

## Week 11, Ephesians: Chapter 6 Pt 2 (Vs 10-24)

We must realize that Satan is \_\_\_\_\_ on how to \_\_\_\_\_ each & every one of us.

He is \_\_\_\_\_ and trying to discover where you are the weakest & most vulnerable and he is planning to \_\_\_\_\_ you.

However, many of us are too busy worrying about **life-luxury-comfort-entertainment** to take it seriously.

There is an incredible, eternal, spiritual battle going on all around us each and every day. And our battle face is incredibly lax.

In fact, many Christians are so sucked into this world that they don't even realize there is a battle going on... or that the things they are running around chasing, living for & worrying about are the very things Satan is using to defeat them.

Many Christians seem to be more concerned about squabbling with each other over personal \_\_\_\_\_ and theological \_\_\_\_\_ than they are of defeating the devil and rallying together against him.

Likewise, many Christians don't have the spiritual understanding to know that Satan is using their little 'preferences' and 'offenses' as tools to help \_\_\_\_\_ another Christian!

**In the final half of Ephesians 6, Paul gives clear instruction on how we should go about \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves in the midst of this war.**

**(v10-11)** The first thing that Paul says is that believers should rely on God's \_\_\_\_\_ in this spiritual war against these unseen \_\_\_\_\_.

**(v12-13)** The second thing Paul says is that God has \_\_\_\_\_ certain armor to help \_\_\_\_\_ the believer from the attacks of Satan.

**Paul begins by laying out 6 pieces of Defense Armor available to the believer.**

### **(v14) The Belt of Truth**

In modern military uniforms the **belt** is used to (1) hold up the soldier's pants and (2) carry most of the soldier's weapons. In ancient times the **belt** was just as important. The **belt** would hold up the lower half of the soldier's tunic so that he could run/move freely. The **belt** also served as the lower strap of the breastplate, which held it in place against the soldier's body. And like modern **belts**, the ancient **belt** was used to hold a sword or dagger.

Essentially Paul is saying that the **truth** is what \_\_\_\_\_ everything together. Every other weapon \_\_\_\_\_ upon the **truth**. That is; how much **truth** you are getting into your life, what you believe the **truth** to be, and how you live according to the **truth**.

### **(v14) The Body Armor of God's Righteousness**

The **breast plate**, or **body armor**, protects the most \_\_\_\_\_ parts of the body (non head). It protects the heart and vital organs. A soldier taking a direct hit with an arrow or bullet to that area would be devastating if not fatal.

**What protects this highly sensitive spiritual area in the life of the believer?**

God's own **righteousness** and knowledge and \_\_\_\_\_ in God's own **righteousness**.

**This shows that Satan's strategies will be to cause us to;**

1. Doubt our \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Doubt our eternal \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ to be right on our own

### (v15-16) The Shoes of Peace

In any era the solid **shoes** are very important. But especially in ancient Israel's day. Soldiers were not marching over the hills of Tennessee or the plains of Texas. They were marching over hard, sharp, rocky mountains tops and burning hot dessert spaces. If you don't know the gospel, & correct doctrine about your salvation and the **peace** you have with God... you are going to be scrambling around worried, distressed and trying to earn **peace** with God. Satan wants you doubting your **peace** with God and beating yourself up and working hard to gain **peace** with God (which you already have). You can only win the war against Satan when you have firm footing on your own **peace** with God.

### (v15-16) The Shield of Faith

Every part of the soldier's armor is important, but the **shield** may be the most important. No matter how thick your helmet is, or how strong your breast plate is... no one ever wants to take an arrow or bullet to the head or chest... And the **shield** is a **"force field"** of protection from all those hits.

Simply defined, **faith** is belief and trust. It is believing that what God says is true and it is trusting in the truthfulness and goodness of what God says. It is taking God at His Word. And have confidence in him and his WORD. Therefore the shield that we are to hold out in front of us to stop Satan's assault is **faith**. **Faith** in the Word of God, **faith** in the things that God has said and promises to do.

### (v15-16) The Helmet of Salvation

You can't last long with a blow to the head. If you are a soldier, no matter that era you are fighting in: a direct blow to the head with a bullet-sword-arrow-spear is fatal. The battle is over. Your head is the most important part of your body. In order to obtain the **helmet** of salvation you must be saved. That is; that you have come to a full confidence in the finished work of Christ through his death & resurrection.

However, the helmet will grow in its \_\_\_\_\_, thickness and ability to take a direct hit when your understanding of and confidence in the truths of your \_\_\_\_\_ grow. Satan wants to destroy your confidence in your salvation. He wants to destroy your confidence in your holy standing before God. Therefore he will lob all kinds of doubts towards you.

### (v17) The Sword of the Spirit (Word of God)

The **sword** can defend and it can attack. The **sword** is primarily an offensive weapon but it can also defend close range blows from other sharp objects.

The **sword** is the **word of God**. It shines a bright light into darkness. It \_\_\_\_\_ through lies and false arguments. It \_\_\_\_\_ people of sin, it teaches us what is right and it introduces strangers to God. It is the element through which the Spirit of God travels.

### **It is interesting to note that every piece of armor is related in some great way to the Word of God**

It appears that there is an \_\_\_\_\_ of and \_\_\_\_\_ in the truths in the Bible which can protect us from Satan. It appears that this understanding of the Bible, is not a simple, basic, "Sunday only" knowledge of the Bible. It is a well-educated, personal, thorough & confident knowledge of the Bible. With a confident understanding of why these things are true.

### **Strategies that Satan will use to attack us:**

**Doubt:** Doubt in God, doubt in God's word & doubt in the truth through a host of lies.

**Accusation:** Accusations of guilt, failure, & shortcomings. Accusations against God & self.

**Temptation:** Temptation for something sinful, something worldly, something destructive.

### **Paul closes with 3 pieces of Defensive Actions available to the believer:**

**Prayer:** The believer should constantly be praying in the Spirit to God the Father for wisdom, strength, self-control.

**Alertness:** The believer should ever be alert to anything & everything that could hinder them at best & destroy them at worst.

**Persistence:** The believer must understand that this battle will go on every minute of every day until Christ returns or calls us home. The believer is unrelentingly persistent in fighting against the enemy.