

The Whole Armour Of God
(Ephesians 6:10-18)

- I. Christians must fight an ongoing battle with the world, the flesh and the devil.
- A. Paul prescribes proper equipment for this battle. **EPH 6:10-18; 1TH 5:8.**
 - B. All of the equipment is needed. The partially equipped warrior is likely to be overcome.
 - 1. The lack of a defensive piece provides a target for the enemy to exploit.
 - 2. Not having a true sword, or not being convinced that the true sword is true, leaves one without the power that the Holy Spirit has invested in Scripture. This is “spork” Christian warfare.
 - 3. The whole armour of God is needed to *stand against the wiles of the devil* (v. 11), and to *withstand in the evil day* (v. 13). You will have to defend yourself against Satan’s cunning head/heart games (**2CO 11:3**) and also against the troubles he uses to oppress you, per **2CO 12:7**.
 - C. Resistance is not futile; it is required: “...having done all...” (v. 13). **JAM 4:7; 1PE 5:9.**
 - D. Victory is achievable, albeit with scrambling and scars, unto a good finish. **1CO 10:13; 2TI 4:7.**
- II. The armour is needed for spiritual warfare. **v. 12 c/w 2CO 10:4.**
- A. These are the unseen forces behind lies, ignorance and lust.
 - B. These forces had their fullest expression in the crucifixion of Christ. **LUK 22:53.**
 - C. The work of God’s mighty power in Christ has delivered us from the power of darkness. **EPH 1:19-21 c/w COL 1:12-14.**
 - D. These forces continue to work in the children of disobedience. **EPH 2:1-3.**
 - E. These forces sometimes are manifested in children of light who through ignorance or lust are doing their bidding. **MAT 16:21-23; ACT 5:3.**
 - F. It is helpful to remember that opposition to the truth is owing to the spiritual forces animating them. **GAL 3:1; 1TI 4:1-4.**
 - 1. Depersonalizing error helps us avoid the pitfalls of hatred.
 - 2. We can rather pray for, and witness to such in love to convert them. **JAM 5:19-20.**
 - 3. We can even let them go their own way if unrepentant. **MAT 15:14; 1CO 5:11-13.**
- III. First, we are exhorted to be “...strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might” (v. 10).
- A. This is a reliance upon the grace of God. **2TI 2:1.**
 - 1. The power of grace that renewed us inwardly fits us for battle. **PHIL 2:12-13.**
 - 2. The knowledge of grace strengthens us against false schemes of eternal salvation and from false charges of condemnation. **ROM 11:5-6; 8:1-2.**
 - 3. The accessibility of more grace promises mercy and help in down times. **HEB 4:16; JAM 4:5-6.**
 - B. God’s strength is made perfect in our weakness. **2CO 12:9-10.**
 - C. Our spiritual weapons are “...mighty through God...” (**2CO 10:4**), light sabers of truth which He energizes. **PSA 119:130; ROM 13:12.**
- IV. There is an emphasis on *standing*.
- A. “...stand against the wiles of the devil” (v. 11).
 - B. “...able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand” (v. 13).
 - C. “...stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong” (**1CO 16:13**).
 - D. “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free...” (**GAL 5:1**).
 - E. “...stand fast in one spirit...” (**PHIL 1:27**).

- F. “Stand therefore...” (v. 14).
- G. This is not a battle to be fought lying down, nor won by falling down, nor avoided by turning tail and running (for there is no armour for the backside). **PSA 78:9.**
- H. Of uncertainties and troubles, Paul said, “But none of these things move me...” (ACT 20:22-24).

IV. “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...” (v. 14).

- A. Mind that Paul does not say, “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with tradition/philosophy/emotion/sensationalism/pageantry/loaves and fishes, etc.”
 - 1. It is truth that begins to outfit the saint for successful contention and victory.
 - 2. Truth is the beginning point of Christian salvation. **EPH 1:13-14.**
 - 3. Truth produces fruit for the harvest of victory. **COL 1:5-6.**
 - 4. Truth renders our worship acceptable. **JOH 4:23-24.**
- B. Peter commands, “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind...” (1PE 1:13).
 - 1. This is a directive to correct thinking.
 - 2. The gospel’s great work is “...bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2CO 10:5).
 - 3. The first mind to capture is our own. **ROM 2:21.**
 - 4. Pray for wisdom and understanding in earnest and God will reward. **PSA 119:34; JAM 1:5-6.**
 - 5. We should long to neither be deceived, nor to deceive others.
- C. gird: To surround, encircle (the waist, a person about the waist) with a belt or girdle, esp. for the purpose of confining the garments and allowing freer action to the body.
 - 1. Girding embraces the concept of freedom through restraint.
 - 2. Spiritual agility is enhanced by the restraining confines of the truth.
 - 3. “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (JOH 8:32).
 - 4. “None are more hopelessly enslaved than those who falsely believe they are free.” (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe)
- D. loin: In the living body. Chiefly, pl. The part or parts of a human being or quadruped, situated on both sides of the vertebral column, between the false ribs and the hip bone. 2. Chiefly *Biblical* and *poet.*, This part of the body, regarded as the part of the body that should be covered with clothing and about which the clothes are bound; so, *to gird (up) the loins* (lit. & fig.) to prepare for strenuous action.
 - 1. Striving against temptation and sin is strenuous, and moreso when hindered by ignorance, falsehoods or heresy. **2TI 2:15-18.**
 - a. Without the truth, our strenuous action is so much wild thrashing about and wasted time.
 - b. Without the truth, our strenuous action may actually be working against our own salvation rather than for it. **ACT 26:9.**
 - 2. The other articles of Christian armour cover parts of the body which have tough bone beneath them.
 - a. But the loins are a soft spot, very susceptible to fiery darts.
 - b. Without the truth we are easy marks. **ROM 16:17-18.**
- E. Consider truth’s relationship to the other pieces of armour/armament.
 - 1. Truth is not independent of righteousness. **JAM 4:17; ROM 1:18.**
 - a. Truth without righteousness is hypocrisy and self-condemning.
 - b. Truth without righteousness is like holding the blade of the sword in battle.
 - 2. Truth is not independent of the gospel of peace.
 - a. Truth should generate and accord with peace.

PSA 119:165; 2CO 5:18-20; COL 3:15.

- b. Truth without peace is like marriage without love: dry, unsatisfying, stressful.
- c. “Let the truths of God rule in your heads, and let the peace of God rule in your hearts.” (Matthew Henry)
- 3. Truth is not independent of faith.
 - a. Truth is a chosen means to salvation only when believed (and put into practice). **2TI 2:13.**
 - b. Truth without faith is ineffectual to save. **HEB 4:2.**
 - c. The truth about the upcoming flood would have worked no salvation for Noah without faith. **HEB 11:7.**
 - d. Truth without faith is like real fruit to a famished man who is not persuaded that it isn’t just a plastic ornament.
- 4. Truth is not independent of (hope of) salvation.
 - a. If there is no hope within us of a blessed future state, what great purpose is there in the truth?
 - b. Without salvation, we might as well scrap the truth. **1CO 15:13-14, 32.**
- 5. Truth is not independent of Scripture.
 - a. Truth must ever be measured by Scripture. **PSA 119:142, 151; ISA 8:20.**
 - b. Science, history and philosophy books change regularly and present only partial truth.
 - c. God’s word is constant and is all truth. **PSA 119:151; PRO 8:8.**
 - d. Truth without Scripture may be nothing more than paganism.
ACT 17:28-30.