

Spiritual Warfare

How Do We Make War Pt. 2

Prayer School

Spring, 2022

Key Scripture:

Ephesians 6:10-13

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.” (ESV)

How Do We Make War?

Our equipping is twofold:

- First, we do not fight to gain the victory but from the place of victory, which Christ has already won at the cross.
- Secondly, we stand – equipped for the battle with the armor and weaponry God supplies us.

1. From a Place of Victory (God's Part).

Colossians 2:15 *“And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”*

1 Corinthians 15:57

*“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
We're joint-heirs with Jesus Christ, who, at the cross, won our victory over sin, death, and the devil's power forever!”*

2. We Stand (Our Part).

- **Paul exhorts us to stand four times in Ephesians 6!**
 - When it was used in a military sense, the Greek word meant to hold a crucial position while under attack.
 - Paul says we should be prepared to stand in this manner "when the day of evil comes." When does the "day of evil" come? It's here – it's this evil age we live in.
- **In this battle, we take both defensive and offensive positions:**
 - **Defensive** – we first defend the territory already won – our hearts, minds, and lives. And, like Jesus, we lay our lives down for one another.
 - **Offensive** – We should always seek to take new ground in our pursuit of God and His nature – we are always looking to be more holy, loving, wise, and more like God in every way.

And then we go on the offense against the "gates of hell" to secure freedom in the Name of Jesus for those still held captive.

- **We fight equipped with the armor and weaponry of God.**

Ephesians 6:13-19

"Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication."

1. Belt of Truth.

The belt provided stability, securing the rest of the garment and the weapons. Truth is the foundational piece that connects us at the core of our beings.

Psalm 51:6 *"You desire truth in the inward parts."*

I am stabilized, ready for battle, by having an inward reality of genuine life with God. I am a "worshiper in spirit and in truth."

2. Breast Plate of Righteousness.

The breastplate protects our hearts. **Proverbs 4:23** tells us *"to guard our hearts with all diligence."*

- Righteousness is imputed to us in that we are counted as righteous in God's eyes because of Christ's sacrifice. Also, the righteousness of Christ is imparted to us, enabling us to live free from sin and unrighteousness.
- Impurity can no longer infect our hearts, robbing us of our confidence in God.

3. Shoes of the Readiness of the Gospel of Peace.

Being surefooted and standing firm is much easier with shoes with good treads. Standing steady or running over rugged terrain barefooted is a lot harder!

Readiness to both live and preach the good news of peace with God keeps us steadfast and moving forward through the warfare of this life.

- We are not rocked by accusation or condemnation because we are living in the good news that we have 'peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.'
- **Mark 16:15** tells us to "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."

4. Shield of Faith.

Hebrews 11:1 tells us that faith is "*the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*"

As we see the flaming darts of accusation, deception, affliction, etc., headed our way, we raise the shield of faith that reminds us of what God has said to the contrary!

5. Helmet of Salvation.

The helmet protects the head, where we think and reason.

1 Thessalonians 5:8 Paul says to take "*for a helmet the hope of salvation.*"

The hope of our ultimate salvation keeps things in the proper perspective. The threat of persecution or affliction can cause us to change our minds to abandon our posts. But when we submit our thoughts and decision-making to the hope of knowing that our salvation is secure, we can carry on in the battle.

6. Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.

This term is used to describe the Word of God in several places in scripture. It is generally used to describe a short, dagger-like blade, an instrument made for close-up, precision work.

Hebrews 4:12 gives us an example –

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

In John's vision of Jesus in **Revelation 1:16**, it says that *"from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword."* Jesus exactly wielded the Word of God to refute the devil's temptations in the wilderness in **Matthew 4** – *"It is written..."*

We are to live, pray, and preach precisely and intentionally according to God's Word.

7. Prayer at all Times in the Spirit.

Paul caps his list off with prayer, emphasizing the importance of it.