

The Whole Armor of God; Ephesians 6:10-13

- I. The Battle
 - A. We often get confused in the midst of the battle
 - B. We rail against people (Trump, Clinton, Pelosi, McCain, etc.)
 - C. We get angry with our friends and then we “unfriend” them
 - D. We forget that the true enemy is not flesh and blood, but spiritual
 - E. The true enemy is Satan
 - F. I am convinced we forget the real battle because we haven’t put on the whole armor of God
- II. Principalities and Powers
 - A. Ephesians 6:12 (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.
 - B. Every single person on this planet — all 7.4 billion (2016) — are made in God’s image
 1. “Let us make man in our image” Genesis 1:26
 2. Genesis 1:31 (ESV); And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.
 3. His love for each and every one of us is the driving force behind the Messiah and His sacrifice for us
 4. We are so busy fighting against the people who are exhibiting behaviors contrary to God’s will that we forget who is tempting them to behave that way
 5. We forget that God wants all people to be saved
 6. 1 Timothy 2:3–4 (ESV); ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
 7. We need to stop fighting one another and focus on the real battle — the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places
- III. The Whole Armor
 - A. No one goes into battle without all their armor
 1. Clint Eastwood in Heartbreak Ridge
 2. “You have your boots and your weapon, you can walk into war.”
 - B. Ephesians 6:13 (ESV); 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.
 - C. Every piece plays a part in keeping us safe — we cannot forget one part
- IV. Belt of Truth
 - A. “Stand therefore, having fasted on the belt of truth
 - B. For a soldier, the belt held on the breastplate and was an attachment point for a sword
 - C. What else can this be but the Word of God
 - D. “Your word is truth” John 17:17
 - E. “The word of truth, the gospel of your salvation” Ephesians 1:13
 - F. “The word of truth, the gospel” Colossians 1:5
 - G. 2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV); Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.
- V. Breastplate of Righteousness
 - A. Righteousness — the quality or characteristic of upright behavior — being right with God ¹
 - B. How do we remain right with God?
 1. The psalmist defines righteousness

¹ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 248.

2. Psalm 119:172 (NASB95); Let my tongue sing of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness.
 3. Singing — shouting God's word from the rooftops
 - C. The word of God — the truth and His righteousness
- VI. Gospel of Peace
- A. Ephesians 6:15 (ESV); and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.
 - B. Readiness — preparation
 - C. Romans 10:15 (ESV); And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"
 - D. The word of God — Truth, righteousness, and peace
- VII. Shield of Faith
- A. Ephesians 6:16 (ESV); In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;
 - B. Our faith is in the Father through the Son
 - C. We have faith that God keeps his promises — and those of us who have put our faith in him will be rewarded at the coming of His son
 - D. But, how do we get faith?
 - E. Romans 10:17 (ESV); So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
- VIII. Helmet of Salvation
- A. Ephesians 6:17a (ESV); and take the helmet of salvation,
 - B. We find salvation only in the blood of Jesus
 - C. But the only way we know about this salvation is from the word of God
 - D. 2 Timothy 3:15 (ESV); and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
 - E. Are we noticing a theme here?
- IX. The Sword of the Spirit
- A. Ephesians 6:17b (ESV); and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,
 - B. Paul tells us that our armor is the word of God
 1. It is our belt
 2. It is our breastplate
 3. It is our shoes
 4. It is our shield
 5. It is our helmet
 6. It is our sword
 - C. "No passage in all the Bible any more dramatically teaches the absolute necessity of the Christian's thorough knowledge of the word of God. Not having it, he is naked, barefooted, bare-headed and helpless before the enemy."²
- X. Learning
- A. Learning takes time
 1. We spend 2 years in head start and kindergarten
 2. We spend 12 years in grade and high school
 3. We spend 4 (or more) years in college
 4. That is 14 years minimum (18 for a lot of people) buried in academics — please don't mistake me, academics are important and play a pivotal role in our lives
 5. How much time do we spend learning, understanding, and putting into practice the word of God?

² Coffman, James Burton. "Commentary on Ephesians 6:14". "Coffman Commentaries on the Old and New Testament". <https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/bcc/ephesians-6.html>. Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA. 1983-1999.

6. This is where we find salvation — this is where we learn to battle the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places!
- B. What is more important — Academic knowledge or the knowledge of God?
1. Academics will provide a solid footing for a good job and a comfortable living
 2. Academics will not show us nor provide salvation
 3. Academics will not teach us what God' will is for our lives
 4. Saul of Tarsus was a scholar (Acts 22:3)
 5. Philippians 3:8 (ESV); Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ
 6. Moses was a scholar (Acts 7:22)
 7. Hebrews 11:24–26 (ESV); ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.
- XI. The Whole Armor
- A. Are you wearing the whole armor of God?
 - B. Do you only have on one or two pieces?
 - C. Where does God's word fit in your priorities?