

## **Sermon: The Christian & His Warfare**

### **Scripture Re: Ephesians 6:10-24**

#### ***Introduction***

How can we deal with the wiles of the devil? The solution is found in Paul's letter to the Ephesian Church which can be divided into three parts:

1. The Christian & His Wealth (1-3)
2. The Christian & His Walk (4:1-6:9)
3. The Christian & His Warfare (6:10-20)

#### **I. The Exhortation**

##### ***A. Be strong in the Lord (6:10)***

Not in own your strength, intelligence or resources.

##### ***B. Put on the full armor of God (6:11)***

If we go to battle with the forces of evil without this armor, we will be crushed & defeated.

##### ***C. Stand firm (6:13)***

We stand firm, holding our ground, by resisting the evil one and not yielding to his lies and schemes. See James 4:7

#### **II. The Enemy**

##### ***A. His Craftiness(6:11b)***

Note that we deal with a very cunning enemy of our souls who can masquerade (disguise) himself as an angel of light.

##### ***B. His Cohorts(6:12)***

There is only 1 devil but many demons. It seemed that there is a hierarchy and organization in the kingdom of darkness.

#### **III. The Equipment**

##### ***A. The Armor of God***

(1) ***The belt of truth*** (v.14)- to put on the belt of truth can be understood as accepting the truth of the Bible and choosing to follow it with integrity.

(2) ***The breastplate of righteousness*** (v.14) symbolizes the believer's righteousness in Christ (2 Cor. 5:21) as well as his righteous life in Christ (Eph. 4:24). To put on the breastplate can be understood as choosing not to harbor and nurture known sin.

##### ***(3) The Sandals of the Gospel (v.15)***

By means of the gospel, the believer has peace with God. Missionary spirit, or readiness to carry the gospel everywhere—that is at least one meaning of wearing the sandals of the gospel. See Isaiah 52:7.

**(4) *The shield of faith (v. 16).*** Faith is a defensive weapon which protects us from Satan's fiery darts. (1 Jn.5:4). To take up this shield can be understood as rejecting temptations to doubt, sin or quit, and choosing on the basis of the truth to do the right thing.

**(5) *The helmet of salvation (v. 17)*** It means to:

- a) Have assurance that Jesus has saved you, not because of good works, but because of His mercy.
- b) Look forward to our blessed hope, future inheritance in Christ.

**(6) *The sword of the Spirit (v. 17).*** Taking the sword of the Spirit—defined for us as the Word of God—can be understood as using Scripture specifically in life's situations to fend off attacks of the enemy and put him to flight. See Matthew 4:1–11.

### ***B. The Arsenal of Prayer***

*1. Pray for yourselves (6:18a)*

*2. Pray for others (6:18b)*

*3. Pray for Paul (6:19–20)*

**6:18.** Finally, while preparing for and doing battle, we are to be on the alert and **always keep on praying**. We petition God for our own needs in the battle, and we pray for the spiritual victory of other saints.

### ***Challenge***

We are never out of reach of Satan's devices, so we must never be without the whole armor of God.