligation of the divine law and gives men license to sin. At the same time he causes them to cherish false conceptions of God so that they regard Him with fear and hate rather than with love. The cruelty inherent in his own character is attributed to the Creator; it is embodied in systems of religion and expressed in modes of worship.”

IV. Prayer

Edwin Keith

Prayer is exhaling the spirit of man and inhaling the Spirit of God.

The Story of the Soldier & His Mother's prayer

I once heard the story of a two soldiers in a foxhole in the middle of a warzone and a wounded comrade on the battlefield in the middle of battle. One soldier in the foxhole kept looking at his watch and waited for the time to say 9 o'clock, and as soon as it did he grabbed his fellow soldier and they both ran to their wounded comrade on the battlefield and pulled him back to safety. When back in the foxhole mending the wounds of the wounded comrade, the one soldier asked the other soldier why did we have to wait till 9 o'clock? He replied, “Because my mother told me before I left home for this war that every time the clock said 9 o'clock she would be praying for me, and I knew we would be alright.”

CONCLUSION

Bob Sorge, Glory: When Heaven Invades Earth

“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.”

Therefore, we must stand firm in preparation by putting on the **Full Armor of God!!**

⁴[*The Holy Bible: New International Version*](#). (1984). (2 Co 10:3–6). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

⁵[*The Holy Bible: New International Version*](#). (1984). (2 Ti 3:16–2 Ti 4). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.