

Brandon Phillips

Preparing for Battle / Christian Life; Church; Prayer / Ephesians 6:10–24

In Eph 6:13, which we looked at a few weeks ago, Paul reiterated the urgency for the Christian to take up the full armor of God to be able to resist the evil of our day. In 6:14-17, Paul gives six critical pieces of armor for resisting. You must prepare by:

Girding yourself with the belt of truth (6:14a)

Putting on the breastplate of righteousness (6:14b)

Shodding your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace (6:15)

Taking up the shield of faith (6:16)

Taking up the helmet of salvation (6:17a)

Taking up the sword of the Spirit (6:17b)

Pre-sermon Comments

Sermon Text

Ephesians 6:10–17 NASB95

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*.

And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Introduction to our Text

Hebrews 11:1 NASB95

Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Genesis 15:6 NASB95

Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Galatians 2:20 NASB95

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Review

| Ephesians 1:18–19 (NASB95)

| *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,*

| *and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

Ephesians 3:7–10 NASB95

of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.

To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,

and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;

so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*.

Proposition and Outline

- In Eph 6:13, which we looked at a few weeks ago, Paul reiterated the urgency for the Christian to take up the full armor of God to be able to resist the evil of our day. In 6:14-17, Paul gives six critical pieces of armor for resisting. You must prepare by:
 - Girding yourself with the belt of truth (6:14a)
 - Putting on the breastplate of righteousness (6:14b)
 - Shodding your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace (6:15)
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Preparation 1: Gird Yourself with the Belt of Truth (Review)

Ephesians 6:14 NASB95

Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

Preparation 2: Put on the Breastplate of Righteousness (Review)

Ephesians 6:14 NASB95

Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

Romans 3:22 NASB95

even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;

Ephesians 6:14 NASB95

Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

Romans 6:11–13 NASB95

Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,

and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

Preparation 3: Shod Your Feet with the Gospel of Peace (Review)

Ephesians 6:15 NASB95

and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

Romans 1:16 NASB95

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:17 NASB95

For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Preparation 4: Take Up the Shield of Faith

| Ephesians 6:16 (NASB95)

| in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*.

| But though these are all armour, yet faith is an armour for his armour; it is not only a defence for him, but a defence for his defences. Thus faith not

| only shields the man, but shields his graces too ~ Charles Spurgeon

| Ephesians 6:16 (NASB95)

| in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*.

Psalm 5:12 NASB95

For it is You who blesses the righteous man, O LORD,

You surround him with favor as with a shield.

1 Peter 1:7 NASB95

so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

James 1:3 NASB95

knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

| Faith upholds a Christian under all trials, by assuring him that every painful dispensation is under the direction of his Lord; that chastisements are a token of His love; that the season, measure, and continuance of his sufferings, are appointed by Infinite Wisdom, and designed to work for his everlasting good; and that grace and strength shall be afforded him, according to his need ~ John Newton

| George Muller, a great man of faith, once said, "God delights to increase the faith of His children. We ought, instead of wanting no trials before victory, no exercise for patience, to be willing to take them from God's hand as a means. I say—and say it deliberately—trials, obstacles, difficulties, and sometimes defeats, are the very food of faith."

| Let the soldier be ready when war comes; let him expect the conflict as a part and necessary consequence of his profession. But be armed with faith, it receives the blows. The poor shield is knocked and hammered and battered like a pent-house exposed in the time of storm; blow after blow comes rattling upon it, and though it turns death aside, yet the shield is compelled itself to bear the cut and the thrust. So must our faith do— it must be cut at, it must bear the blows ~ Charles Spurgeon

| Then you must see to it that your faith is that which rests only upon truth, for if there be any error or false notion in the fashioning of it, that shall be

a joint in it which the spear can pierce. You must take care that your faith is agreeable to God's Word, that you depend upon true and real promises, upon the sure word of testimony and not upon the fictions and fancies and dreams of men ~ Charles Spurgeon

Ephesians 6:16 NASB95

in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*.

Revelation 12:10 NASB95

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying,

"**Now** the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

Oh it is wonderful how God sometimes enables his people to live in the midst of temptations and tribulations as though they had none of them. I believe that some of the martyrs when they were burning in the fire suffered hardly any pain, because the joy and peace which God gave them delivered them from the vehement heat ~ Charles Spurgeon

Ephesians 4:4-6 NASB95

There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

On, champion, on! in the name of him that is with you. No lance can pierce that shield; no sword shall ever be able to cut through it; it shall preserve you in all battle and in all strife; you shall bring it home yourself, through it you shall be more than conqueror. Faith, then, is like a shield, because it has to bear the blows ~ Charles Spurgeon

Preparation 5: Take Up the Helmet of Salvation

Ephesians 6:17 NASB95

And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Romans 3:28 NASB95

For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

Ephesians 1:7 NASB95

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

Ephesians 1:13 NASB95

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

John 10:27–29 NASB95

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;

and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

“My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father’s hand.

Romans 8:29–30 NASB95

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Romans 8:33–39 NASB95

Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies;

who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Just as it is written,

“FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG;

WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.”

But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

James 1:12 NASB95

Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

Conclusion:

The Gospel

2 Corinthians 4:3–4 NASB95

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 Corinthians 4:5–6 NASB95

For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

If the Holy Spirit has convicted you regarding any of the truths contained in

this sermon or if have questions about them or about the Christian faith, please seek your small group leader or another mature Christian to guide you.