



## “The Full Armor of God” Part 2 (Ephesians 6:10-18)(7.16.23)

Ephesians 6:10-18 Amplified Bible

**10** In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [draw your strength from Him and be empowered through your union with Him] and in the power of His [boundless] might. **11** Put on the full armor of God [for His precepts are like the splendid armor of a heavily-armed soldier], so that you may be able to [successfully] stand up against all the schemes *and* the strategies *and* the deceits of the devil. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this [present] darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) *places*. **13** Therefore, put on the complete armor of God, so that you will be able to [successfully] resist *and* stand your ground in the evil day [of danger], and having done everything [that the crisis demands], to stand firm [in your place, fully prepared, immovablwe, victorious]. **14** So stand firm *and* hold your ground, having [a]tightened the wide band of truth (personal integrity, moral courage) around your waist and having put on the breastplate of righteousness (an upright heart), **15** and having [b]strapped on your feet the gospel of peace in preparation [to face the enemy with firm-footed stability and the readiness produced by the good news]. **16** Above all, lift up the [protective] [c]shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the

evil *one*. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

<sup>18</sup> With all prayer and petition pray [with specific requests] at all times [on every occasion and in every season] in the Spirit, and with this in view, stay alert with all perseverance and petition [interceding in prayer] for all [d]God's people.

## **The word of God for the people of God.**

LET US PRAY.

Title: **"The Full Armor of God"**

INTRODUCTION:

There are several problems with the way the Christian faith has been characterized or even defined in the American culture. One problem is the way we have made it very individualized and focused on personal salvation. Our mindset has been, once we get that ticket to heaven, it is clear sailing all the way. Nothing could be further from the truth.

It is a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ. Disciples make disciples. This includes teaching and mentoring them. Remember, that is the way Jesus defined evangelism – **"teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."** To teach, first you must learn. Then you must communicate, with love and power.

"War Room:" Discipleship



Here is a clip from the movie War Room that exemplifies this point. Miss Clara is a mature Christian and a Prayer Warrior. Elizabeth is a Christian who probably is at the stage that a majority of Christians are at in their faith journey. She is struggling in life and in her faith.

BODY:



Elizabeth needed a fuller understanding of her salvation. She needed to know that her circumstances were not the enemy. Her husband was not her enemy. Satan the Adversary was her Enemy – the one in the Lord's prayer. When Jesus taught His disciples to pray in the Gospel accounts, many manuscripts say, "and deliver us from the Evil One."

Of course, Jesus knew about the Devil, which means accuser, from His divine knowledge. But also, Jesus knew Satan from a human perspective. He had a firsthand confrontation with him. After Jesus' baptism, He was led into the desert for 40 days of fasting. When he was physically weak, the Enemy shows up.

Matthew 4:8–11 (NIV84)

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

This was the third test by the Devil. On each occasion, Jesus defeated Satan with the word of God – "it is written." This is another instance of Jesus setting a practical and crucial example for us. We must sharpen our swords. This is the "sword of the Spirit." It is an offensive weapon. The devil and his demons know scripture too. But, they abuse it by misquoting, adding to or deleting from God's word.

Jesus did not use His divine power. He used the same weapon available to us. The Bible. The Holy Scriptures. When you enter the battle, there are no time-outs. Wait a week Satan, I need to study my Bible. You must sharpen your sword NOW and you keep it sharpened.

There is another lesson from this account of Jesus' temptation. The Devil was in position to give all the kingdoms of the world and all their splendor. Three times in the Gospel of John, Jesus refers to the devil as the ruler or prince of this world. In Ephesians 2:2, Paul refers to him as the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. In 2 Corinthians 2:4 Paul says the "g"od of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Yes, the Devil is a formidable foe. How many times have you heard people say something like? "I'm not religious. I'm spiritual." Let me tell you something. The Devil is spiritual too. His demons are spiritual too. When we battle this formidable foe, we do not want to do it on the Enemy's terms. He holds all the cards in this world.

We want to take the battle to Satan on our knees, in our prayer closets. James 4:7 (NIV84) Yes, <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Just like Jesus taught us.

"War Room:"  
Casting out the Enemy



Let us get back to Elizabeth. It seems that the Devil has doubled down on his attacks. Sometimes we have to be brought to a place of desperation before we understand that we must have God fighting our

battles. Warren Wiersbe says that the Christian Life is not a playground but a battleground. And what does the Apostle Paul teach us? We fight that battle on our knees, in prayer.



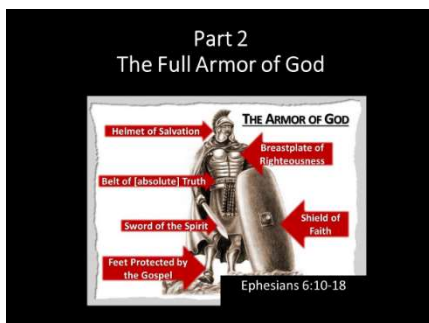
The Devil's demons are always probing and prodding. They are looking for vulnerabilities that they can penetrate. They want to plant seeds of doubt; seeds of bitterness; seeds of discontent; seeds of sin. This is why we

must have sincere hearts, pure hearts. This is why we cannot be double-minded. Examine your life and see where Satan's sentinels might be trying to set up shop.

Alexander Maclaren preached, "If our lives are inwardly and secretly honeycombed with evil, only a breath will be needed to throw down the structure. It is possible to become so accustomed to the calm delights of goodness, that it would need a moral miracle to make a man fall into sin.

Communion with Christ, and only communion with Christ, receives from Him the life which enables us to repel the diseases of our spirits. What He imparts to those who thus wait upon Him, and to them only, is the Spirit which helps their infirmities and clothes their undefended nakedness with a coat of mail."

If you are using a smartphone or the Internet, you know that Siri and Alexa are listening. Your technologies are monitoring your actions and targeting you with respective content. You talk to your wife about tires for your car and the next thing you know, you see ads for tires when you are surfing the Internet. I tell you that it is much the same with the Prince of Darkness and his minions. You must put on the full armor of God to protect the whole perimeter of your life.



Paul told his protégé, Timothy, in 1 Timothy 6:12 (NIV84) Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

I have a collection called The World's Great Sermons. One of these sermons is titled "Christian Victory," by C. Newman Hall. Here are a few excerpts:

"These are our enemies! And if we would possess the promise we must "overcome." A mere profession of religion is of no avail. It is not enough for our name to appear on the muster-roll of the camp. Many wear the soldier's dress who know nothing of the soldier's heart. Many are glad to glitter on the grand parade who fall off from the hard-fought, blood-stained battle-field. It is not enough to buckle on our armor; many do this, and lay it aside again. We must devote ourselves to this great daily battle of life.

There is no exemption of persons. Women must fight, as well as men; the tender and timid must be as Amazons in the conflict. Children must carry the shield, and wield the sword. **The aged and infirm must keep the ranks.** The sick and wounded must not be carried to the rear. No substitute can be provided, and there is no discharge in this war.

There is no exemption on account of circumstances. The rich and poor, the learned and the unlearned, the cheerful and the sad, all must fight. No accumulation of trouble, no unexpected death of friends, can be an excuse for laying down our arms. We must go to the marriage feast, and we must attend the funeral procession, as warriors, wearing our armor and grasping our weapons. We must be like those spoken of by

Nehemiah, “every man with one hand wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.”<sup>1</sup>

“It is not so easy to fight this fight as some suppose. It is not a true faith **merely**, an evangelical creed, a scriptural church, a comfortable sermon once or twice a week, a little Sabbath-keeping, an agreeable pause in your pleasures, giving to them a new relish—it is not this which constitutes Christianity. You that think religion so very easy a thing, have a care at least, lest when too late, you find that you know not what true religion meant.”

It is hard for us to believe that our struggle is not against flesh and blood. When we are in conflict with another person, it seems obvious that they are flesh and blood. So, how do we make sense of Paul’s statement. The Enemy is using this person. Of course, they will be held accountable for their actions; but, they have allowed themselves to be overcome by the wily, scheming deceiver. Or, they are unwittingly doing the Devil’s work.

There is a good example of this in scripture. Matthew 16:21–23 (NIV84) *Jesus Predicts His Death*

<sup>21</sup> From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

---

<sup>1</sup> Hall, C. N. (1908). [Christian Victory](#). In Grenville Kleiser (Ed.), *The World’s Great Sermons: H. W. Beecher to Punshon* (Vol. 6, pp. 101–102). Funk & Wagnalls.



<sup>22</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

<sup>23</sup> Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

Jesus was not calling Peter Satan. Jesus knew that Peter's intentions were good, but Peter was being used by Satan to try to dissuade Jesus from the work that God the Father had sent Jesus to complete.

This is one of the reasons that Jesus commanded us to pray for our enemies. They need our prayers. Additionally, when we pray for them, we are not only being obedient to Jesus, we are changing our own hearts.

Over this past week, I continued to see that we must understand the issues of Spiritual Warfare.

There is a pickleball player that I will call Mary. I had not her seen since she went to a tournament. We greeted each other and I asked about the tournament. She told me about their performance, but also how it had been much harder than anticipated because of some terrible news she had received. A very close friend had committed suicide. It turns out that Mary has had six different friends commit suicide. I told her that she has been on my heart. My hope is that this will develop into an opportunity to share the gospel with her.

That reminds me. Apparently, there was a rumor that started circulating in our church this week. No, neither one of my sons has committed suicide. They are both

alive and doing well. How someone jumped to this conclusion from last week's message is incomprehensible to me. Friends, this is called gossip. The persons involved could have fact checked by watching last week's sermon or coming to me directly. I don't know the names, but the gossipers know who they are and hopefully have learned a valuable lesson.

In separate incidents, there were arguments between some members of our congregation. These actions must make the devil's minions giggle with glee. Ephesians 4:32 (NIV84) Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. I commend the church member who lived out this scripture with tears and in prayer.

These things happen in churches all the time. They happen because of human weakness and our continued battle with the old self within us. They happen because we are not intentionally living out the truths of scripture we have been taught; or for others, their ignorance of the truth. They happen because if Satan can undermine a Body of Christ, the mission of the Church is greatly hindered. That is why our mission statement includes, "Model a Life-Giving Gospel."

We must put on the wide band of truth, the belt of truth, the girdle of truth. It protects us. It holds the Full Armor of God together. We attach our sword of the Spirit, the Word of God to this belt of truth. Again, Alexander Maclaren:

"Our truthfulness is the work of God's truth.

There are many of us who, in a real though terribly imperfect sense, hold the truth, but who know nothing, or next to nothing, of its power to make us truthful. If it is to be of any use to us, we must make it ours in a far deeper sense than it is ours now; for many of us the girdle has been but carelessly fastened and has worked loose, and because, by our own faults, we have not 'abided in the truth,' it has come to pass that there is 'no [effective] truth in us.'"

#### CONCLUSION:

Earlier, I sang for you Warren Barfield's "The Time is Now." We can longer be quiet about the Devil and his satanic powers and principalities. Many believe that we are nearing end times. We must not be afraid. We must stand firm and hold our ground against the Enemy. Be strong, drawing on the strength of the Lord in the power of His boundless might.

This song was prominently featured in Kirk Cameron's 2013 documentary, "Unstoppable." This is from the movie's Facebook page: "Kirk takes you on a personal and inspiring journey to better understand the biggest doubt-raiser in faith: Why?"

Kirk goes back to the beginning—literally—as **he investigates the origins of good and evil and how they impact our lives ... and our eternities.**

Reminding us that there is great hope.

Unstoppable creatively asks—and answers—the age-old question: Where is God in the midst of tragedy and suffering?

The bulletin insert is the Believer's Warfare Prayer. To sharpen your sword of the Spirit, the word of God, you have a homework assignment. Find as many Bible references as you can in this prayer. Write down the chapter and verse either on the insert or on a separate piece of paper. The Time is Now!

Amen and amen. Let us pray.