

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 6



THE UNIFORM

Scripture Text: Ephesians 6:10-18

The Christian is in a real war against Satan. Our enemies are spiritual. Our weapons must be spiritual. We must have the power of God, not our own. Faith and power are necessary to the working of each of our pieces of armor.

As each member of the Church of God seriously considers the issues of this life in Christ, he must realize that the purest strength and fortitude are necessary to worthily and successfully fight the battle that faces us. In the Book of **Ephesians** God caused Paul to prepare an excellent outline of that strength and the secrets of finding it.

MEMORY VERSE: Put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
– *Ephesians 6:11*

The Whole Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-13 The most essential secret of receiving strength is to know that it **MUST** come from the Lord. Why do we need fighting strength? Because we have enemies, chief over them is **the devil**. Under him are **principalities** and **powers** influencing government, society, and trends of thought; **rulers of the darkness of this world**—the devil controlling the agencies of sin and evil; **spiritual wickedness in high places**—leaders who have no respect for God and His Word, who corrupt the Gospel. Men and women are the tools but Satan is behind it all. Our soul's enemies are not **flesh and blood**—not physical to be fought with literal weapons—but spiritual. We must have spiritual weapons, **the whole armour of God**. These equip us to **withstand** Satan's agents in the evil day—time of severe attack. **And having done all** that is possible for us to do, or having overcome all, **to stand**—to hold firm, to keep our faith in God. Sometimes we must stand still that we may see the power of God and hold our spiritual position.

We are in enemy country. Satan is the god of this world and the whole world is in wickedness. Paul exhorted us to fight the good fight of faith. Faith is a spiritual weapon which the enemy cannot handle.

Where does the strength of a Christian lie? If it is not a borrowed strength, it is no strength at all. Only as we yield up our own little power and look to God to supply us, can we have any effect against the enemy. Trying in our own strength only hinders God. His **strength is made perfect in our weakness** as we give up our strength to take His (**2 Corinthians 12:9**). Can we in any other way come through temptation, tribulation, persecution, and death victoriously?

The Armor of Defense

The five defensive pieces of armor are named first. A soldier is identified by the uniform he wears and the weapons he uses. This is so with the Christian. The Christian's equipment is the best and the most up to date.

Paul looked at the armor worn by the soldier guarding him and was reminded of the Christian soldier's armor, which he outlined in our lesson today.

Ephesians 6:14 To stand we must be **girt about with truth**, encircled with it holding the rest of the armor in place. God is true, His Word is truth, His truth sets free, and truth is strong and eternal. The **breastplate** is **righteousness**—the quality of being right, without sin. **Righteousness**, not one's own but the holiness imparted by God, protects the spiritual heart from death through sin.

Ephesians 6:15 Feet are for going. Soldiers wore brazen boots to protect the feet and legs and enable to travel hard places. The spiritual feet of a saint are his going forth with the **gospel of peace** to give it to others at home and afar (**Isaiah 52:7**). The **peace** is inner peace, the peace of God in the heart which God gives even in the midst of outer turmoil. The Gospel is both the saint's protection and his message. It is not just the bare facts

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of Christ's death and resurrection to save us. It is the **preparation** of this, the Gospel accepted into one's heart, lived, grown, beautified, made visible, and living. Doctrine alone is not nearly so powerful in winning souls as doctrine demonstrated and adorned by the beauty of a holy life (**Titus 2:10**).

Ephesians 5:16 Above all—most important—**taking the shield of faith**. The shield was held in front of one, protecting the whole body. Faith is spiritual protection against Satan. Why is faith **above all**? Because it is the belief that grasps the supply of the grace of God. By it all other pieces are made effective. Without faith no grace can be active in our lives. With it we turn aside **all the fiery darts of the wicked** one.

Ephesians 5:17a The **helmet** protects the head. The head is the director of the body, the seat of understanding. **Salvation**, the spiritual helmet, gives purpose and worth and a goal to the direction of the life. It opens the understanding to truth. It protects from wandering in error.

The Weapons of Offense

Ephesians 5:17b One offensive weapon named is **the sword of the Spirit**. A sword is to kill and destroy the enemy. The sword referred to here is the spiritual sword, **the Word of God**, the Bible. It is most dangerous, spiritually, for one to attempt to use the Spirit's sword without proper supervision by the Spirit. The Holy Spirit inspired it (**2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21**). The Holy Spirit enables one to teach it (**1 Peter 4:10-11**). The Holy Spirit brings the hearer to understand and obey it (**1 Corinthians 2:10-11**). The Bible is a weapon to kill sin and destroy the work of Satan (**Hebrews 4:12**).

Ephesians 5:18 Praying always. Another offensive weapon is continual communion with God. Prayer is the motivating power that keeps all the defensive armor active and effective. It is the means by which faith reaches to God to bring His help. Faith prompts prayer and prayer increases faith, producing constant nourishment, life and growth. Prayer **MUST** be **in the Spirit**. We should pray for saints to hold true and sinners to be saved.

Can we use the Bible if we do not know the Bible? How can we and our children come to know it? Can we leave them to face greater blasphemies and fiercer persecutions than we ever faced without knowledge of how to withstand them? The little teaching of Sunday school is not enough. Where does God lay the burden of learning and of teaching His Word? (**Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:6-7**).

Satan is waging savage, world-wide war against God and His church. When his evil artillery is suddenly turned on us, will we meet him in God's armor and wielding God's sword? Will our faith and prayers make our fight effective?

JUST A THOUGHT

The average man can do more harm with his mouth than with a gun.

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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