



PUT ON THE
WHOLE ARMOUR
OF GOD

Ephesians 6:10-17 (KJV)

PUTTING ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

EPHESIANS 6:10-17

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Lesson One - A Soldier in God's Army

How can I be a soldier for Christ?

Am I a soldier in God's army?

What type of soldier am I?

How can I be a better soldier for Christ?

A. Entering the Service of the Lord (verse 10) - Many people limit Christianity to church membership, baptism, and attendance of religious services. - Although these things will characterize the Christian life, in reality Christianity is much more than this. Christianity is a personal relationship with Christ, which we enter into through an act of our own will. This relationship has been made possible through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. By an act of my will, I place my faith in Christ alone for salvation. I willingly repent of my sins and turn from them to Christ as my only hope. - As a result of being born again, I am in the family of God. He is my Father. I am His child. I am now in a spiritual family where other Christians are my brothers and sisters in Christ. I belong to a new family, the family of God! The body of Christ! - I am no longer bound and blinded by Satan. I have been set free to serve Christ. I am no

longer an enemy of God, but a child of the King and a soldier in His army. - Yes, Christianity is a life of service, as a Christian soldier in God's army.

How does a soldier get in the physical army? Draft/Enlist

What kind of soldier am I? - Not all soldiers are the same. - In the military, regular exams, physicals and evaluation reports are used to track the progress of each soldier.

In which of the following four categories am I?

1. **SPIES** - they have the uniform of Christ, and they talk a good talk.

They are really still enemies of God.

2. **AWOL** - absent without leave! They joined but deserted.

3. **WOUNDED** - they have been hurt by others or themselves and are not able to fight, need healing.

4. **TRAINED/READY** - they are spiritually fit. They are willing and able to do any job which will benefit the cause of Christ.

Steps to Being a Better Soldier

1. "Be strong in the Lord, and the power of His might." - This is not a physical battle and will not be won with physical strength. -We need to be on a spiritual exercise program. -We need to be active members of a local body of Christ.

2. "Put on the whole armor of God." - When you join the military, you do not look, dress, or act like a civilian. - When you join, you do not have to supply the equipment you need. - We serve in the Lord's army, and He will supply all we need for victory.

3. "Stand firm" - We need to have the highest level of commitment. - Nothing in our lives should take priority over our spiritual service. - Emotions or circumstances should have no effect on the completion of our mission. -We are ready to follow the "King of kings" and our "Lord of lords" into any battle and fight to the death giving our very lives, if need be, for the One who gave His life for us.

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Lesson Two

Understanding our Enemy

A. Satan's Past - Satan was not always like he is today. - Satan was once an anointed cherub or angel. - Satan's original home was in heaven serving and worshipping Almighty God. - Ezekiel 28:14 teaches that as an angel Satan was an "anointed cherub," "perfect in beauty," "full of wisdom," "upon the holy mountain of God," "was perfect in thy ways." - His angelic name was Lucifer meaning "the son of the morning," "the shining one," or "the day star." - Ezekiel 28 also reveals that Lucifer lifted up his heart with pride which led to self-exaltation and rebellion against God. - Isaiah 14:12-15 gives a detailed description of Lucifer's sin which led to his expulsion from heaven. - This great fallen angel (Lucifer) is the one we know as Satan. - Since this early time in eternity past, Satan has been the enemy of God. His entire being and purpose is to wage spiritual war against God and His most cherished creation, mankind.

B. Satan's Personality - Satan is the most bitter enemy of God and His people. - Scripture reveals Satan's personality through the names which identify him. 1. "tempter" – Matthew 4:3 2. "murderer" – John 8:44 3. "liar" – John 8:44 4. "evil one" – I John 5:19 5. "deceiver" – Revelation 12:9 6. "accuser of the brethren" – Revelation 12:10 - Seeking to hide his true personality, Satan portrays himself as an angel of light. 2 Corinthians 11:14.

C. Satan's Position – Ephesians 6:12 - Scripture gives three titles for Satan which reveal his position 1. Prince "the prince of this world" John 12:31 "the prince of the power of the air" Ephesians 2:2 - Scripture is clear that Satan is the head of evil men and evil spirits. 2. Ruler "rulers of the darkness of this world" Ephesians 6:12 - Satan is ruler or leader of evil men and evil spirits. 3. god "god of this age" 2 Corinthians 4:4 - Satan's original desire was to set himself up above God and be like God. - As an imposter, he has set himself up as the god of this world. - New Testament scripture reveals this in several ways. a. Reference to synagogue of Satan – Revelation 2:9 b. Ministers of Satan – 2 Corinthians 11 c. Gospel of Satan – Galatians 1 d. Satan has his own communion table and cup - 1 Corinthians 10:20-21

D. Satan's Power Ephesians 6:12 - According to scripture, Satan is the second most powerful person in the universe. - The power of God Himself is the only power which can conquer and destroy Satan. - Scripture reveals Satan has real power. 1. Power to destroy 2. Power to bind and bound 3. Power of darkness 4. Power of the air 5. Power of death - Satan is described as both a roaring lion and a great dragon. - Satan has his own armor, spiritual army, strongholds, weapons and is a very powerful enemy. - Every person who has ignored or underestimated this enemy has paid with their lives and eternal souls.

E. Satan's Purpose Ephesians 6:11-12 - John 10:10 is a vivid statement revealing the heart of Satan's purpose. - "The thief cometh not, but for to kill, and to steal and to destroy:" John 10:10a - Three major purpose are revealed:

1. **Steal** – Satan wants to steal the very throne of God. He wants to steal the hearts of God's creation. Our enemy wants to steal the joy of our salvation.

2. **Kill** – Satan who did not hesitate to seek to murder Christ, has every intention of killing every human he can. He wants us to die physically and he wants us to spend eternity in spiritual death.

3. **Destroy** – Satan wants to destroy God and God’s children. Satan wants to destroy marriage and the family which God instituted. Satan wants to destroy the church of Jesus Christ. - The word “wiles” in verse 11 means strategy or plans. (war plans) - Satan has a detailed plan to accomplish his purpose. - We are told five times in Ephesians 6:11-12 to “stand against” Satan and the fulfillment of his purpose.

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SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Lesson Three Our Armor of Defense (Part 1)

Twice in Ephesians 6:10-17, we are told to “put on the whole armor of God.”

1. In verse 11 we are told to put it on so we might “stand against the wiles of the devil.”

2. In verse 13 we are urged to put on the armor so “that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” In verses 14-17, we find five pieces of armor that are given for our defense. 1. Belt of truth (v. 14) 2. Breastplate of righteous (v. 14)

3. Shoes of the gospel of peace (v. 15)

4. Shield of faith (v. 16)

5. Helmet of salvation (v. 17) For study purposes, we will look at these pieces of armor individually. However, this is a single suit of armor and should be put on in its entirety. Christ has supplied all we need to be victorious in spiritual battle, but it is each believer’s responsibility to use what the Lord has provided.

Our Armor of Defense I. Girdle (belt) of truth (v. 14)

A. Physical applications of the belt - This belt was commonly worn by Romans and was always worn by soldiers. - The belt was usually 4 to 6 inches wide and fastened around the middle. The belt was made of leather or linen. - Many times, the belt would support an apron that hung down, covering the soldier's groin. - The belt was worn outside the flowing robe that was commonly worn in Paul's day. - We have all read the statement in scripture to "gird up your loins." This is getting in the position for battle. - In preparation for battle the soldiers would pull up the robe and tuck it under the belt.

B. Spiritual applications of the belt - This is the belt of "TRUTH" - What is truth? - John 17:17 says "thy word is truth." - In John 14:16 Jesus said, "I am the way, the TRUTH, and the life." - To put on the TRUTH is literally to put on the word of God and Christ. - Steps to putting on the belt of TRUTH. 1. We need to KNOW the truth (2 Timothy 2:15) 2. We need to BELIEVE the truth (1 Thessalonians 2:13) 3. We need to ACT on the truth (James 1:22-25) - Satan is the father of lies, but he can never stand against the truth. II. Breastplate of Righteousness - Two types of breastplates were worn by Roman soldiers.

1. One was made by joining several broad, curved metal bands together using leather laces.
2. The second was a type of chain mail, constructed by joining many small metal rings together to form a vest. (Source: The Armor of God, Rose Publishing, Inc. 2005) - The purpose of the breastplate was to form a barrier of defense for the soldier's vital organs.

A. The Position of Righteousness - When we receive Christ as our Savior by faith, we enter into a position of righteousness before God. - Philippians 3:9 says, "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith." - II Corinthians 5:21 says, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." - This is a symbol that Christ himself is protecting us in this spiritual battle.

B. The Practice of Righteousness - Most Christians accept their position of righteousness but do little to practice righteousness. - We need to become in practice, what we have been made in position. - Our positional righteousness will win the war, but our practical righteousness will cause us to win or lose daily spiritual battles. - Ephesians 4:24 says

“that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.” - If we fail to live out our righteousness, we become easy targets for our enemy.

C. The Protection of Righteousness - The main purpose of the breastplate was to protect the heart. The heart is the most vital organ. - In the spiritual battle the heart is also very important, because it is the seat of our emotions. - Whoever wins the battle for the heart, will win the spiritual battle. - As we live out our position of righteousness in Christ, through living righteously, our hearts fall more and more in love with Christ. - If Christ rules our hearts, then he rules our emotions, and we will prove strong warriors in the spiritual battle.