

Subject: *Spiritual Warfare – Part 4*
Scripture: *Ephesians 6:10-20*

1. OUR STRENGTH FOR THE FIGHT

2. OUR STAND IN THE FIGHT

3. OUR STRUGGLE IN THE FIGHT

4. OUR SECURITY IN THE FIGHT

5. OUR SUCCESS IN THE FIGHT

We must put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6). In Romans 13, Paul tells believers to throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Romans 13:11-12 ¹¹ *And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.* ¹² *The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.*

- A. The belt of truth
- B. The breastplate of righteousness
- C. The shoes of the gospel of peace
- D. The shield of faith
- E. The helmet of salvation

1 Thessalonians 5:8 *But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.*

Ancient helmets were made of leather, metal, or brass. The helmet protected the soldier's head and some of them had cheek pieces to protect the face. A large sword called a broadsword could wound or kill a man with one good blow to the head, so the helmet was a life-saving piece of armor. What does the helmet of salvation represent? Satan attacks our minds and he uses a powerful sword with two edges, discouragement and doubt. To counter his attacks we need to understand the truth about salvation.

We must understand two things:

- Assurance of salvation – knowing that we are truly saved
- Eternal security – knowing that we are saved forever

1 John 5:13 *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

2 Timothy 1:12 *For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*

The Bible teaches three tenses of salvation. We have been saved from *the penalty of sin* (justification). We are being saved from *the power of sin* (sanctification). We will be saved from *the presence and possibility of sin* (glorification). Our salvation rests on the finished work of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit in us.

F. The sword of the Spirit (God's Word)

Most of the armor is defensive, but one piece is offensive. It is designed to protect us and also to counter-attack the enemy. It is the sword of the Spirit. The Bible tells us the sword is the Word of God. The word used for "sword" (Eph. 6:17) refers to a dagger (6-18" long), held in a sheath and worn on a soldier's belt. It was used for hand-to-hand combat. This kind of sword reminds us that spiritual battles are close at hand, not distant or far off. As the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God is a specific word or truth for each specific need, temptation, or opportunity. The Bible is not to be used as a "good luck charm" to keep the devil away. Even a general knowledge of the Bible will not provide spiritual victory. We must know God's Word well enough to use specific truths to withstand and defeat the enemy. The classic example of using this sword is Christ.

Matthew 4:3-10 ³ *And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.* ⁴ *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.* ⁵ *Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,* ⁶ *And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.* ⁷ *Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.* ⁸ *Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;* ⁹ *And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.* ¹⁰ *Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

1 John 2:14 *I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.*

G. Constant prayer

This world is a spiritual battlefield and we are always behind enemy lines, so we must always wear our armor and always pray to God for protection, courage, strength, and wisdom. Think of prayer as staying in touch with our command post.

Look at verse 18 and the emphasis on the word all. We are to pray always (at all times), with all prayer, being alert with all perseverance (endurance), for all saints (believers). All kinds of prayer are needed (ACTS of prayer): adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication. Three things we need to pray for:

- We need vigilance

Vs. 18 – “watching” – pray for God to keep you alert

1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.*

- We need deliverance

Matthew 6:13 *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (literally, “the evil one”).*

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2 ¹ *Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: ² And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.*

2 Timothy 4:16-18 ¹⁶ *At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. ¹⁷ Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. ¹⁸ And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

- We need confidence

Acts 4:29 *And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word...*

Acts 4:31 *And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.*

In verses 19-20, Paul asks the Ephesian church to pray for him. He was “an ambassador in bonds (prison).” His main request was to speak boldly. This word has the idea of confidence and freedom. Paul wanted to preach with confidence and say what needed to be said. This is the same word used in Hebrews 4:16.

Hebrews 4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

We can come to God with confidence so we can have confidence to face the enemy.