

EPHESIANS

Lesson 11 - Chapter 6:16-24

We continue with Paul's instruction on the Armor of God this week with the second group of three pieces. The first three are "*put on*" - fastened to the body, so they are preparatory and kept on in preparation for the attack. The next three are "*taken up*" and are for more immediate activity. These are "*taken up*" at first sign of attack.

Pray for the Lord to show you this week how to use this armor He has provided.

Key Word(s)

Read through the entire chapter, focusing on verses 16-24. Make note of words or themes that are repeated in this section.

Memory Verse – This week's memory verse is 2 Chronicles 20:15b.

*"Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude,
for the battle is not yours, but God's."*

Read Ephesians 6:10-15 - as a reminder of where we started with the armor of God.

1. Where does our strength come from?
2. Who do we wrestle against?
3. What are the first three pieces of our armor?

Read Ephesians 6:16-17

Now we continue by looking at the last three pieces of armor.

⇒ *...above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.*

Notice the words "*above all*". This does not mean more important, but means "on" or "upon" all. The shield of faith is taken up as additional protection over the others.

1. Why do you think *faith* is so important against the fiery darts? Consider 2 Timothy 1:12.

a. Define faith using Hebrews 11:1.

b. What is the difference between *hope* in this world and the biblical *hope* in this description of faith?

2. Write the *truths* you find in the following scriptures about *faith*.

a. Mark 9:23

b. Hebrews 11:6

3. Often the fiery darts the enemy throws at us are thoughts. What do the scriptures below tell us about how to deal with these thoughts?

a. Isaiah 26:3

b. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

c. Philippians 4:8-9

4. Scan Hebrews 11:17-40, remembering that Satan surely attacked with fiery darts as each act of these saints took their step of faith. Consider the two we have chosen below and record some of the fiery darts you think Satan may have fired at these precious saints.

a. Hebrews 11:24-26 – Moses –

b. Hebrews 11:29 – the children of Israel –

5. Read 1 Peter 5:(8)9 and write how this applies to the shield of faith.

The shield of faith is the *quick application of everything we know and believe* as an answer to whatever Satan may throw at us, and it points us to the power of God.

⇒ ***And take the helmet of salvation...***

The helmet protects our head, so our thoughts, our mind.

1. It is the helmet of salvation. What does 1 Thessalonians 5:8 add to this?

2. How does the assurance of the hope of salvation, which points to the future, equip us against the attacks of the enemy in the present?

3. From 2 Corinthians 11:3 what is Satan's strategy for your mind?

4. What can we know about our salvation from the following scriptures?

a. Romans 10:9-10

b. 1 John 5:4-5

⇒ ***...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God***

There is a difference between the *belt of truth* with which we are to *gird our loins* and the *sword*, which is also *truth* - the Word of God. Malcolm Wild explains it this way: "The belt is the central truth of salvation. The sword is detailed knowledge of the Word and the ability to select appropriate scripture." An important thing to remember about the sword – you must pick it up and use it! And, where all the other armor is defensive and protective, this sword is the only offensive weapon.

1. We have an example of how to use this offensive weapon in scripture. Read Matthew 4:1-11 and write what you see of how Jesus used the Scripture against Satan's attacks. What did Satan attack and how did Jesus respond?

2. The sword of the Spirit is strong, it is sure, it is powerful. How do the following scriptures describe the Word of God?

a. Isaiah 40:8

b. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

c. Hebrews 4:12

d. How do these truths apply to the *sword*?

3. How does the Word of God put down the attacks of the enemy?

4. What instruction do you find for the soldier in training from 2 Timothy 2:15?

Read Ephesians 6:18-20.

In these verses Paul includes prayer as the final aspect of spiritual warfare. This is not an additional piece of armor, but essential with the whole armor. Each piece should be put on with prayer and then we keep praying!

1. Prayer is conversation with God and so it represents our relationship with Him. Think about the battle and the armor of God we have just studied. How is your relationship with God important in the battle?

2. What does Jude 1:20 tell us about what prayer does?

3. What does Paul specify about how often we should pray?

4. As we pray before, during and after the battle, there are several things we can pray about from Ephesians 6:18.

a. Pray for ourselves – *praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit*

1. What does Philippians 4:6-7 tell us to pray about? What will be the result?

2. How would this help in the battle?

b. Pray for others – *being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints*

1. What words from the Lord does 2 Chronicles 20:15 give us that are an example for our prayers for others in the battle?

2. How would this help in the battle?

5. Notice that Paul requested prayer for himself. He knew we all need help in the battle and wasn't too proud to ask for prayer.

a. What was his prayer request in Ephesians 6:19-20?

b. What do you notice about the motivation for his request?

Read Ephesians 6:21-24.

Paul ends his letter with a personal note - "*But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing...*"

1. Paul truly cared for the Ephesians and showed this by sending Tychicus to them. From Ephesians 6:21-22, what was he sent to do?
2. As we read Ephesians 6:23-24 we see the love Paul had for the people. What was his desire for those receiving this letter?

In closing...

1. Most likely you are in a battle right now. Stop and think about what Paul taught of God's armor. How can you apply this to your present situation?
2. When you think of all that Paul has shared of the riches God has provided to us, write a prayer of thanksgiving for all of His provision.

Memory Verse

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2 Chronicles 20:15b*