



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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The Whole Armor of God!

Focus Verse: Ephesians 6:10 – Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Lesson Text: Ephesians 6:10-18

Truth About God: God equips us to stand strong.

Truth For My Life: I can be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Paul painted a picture of life in Christ in terms of a battle between two opposing forces. This battle rages between humanity and the devil. It started as an unfair fight, but because of Jesus Christ's victory on the cross and over the grave, we do not have to go into battle without God's supernatural help. We stand "*strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might*" (Ephesians 6:10). Paul's fellow New Testament writers also understood Satan to be a real threat and wrote of the devil's effort to prevent the work of God in people and through people (John 10:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:18; James 4:7); 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 2:10).

While Ephesians 1:21-22 points out the unseen world of spiritual evil, it also declares Christ has "*all things under his feet,*" meaning He has authority even over that realm. We take part in the victory Christ won through His death, burial, and resurrection when we repent, are baptized in Jesus' name, and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Our victory over Spiritual opposition is to be filled with the Spirit. This is how we arm ourselves to stand firm against all strategies of the devil—outright attacks from Satan or ways he will use our thoughts and emotions against us.

When Paul encouraged the early church to stand strong against our spiritual enemy, he used physical pieces of Roman armor to help illustrate his point. The precise function of each piece was not his only focus, but rather a thorough picture showing how the Spirit is God's gift to us to attack Satan and defend against his attacks. Paul was illustrating that the whole armor is made up of several pieces that allow us to attack Satan and defend against his attacks. Paul did not intend for us to pick and choose which piece we need in a particular battle. **The whole armor of God fits for any type of spiritual battle.**

The armor God has given to us has been proven. The apostles battled and lived victoriously through the armor of God. Our forefathers battled and lived victoriously through the armor of God. **How can we use these weapons to protect ourselves from the same enemy who attacked them?** Along with prayer, we arm ourselves with the whole armor of God: "*Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God . . . having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*" (Ephesians 6:13-17).

Guard your character with truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and God's Word. Some of the armor Paul used in his metaphor were for defense, not to attack: helmet, shield, and breastplate. Satan will fire fiery darts of doubt, deception, or discouragement to hinder us, but faith, salvation, and God's Word guard us against his wicked devices. The shield of faith calls us to trust in God rather than in our personal resources. The helmet of salvation protects our mind with the assurance of salvation provided through Jesus Christ.

You must recognize your battle is spiritual. Ephesians 2:2 tells us, "*Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.*" Human sin results from or being governed by the devil, the spirit who rules both the powers of evil in the spiritual realm and human beings who refuse to obey God. **Again, our battle is not with other people; it is spiritual** (Ephesians 6:12). The enemy of our souls will use the weaknesses of our flesh (selfish human nature) to promote his purpose, which is to inhibit the work of God in and through us. Knowing his tactics helps us to recognize how we ought to fight. We need the Spirit of God to engage the enemy.

Eternity's strongest warrior is on our side, and as we slip our hand into His nail-pierced hand, we can stand strong, no matter who or what tries to break through and break us apart from Him. In prime or dreadful conditions, during personal or national crises, in times of happiness or sadness, by the grace of God, and armed with His whole armor, we stand.