



The Armor of God

YHWH's Provision for the
Preservation of our Salvation and
Protection from Temptation

Ephesians 6:10-20

All Bible Verses are in the ESV Version
(unless noted)

© 2001–2017 Crossway.

All rights reserved.

All emphasis added/insertions are mine



Introduction

Instructions for how Christians are to relate to others: children to parents and all toward those in authority over them (master/slave = worker boss, etc.)

Passage follows these instructions with encouragement about how we can resist the temptations to disobey that come from the enemy, Satan.

Paul is under house arrest (v20).

Opens with an instruction often overlooked Eph 6:10

Not only has YHWH provided us with His armor, it is in His strength that we fight.

Paul then instructs us to put on that armor and tells us why: Eph 6:12-13

Nature of the weapons: 2Co 6:7; 2Co 10:3-4

Verses 13 through 17: stand and put on the armor of God; describes it.

Verse 18 and 19: pray for fellow Christians.

Think about how we specifically can pray for ourselves and fellow believers.

Making use of the tools, including prayer, described as the armor of God.



Armor

Passage describes the armor of God.

Guarding against Satan's schemes and temptations.

Satan cannot "sift" us unless God allows it for His purpose.

When Satan is denied, we would say God provided protection by His common grace (providentially).

Bible compares Satan to a roaring lion and enemy who wants to defeat us.

Paul describes ways God has given us to protect ourselves: belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of the Gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and sword of the Spirit.

God protects His children against all spiritual attacks.

Given us powerful armor to fight off temptations and endure trials.

Remember Paul's call to pray for fellow Christians, for protection, and encouragement from God.



Being ready

We don't rise to the occasion when we are attacked.

When confronted with a dangerous situation, fall back on our training and practice; only perform to the level that we are thoroughly proficient at: unconsciously competent.

Do something without thinking about it.

Reflexes, muscle memory.

Where we will find ourselves when set upon.

Applies to spiritual attacks as much as physical ones, maybe even more so.



Physical example 1Sa 17:38-39

David was unfamiliar with Saul's armor and his sword.

Had never "tested" them; never trained.

...“tried in vain to go”...

Resorted to what he had trained and practiced with, his sling.


Described in the verses just prior: 1Sa 17:33-36

Not only was David prepared, had a “secret weapon”: 1Sa 17:37

Just as David apparently carried his sling with him everywhere he went, we should have our “sword” with us at all times.

The sword is the one piece of the armor described by Paul that can be used for both defense and offense.

What does it mean to “use” this weapon?



Jesus gives a prime example: Matthew 4:1-11 ESV

Jesus parries Satan's thrusts; Deceiver finally withdraws to wait more opportune time.

Had His "sword" ready; very skilled in its use.

Often find it hard to be armed (ready in season and out of season?) at all times.

How can you keep your sword handy? Psa 119:9-11

Memorize and Meditate on Scripture!


Regularly rehearse the Gospel, walk through major portions of story of Redemption.

To become proficient we must do two things, train and practice.

Reading and memorizing Scripture is training, meditating on Scripture and rehearsing the Gospel or sharing it is practice.

Practice does not make perfect!

Perfect practice makes perfect!




Importance of the armor,

While the Bible describes Satan as a roaring lion, God provides armor to protect us against Satan and his attacks.

With this armor, God lovingly keeps us safe and protected every day.

Probably never know all the attacks He doesn't allow

For those that He does allow, Paul says to “put on the full armor of God.”



Description of the Armor

Paul probably looking at the soldier guarding him

Very familiar with OT Scripture; would have known the book of Isaiah well. Isaiah 59:15-17

Description of armor.

God, as the judge and avenger of wrong, wearing it.

Access to that same armor through our relationship to Jesus

Not to “put on garments of vengeance”, but “wrap [ourselves] in zeal (for the Lord and the Gospel) as a cloak!

Deuteronomy 32:35; Romans 12:19; Hebrews 10:30-31

Throw off our deeds of darkness and dress in the armor of light.

Important to live as “light,” or as disciplined children of God.

Romans 13 describes how Christians put on “the armor of light”. Romans 13:12-14



The armor of light is Jesus!

Jesus is The Truth! (Belt = anchor or stabilizing) John 14:6; Romans 8:33-39

Coming Messiah: Isaiah 11:1-5

Description of Messiah ends with two images of belts: righteousness around His waist and faithfulness.

Second belt that is pictured in our passage.


Used to tie up the end of the long robes

It is described here as a belt of faithfulness.

Septuagint, it is translated “truth”!

Jesus is our righteousness! (Breastplate = Heart protection) 1 Thessalonians 5:8

Righteous faith and love, display justification and sanctification: Romans 6:3-5; Romans 6:13; Isaiah 45:24



Jesus is the embodiment of the Gospel of peace! (Footwear/sandals = foundation/steady footing)

John 14:25-27; 16:32-33; Acts 10:34-38

Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith shield (Confidence/Protection from attack)

1 Corinthians 2:3-5; Ephesians 3:11-12; 1 Peter 1:3-5, 5:6-9; Hebrews 12:1-2

Jesus is our salvation! (Helmet = mind)

1 Corinthians 2:14-16; Philippians 1:27-30; 2 Timothy 2:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:8

Jesus is the Word of God! (Sword of the Spirit = offensive weapon to defeat strongholds)

2 Corinthians 10:3-4



Important to study God's Word to learn more about living in the light.

The armor is primarily defensive.

One piece is used for offense: the sword of the Spirit Hebrews 4:12

Writer describes the Word of God as "living" and "active," and like a sword.

Sword helps cut through darkness: thoughts, attitudes of the heart; discern right from wrong.

Hebrews 4:1-13 describing those who will and those who won't enter God's rest: His Kingdom.

Those who disobey won't, those who obey will.

It is the Word of God that they will either obey or disobey (mostly from the Old Testament, by the teaching of the Apostles or, from Christ.

The spoken word.

We have the written words of God in the form of the Bible.

That is what we are to obey.

Whether written or spoken, that is what gives us the direction for our lives.

Prayer

Paul encourages us to pray for fellow Christians and against spiritual attack.

Spiritual Artillery or Air Support for the troops on the ground.

Need to always be in prayer for ourselves and others.

God has not only given us armor (tactical weapon), he has given us a strategic weapon, too!

God has also given us a way to escape if the temptation seems too great: 1 Corinthians 10:13

Translators got it right in this verse where it says, “***the*** way of escape”.


Definite article is there in the Greek, understand for every temptation, there is a specific way of escape,

Some propose that it is the same way for all temptation: grace!

Described in the answer Paul received to his prayer for the removal of his “thorn”: 2Co 12:7-9

Borne out by what is said immediately following: “that you may be able to endure it.”

“Enduring” has the connotation of bearing up under a load.



Christ's grace was sufficient for Paul; we are offered grace to bear up under temptation and escape its effect.

We will be able to fulfill the instruction to stand firm

Pray for strength, rely on God in every circumstance, and keep alert to reality of the spiritual world.

How do we do this?

Hint: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

We can pray God's Word back to Him.

"Father, You promised to provide a way of escape from temptation. Please show me that way and let your Holy Spirit guide me to it."



Conclusion

Reflect regularly on the armor of God.

Paul described armor while he was in prison, yet he was encouraged and strong in the Lord.

God will comfort and strengthen you wherever you are in life.

Regularly thank Him for His presence in our lives.

Take some time to pray for strength for all believers all over the world.



Putting on the armor of God is putting on Christ!

Stand in truth.


Stand in righteousness.

Stand in the peace of the Gospel.

Stand in faith.

Stand in the knowledge of your salvation.

Stand ready to use the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.



You will not rise to the occasion when attacked; you will resort to your highest level of training and practice, however high, or low that may be.

If you don't "test" the armor, like David, you will put it aside.

If you put it aside, unless YHWH has prepared you in some other way, as He did David, you will be defenseless and your only hope will be in the way of escape He has provided.

My hope is that we will all fulfill Paul's instruction from our passage to stand firm: Eph 6:13