

Devotional Guide
The Whole Armor of God
Ephesians 6:13 – 17

Monday

Ephesians 6:11 – 13; Ephesians 4:27; Romans 8:31

In light of the spiritual opposition faced by the Christian, every believer must be fully prepared for the spiritual conflict, lest Satan find the weak spot; e.g. Ephesians 4:27. Every believer must be actively on the alert, and standing firm. The imperative is to “take” the whole armor of God, not “make” it – God has done the making.

Think About It: What is the “evil day” referred to in Ephesians 6:13? What does Ephesians 6:13 mean by referring to “having done all?” What is our “whole duty”?

Prayer: Lord, help me to stand in the evil day.

Tuesday

Ephesians 6:14a; 2 Corinthians 1:12; 1 Timothy 1:5, 18; 3:9; Psalm 32:2 – 4

The first item of the armor of God described is the “belt of truth”. In contemporary dress the belt goes on the outside; but this is ancient dress, and the belt is the “girdle” which goes on first, to which other items of clothing are fastened, which holds other pieces of the armor together. The girdle provided a place to “gird up” flowing robes, allowing freedom of movement.

Think About It: What are some of the personal aspects that comprise the “the belt of truth”? What happens to a person who neglects truthfulness? Am I truthful with others? With myself? With God?

Prayer: Lord, help me to live truthfully and speak truthfully; help me to cling to Your truth.

Wednesday

Ephesians 6:15b

The second item of the armor of God is the breastplate of righteousness. The breastplate was armor made of metal plates or chain mail which covered the body from the neck to the waist, front and back. The breastplate of righteousness has two aspects:

1. The imputed aspect – the righteousness of Christ (1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21) -- that perfect righteousness which provides our justification and assurance of salvation whatever the accusations launched against us by the accuser of the brethren; and because of which there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1).
2. The actualized aspect – the righteous life of the believer in Christ (Ephesians 4:24); the life presented to God as an instrument of righteousness (Romans 6:13); lived in the power of the Holy Spirit (Galatian 5:16), in other words, the life lived in the process of sanctification.

Think About It: What insights are added to Ephesians 6:15b by 1 Thessalonians 5:8? How does living out the righteousness of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit protect the believer from the assaults of the devil?

Prayer: Lord, may Your righteousness be realized in my life through faith active in love.

Thursday

Ephesians 6:15; Romans 1:16

The third item of the armor of God are the shoes of the preparation of the Gospel of peace.

The Roman soldier’s “shoes” were sandals with hobnails in the soles in order provide him firm footing. The soldier’s shoes included the greaves, or shin guards, which protected the otherwise vulnerable tibia from low-lying traps set to impede the soldier’s progress. Without the preparation of sandals and greaves, the soldier was not ready either to move forward or to stand his ground.

Think About It: The shoes of the believer the preparation of the Gospel of Peace is a complex picture. Why is peace with God an important aspect of the believer’s preparation? Why is peace with other believers a critical piece of the believer’s preparation?

Am I prepared to share the Gospel of peace in any and every situation?

Prayer: Lord, strengthen me to be prepared to share the Gospel of peace with those who are lost and dying.

Friday

Ephesians 6:16; Hebrews 11:1; 2 Corinthians 4:18; 5:7; 2 Kings 6:15 – 17; John 16:33;

1 John 5:4

The fourth item of the armor of God is the shield of faith. The Roman shield was 4’x2.5’, made of leather on a wooden frame, with edges that could interlock with other shields and allow the Roman army to advance on the enemy in a solid wall, protected against spears, arrows, and fiery darts. The shield was “over all” – the first line of protection against attack.

The “fiery darts” deserve special notice; of them, Matthew Henry wrote “Violent temptations, by which the soul is set on fire of hell, are the darts which Satan shoots at us.”

Think About It: How does the story of Elisha and the chariots of fire (2 Kings 6:15 – 17) help to explain how faith works like a shield? What does faith perceive that our physical senses do not perceive? What does it mean to say our faith is the victory that overcomes the world?

Prayer: For greater faith; for accurate perception of spiritual reality.

Saturday

Ephesians 6:17a; 1 Thessalonians 5:8; Romans 5:5; Ephesians 4:21; 2 Peter 2:18

The fifth item of the armor of God is the helmet of salvation. 1 Thessalonians 5:8 also refers to the helmet, the hope of salvation – i.e., the certainty of knowing where we are going (Romans 5:5). The helmet protects the brain; the Christian soldier's helmet protects the mind; it represents the mind controlled by God. When the intellect is under the command of the Holy Spirit, it cannot be deluded by the lies of Satan. We need to protect our minds "by the truth as it is in Jesus" (Ephesians 4:21) and "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

Think About It: What is Satan's method of corrupting the mind (Genesis 3:1, 2 Corinthians 11:3)? How can we protect our minds from being corrupted and defiled by Satan and the seductions of this world?

Prayer: May the mind of Christ my Savior live in me from day to day.

Sunday

Ephesians 6:17b; Hebrews 4:12; Acts 2:37; 5:33; Luke 4:1 – 13

The sixth item of the armor of God is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

The Roman soldier's sword was a short, broad-bladed, double edged sword of tempered steel, capable of taking a razor sharp edge. In the hands of Rome's legions, it was the most effective and powerful weapon the world had ever seen. The Word of God is described in Hebrews 4:12 with the same Greek word used to for the Roman sword – only it is described as sharper, and not requiring the skillful hand of a soldier, because it is "living and active", being controlled by the Holy Spirit, and piercing not the flesh, but innermost heart.

Think About It: How did Jesus use the Word of God in His confrontation with Satan (Luke 4:1 – 13)? The Greek translated "word" in Eph. 6:17 is "*rhema*" of which Vine's Expository Dictionary says; "The significance of *rhema* (as distinct from *logos*) is exemplified in the injunction to take 'the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,' Eph. 6:17; here the reference is not to the whole Bible as such, but to the individual scripture which the Spirit brings to our remembrance for use in time of need, a prerequisite being the regular storing of the mind with Scripture." Do I know Scripture well enough to permit the Holy Spirit to call it to mind and apply it to a specific situation?

Prayer: Praise God for His living and active Word.