

Ephesians
Chapter 6:10-17
“The Full Armor of God, Part II”
All scripture references are from the NASU unless otherwise noted

Calvary Chapel Fellowship of Enid
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We started looking, last week, at The Full Armor of God and this morning will be the second of three studies on the topic.

At its core, Paul’s still talking about relationships ... in this case, our relationship with Satan and the spiritual, evil world all around us.

Last week ... why we need The Full Armor of God (**verses 10-13**).

This week ... what is The Full Armor of God (**verses 14-17**).

And then two weeks from now ... how we get The Full Armor of God (**verses 18-20**).

But to get us warmed up, let’s re-read ...

Verses 10-13: It was the prophet Jeremiah who said in ...

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick ..."

Our hearts can’t be trusted! Your heart lies and cheats incessantly ... **more deceitful than all else.**

Picture this ... a six-foot, wooden fence. Now, common sense tells us ... the fence is to keep us out ... or maybe to keep us in. Either way it’s to restrict us.

Q. So, what do we do? -- We peak over the fence!

But here’s the problem ... if you peak over and see a 100-pound Rottweiler ... you assume that the fence is there for good reason and you don’t jump, but ...

Q. What if all you see is a beautiful, lush garden?

Q. What if if all you see is that beautiful, new house that you can’t really afford?

Q. What if you see that relationship that you so want, but that God’s saying “NO” to? What if it’s a lucrative deal that’s only a little bit shady? What if it’s a chance to escape reality on some substance that promises to be harmless?

Q. Do you trust your exceedingly deceitful heart, or do you trust that your loving

and wise, Heavenly Father has placed that fence there ... not primarily to restrict you, but to protect you?

Q. What do you do when it looks lush and inviting and you see no harm or danger? Do you trust when the Lord says, "I put that fence there to protect you from what you can't see" ... or ... do you trust your own heart?

The Full Armor of God is the fence that separates us ... as Paul puts it ... from **the schemes of the devil**.

The story of **Job** is a great example. In **chapter 1, verse 10**, Satan was talking to God about Job and he said ...

"Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? ... 12 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power ..." ...

That hedge of protection is The Full Armor of God. And the removal of it, changed Job's life!

Now Job may not have had a choice about it, but we do ... for us ... The Full Armor of God is a choice.

So, prayerfully I have you all convinced that you NEED this armor! And if so, let's delve into our second study ...

Q. What does this Armor of God actually consist of? ...

Verse 14: So, the first item mentioned is ... **The Belt of Truth** or, if you were reading it in the Old King James it would say ... **having your loins girt about with truth** ...

The picture is of a robe-clad man gathering up the lower portion of his robe and belting it around his waist ... making himself ready for action.

The Belt of Truth, of course, speaks of the written Word of God ... the Bible you're holding ... in whatever form.

The apparel of warfare ... and the Roman belt was the piece that kind of held it all together. Without the belt, the Roman soldier of 2,000 years ago, would get tangled up in his own skirt. Not a very effective fighting tactic!

The belt was also the anchor for all the other tools of a soldier's trade. Everything else would hang on it or from, the belt. So, to be prepared with the truth is to have yourself girded ... or wrapped-up in the written Word of God.

I'm gonna say that again ... to be prepared with the truth is to have yourself girded ... or

wrapped-up in the written Word of God.

So, it's no coincidence that the list of armor begins with the **Belt of Truth**. Without it, you'll get tripped up before you even reach the battle front.

The second item listed is, **The Breastplate of Righteousness** ... but it's listed second and not first ... for a reason.

Because you'll never be able to wear The **Breastplate of Righteousness** if you've not first donned The Belt of Truth.

Q. Why? – Because the **Breastplate of Righteousness** is simply doing the right thing. It's the protection that blesses our life when we simply do the right thing.

Q. And how do we know the right thing to do? ... Not based on our feelings or our deceitful hearts. Not based on societal norms, but upon the written Word of God. The Belt of Truth.

Verse 15: Third ... we're to shod our feet ... that is, the steps we take ... with **THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE** or in the Greek, the gospel of eirene (i-ray'-nay), meaning to walk with an air of peace or restfulness. To NOT be anxious.

1st Corinthians 14:33 ... God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

Not world peace ... but inner peace ... and the bold Christian walk that results from it.

Q. But is that really protective? Can a lack of anxiety and worry be a piece of protective armor? – Definitely! We're all aware that Satan uses fear and anxiety and really ... emotions in general, to attack us.

But when we have peace ... an assurance of the sovereignty and love of God, it changes the way we walk.

It protects us from Satan's attempts to blow us off course with fear and worry.

Verse 16: My personal favorite ... **The Shield of Faith**. Our protection against the flaming arrows of Satan.

Now I'm sure this never happens to you, but confession ... I sometimes have the most inappropriate thoughts run through my mind ... at the most inappropriate times. Terrible thoughts ... during worship or prayer or Bible study.

Q. How can that happen? – Well the truth is ... those thoughts that seem to come out of nowhere ... don't come out of nowhere!

They come straight from Hell. Satan and his evil archers, aim carefully and then let those flaming arrows fly, right at you and right at me.

And he fires those burning darts, not just to scorch us momentarily, but in hope of starting an all-consuming fire in our lives.

Look at the word “evil”, in **this verse**.

... **the flaming arrows of the evil one** (emphasis added).

In the Greek it's the word poneros (pon-ay-ros). And it doesn't speak of an evil character, but rather, an evil effect or influence. Poneros (pon-ay-ros). It's where we get the English word “pornography”.

Flaming arrows, aimed at you by Satan's Archery Division. Usually, showing up as that passing thought at the most inappropriate and disruptive time.

Satan's constantly shooting these firebrands at us, but if the **Shield of Faith** is raised up, they'll all be extinguished ... that's the promise.

Think back to those three different types of faith that we've looked at previously. There's **Saving Faith** (**Romans 12:3**), **Trusting Faith** (**Matthew 16:9-14 & Luke 24:25**) and there's the **Spiritual Gift of Faith** (**1st Corinthians 12:9**).

Here in **Ephesians 6** ... it's the Trusting Faith (that which we're expected to exercise for growth), that Paul's speaking of as the **Shield of Faith**.

Q. But how's that work out practically? – Visualize what Paul's painting for us ... for the Roman Soldier in that day, warfare included shooting fiery darts at your enemy.

But they weren't typically shot straight at a target ... they were lobbed. Shot into the air and allowed to float down on the target. So, holding a shield over your head like an umbrella, provided some protection, but in reality, it still left quite a bit of the soldier exposed.

So, when an army was under a barrage of these fiery darts, they would form a nearly impenetrable fortress by raising their shields over their heads and huddling very close to one another.

And man ... in this area in particular ... these poneros (pon-ay-ros) arrows ... flaming arrows sent from Hell to influence, and, if possible, set us on fire ... the answer is to raise our **Shields of Faith** above our heads and huddle closely with our brothers and sisters.

In fact, that explains Paul's words on the subject in ...

2nd Timothy 2:22 Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness,

faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.
(emphasis added)

There's protection when we corporately raise our Shields of Faith and huddle.

Verse 17: The last two ... starting with **The Helmet of Salvation**.

When we take the **Helmet of Salvation** ... we place it “**by grace ... through faith**” (**Ephesians 2:8**), over our mind. We remind ourselves to be ever mindful of the finished work of Christ on the cross.

Not primarily to protect us from those stray thoughts like the **Shield of Faith**, but to protect us from lingering discouragement and depression. Allowing ... in fact asking, the Spirit of God to renew our mind ... in particular, soaking up the reality of our own salvation.

Q. Because ... when Heaven's an imminent reality ... what could possibly go so wrong in this temporal life that it could douse my spirit? -- Take and put on **The Helmet of Salvation**.

And ... lastly Paul says take **The Sword of the Spirit**.

Keep in mind that **The Belt of Truth**, as we saw earlier, speaks of the written Word of God. The **Sword of the Spirit**, on the other hand, speaks of God's spoken word.

This is ... God's voice in your ear. The Holy Spirit whispering that exacting word that penetrates us so deeply.

The word “**sword**” in this verse is **machaira** (**makh'-ahee-rah**). It means a **dagger** ... a small, pointed knife ... NOT a long sword which is (**rhomphaia** [**hrom-fah'-yah**]).

And the word “**word**” here is **rhema** (**hray'-mah**). It means **an utterance** or narration ... NOT a written account or book which is **logos logos** [**log'-os**]) in the Greek.

It is often, and rightly, said that the Sword of the Spirit is the only offensive weapon on this list, but understand that this is a list of “**armor**” ...

Literally it means **tools or implements that deny** [**panoplia** (**pan-op-lee'-ah**)]. The context is that which denies or deflects the enemy's efforts to interrupt your service to the Lord.

So, in terms of this dagger ... it's a dagger which somehow ... in some way deflects or denies Satan's efforts to mess you up.

Q. So how's that work? – Well, it's NOT taking up your dagger and going after the enemy. Rather, it's the Spirit of God cutting away those lusts of our flesh that serve as a handle for Satan's temptations.

Notice that Paul says ... **take ... the sword of the Spirit ...**, not “take it up.” It’s not you and me taking the sword to others or even to the enemy, it’s the Spirit of God taking the dagger to us.

Read it with me from the Amplified Bible ...

Ephesians 6:17 And take the ... sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God. AMP

Q. Remember how John described Christ in ...?

Revelation 1:16 ... out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword [or dagger] ...

And by it we’re offered protection from the schemes of the enemy.

But having said that ... don’t lose track of the other pieces of armament ... and specifically the **Belt of Truth**.

Q. If you were a Roman soldier ... where would your dagger be kept? – It’d be tucked under, or suspended from, your belt. The dagger was dependent on the belt. Without the belt ... the dagger would drop into the dust and be lost.

And this is in agreement with **John 14:26** which tells us that The Holy Spirit will bring to our remembrance the written words of scripture in our hour of need.

Conclusion: So, this is how a Christian dresses for Success ... The Full Armor of God.

There's an old saying that tells us ... “Thoughts produce acts, acts produce habits and habits produce character.”

As Christians, our goal is to have the character of Christ. But without the **Full Armor of God** to protect that character ... it’ll be eroded quickly as ungodly thoughts produce ungodly acts. And ungodly acts produce ungodly habits leading to an ungodly character.

We need God’s hedge of protective armor!

Jesus said ...

Matthew 16:18 " ... I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

It’s always the defending army that hides behind their own gates. They hide and hope the invading army isn’t powerful enough to break through.

But Christ, speaking of His church says ... **the gates of Hades will not overpower it.**
That is ... death itself will not overpower the church.

If you call yourself a Christian, then you're an invader. You're in this world, but you're not of it.

And we're not here to play around ... we're here to do battle. This earth is not a playground ... it's a battleground.

We're only passing through this place ... someday, when the war's over, we're going home and we're going ... as the victors.

Q. The question is, on that day ... will you be able to say that you've done your part? -- It starts by getting geared-up for the battlefield.

The Full Armor of God:

Part I ... why we need it (**verses 10-13**)

Part II ... what it is (**verses 14-17**)

And ... in two weeks ... **Part III** ... how we get it (**verses 18-20**)