

The Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10 – 18

God, throughout his Word, reveals to us his qualities of abundant love and incredible power. He is abounding in love and mighty in power. That's who God is. Amen!

Say it out loud to God
right now:

You are loving and
you are strong!

I hope we are excited about God and who He is! But there is another amazing thing that God reveals to us in his Word. He is not only the possessor of awesome qualities like these, he is also the giver of them. He possesses them in abundance, and he loves to give them to us. That is clearly shown, for example, in the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives (Galatians 5:22 – 23). These are all attributes of God that he gives to us. Our lives are changed completely when we realize that this is who God is and truly believe what he is giving us.

Say to your brother or
sister in Christ:

God has made you
loving and strong!

Make sure you remind yourself of that also.

All of these ideas, and more, are communicated in this amazing letter known to us simply as Ephesians. As you probably know, Paul wrote it from prison. You have to remind yourself of that, however, because this letter doesn't sound like it is coming from someone who is in prison.

For instance, in the opening of this letter he wrote:

*Praise be to the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in the heavenly realms
with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*
Ephesians 1:3

Does that sound like a prisoner's writing? But more importantly, is it something we believe? Do we believe that God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ? (By the way, see also **2 Peter 1:3** for more of this amazing thought.) But the question is: do we believe it and do we think and talk like this?

So most of Ephesians does not sound like it was written from someone in prison. However, it is possible that Paul may have looked around at the soldiers guarding him in prison, and God inspired him with this analogy of God's armor here in Ephesians 6. Of course, there are so many lessons learned from these verses, and it is a Scripture that you probably go back to often. This study does not intend to even come close to exhausting those ideas, but let's look at a few observations that we get from reading these verses. (See resources such as the ones listed at the end of this study for deeper studies of this passage.)

1. We are in a Spiritual Battle

Let me ask you a question: what was your day like today?

- Maybe you had one of those peaceful and blessed days. You know; all rainbows and butterflies. Did your day go like that? (Do they ever go like that?)
- Maybe you had an exhausting day.
- Maybe it was one of those days that you just can't believe what just happened.
- Maybe it was one of those days that you felt like screaming.

What God seems to want us to understand from this Scripture is that every day, no matter how good or bad it is, is a spiritual battle. Look at the descriptions that God inspired Paul to write to us in this passage. Notice the words he uses:

- Verse 11 points out that there are the tricks and schemes of the devil that he is using to try to discourage us.
- He says in verse 12 that we are not fighting against humans, but against powerful spiritual evil forces.
- Verse 16 talks about the flaming arrows of the evil one.
- And verse 18 warns us to always be on alert.

So, every day, no matter how good or bad it is, is a spiritual battle. I don't think God wrote this to scare us (maybe you thought your day was not all that bad until you read this!), but to help us understand what is going on so that we will be prepared. We are in a spiritual battle. Amen?

2. Spiritual Battles Need Spiritual Weapons

You can see that all of the weapons in God's armor are spiritual weapons. They all have analogies to the powerful and potentially violent weapons of a physical soldier, but they are all spiritual weapons.

Our battle is **not** earthly. We use spiritual weapons not worldly ones. Satan has his weapons also. But God's weapons are meant to win people to Christ, not destroy them. Instead of these spiritual weapons, Satan's are designed to destroy people with things like hatred, anger, self-righteousness, deceit, condemnation, and division, just to name a few. Part of our daily spiritual battle is within ourselves to simply decide to use God's weapons, not Satan's. That's a battle itself. We often hear the phrase "*Choose your battles*," but it is also true that there is a need to:

Choose your weapons.

<p>God's Armor Truth Righteousness Gospel of Peace Salvation God's Word</p>
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<p>Satan's Armor Deceit Self-righteousness Anger and Hate Condemnation Divisive Opinions</p>

There's more to it than just choosing, but it starts with that.

- Do you believe that you have a choice in the armor that you use?
- What is your choice?

And note the emphasis throughout this passage that this is God's armor. In other words, God is the one who provides this armor. Verse 10, for instance, points out that it is his mighty power, not ours. These pieces of armor are all God's characteristics (such as truth and righteousness) or blessings that only he can give us (such as the gospel and our salvation).

So don't read a list like this one and **only** focus on how much you need to work harder to make it happen. First, believe that God has given you this armor.

On the other hand, you do have to pick up this armor, put it on, and practice using it. Remember how King Saul offered David his armor to fight Goliath? David tried to wear it, but he told Saul that he just wasn't used to it, so he took it off. Now that turned out to be a good thing in that situation to show God's power in an overwhelming situation. But in our case, don't reject God's spiritual armor just because you're not used to it or because you make some mistakes. It will fit you if you consistently pick it up and ask God to help you grow into it. The only way to fail is to quit.

I have seen many good-hearted disciples look at this list and frustrate themselves by only focusing on what they have to do to improve. Now, growth and improvement are always important. Amen? But start by believing that God has given you this armor as a gift. His command is for you to put it on, not create it by your own power. That still can be challenging, even with God's help, but it does not need to be frustrating.



Always realize the difference between God's part and our part in everything we do.



- 1) God's part is giving us everything we need, as we read in Ephesians 1. We obviously cannot do that; that's God's part. This armor is God's gift to us. So, thanks to God, you have the tools available to stand firm against Satan's attacks. Believe that!
- 2) Our part is to believe this and put it into practice. God always commands us to use the gifts He gives us and to grow in them. But we do not have to create these attributes or just work on them by our own power – that can be very frustrating to us. We also can't brag about having any of these qualities – that can be very frustrating to others. But we do need to make every effort to grow in the gifts that God has given us.

God provides the armor; you can't do that. But you have to put it on; He won't do that for you.

Spend some time meditating on the spiritual armor of truth, righteousness, gospel, faith, and the Word as mentioned in this passage. And don't forget the last item on the list in verse 18, which is prayer. That ingredient may not have been inspired by the Roman soldier analogy, but it is something that God knows we desperately need. God knows we need to pray consistently and continually in all situations and for a lot of people.

What convictions are God inspiring you with right now in terms of believing and choosing these pieces of armor on a daily basis?

Again, this is the armor of God. And what all of these ingredients are really telling us is that we need God on a daily basis.

**Spiritual battles need God
every single day.**

Conclusion

Here are three suggestions about the armor of God.

- 1) **Remind yourself every day that you are in a spiritual battle – not a fleshly one.**
- 2) **Remind yourself that you need spiritual weapons for your spiritual battle.**

Use the spiritual weapons, the armor of God, not the earthly weapons from Satan's armor.

- 3) **Trust God everyday that he has provided you with these weapons and remind yourself everyday to put them on.**

Because of what God has given me, I can be strong and loving today.

God has blessed you with every spiritual blessing in Christ, and his armor is one of those blessings.

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Resources

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