

***The Christian Life***  
***Part 6d***  
***The Armor and The War***

Eph 6:10-20

- 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.
- 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
- 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.
- 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;
- 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
- 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
- 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
- 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;
- 19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,
- 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. KJV

**Introduction:**

In this little section on the Christian Life we have looked at those things that enhance the spiritual strength of the believer. Paul exhorted the Ephesians in v.10, “be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.” Then, he proceeded to tell them how to do that, “put on the whole armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the deceitful devices and attacks of the devil.” He reminded us that we are in a war but not a war with humans. Rather, we wrestle against spiritual wickedness and spiritual powers that are far superior to us in our natural strength.

It is absolutely essential, then, that we have access to and make use of all of the provisions which God has placed at our disposal both for defense and offense. God’s defense, we are sure, is impenetrable and His weapons invincible.

Humans, redeemed humans, children of God, have some difficulties here. We struggle with seeing the battle as intense as it really is. We hold back from a full and complete commitment to God. We desire to be at ease, comfortable, and undisturbed.

Our enemy, subtle and vicious, seduces us with comfort and frightens us with dire consequences if we dare to stir from our ease and engage him on his turf.

Paul challenged the Ephesians to prepare themselves and then engage in the war, that spiritual war which can only be one through devotion, repentance, faith, and prayer.

The whole idea of battles, warfare, weapons, wrestling and fighting brings some questions home to every child of God.

*Questions: (Hendrickson on Ephesians)*

*Do I really want to fight the devil? Am I sincere about this spiritual warfare?*

*Am I living the kind of life that enables me to engage in this conflict?*

*Am I prepared to fight?*

*Am I able to defend myself against Satan's attack?*

*Have I learned the art of offensive warfare?*

*(Mine) Am I willing to grow to the place where I can say "yes" to all these questions?*

## **I. The Helmet of Salvation.**

It is speculated that the helmet and the sword were the last two items that a Roman soldier would put on as he began his day.

The helmet served a couple of functions. First and foremost, it was for protection in a battle. The soldier without a helmet did not last long in most conflicts. Secondly, it identified him. The decorations on his helmet told his rank and his unit. As such, it defined his function. Was he light infantry or heavy? Was he a horseman or a common soldier? Did he have men in authority under him or was he a mere private? All of these things could be told about him by merely glancing at his helmet.

So, as he stepped through the door, he took up his identity as a soldier under the command of his general and he prepared himself to be attacked for that identity.

The same it should be for every child of God. As we begin our day, we should say to ourselves and to the world, "I am a soldier in the Kingdom of God. Jesus Christ is my commander and I will obey Him in all things. I know that I am going to endure conflict today because of who I am and I am ready to do battle."

Soldiers, as a rule, carry themselves with dignity. They are happy that they are soldiers and they are proud to be serving their country. They wear their patriotism like a badge. One can usually tell a soldier even if he is out of uniform.

In the same way a child of God should carry himself/herself as one who is thrilled and excited about being one whom God Himself has chosen for Himself and elected to the honor of soldier to the King of all Kings and the Lord of all Lords. There is no calling greater than ours in this sad world in which we live. Queen of England, Premier of Russia, President of the United States, all are jobs that are less in honor and dignity than ours. Oh, that God would show us what honor He has bestowed upon us.

### **I. And the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.**

One of the great men of Christian history (William Gurnall) speculated as to why the Word of God is called “the Sword of the Spirit.”

1. He is the author of it. The scriptures were written by men upon whom the Holy Spirit of God breathed, moved them to both understand and to write the things that God desired to communicate to men.
2. The Spirit is the only true Interpreter of the Word. “He that made the lock can alone help us to a key that will fit its wards and open its fence.”
3. It is the Spirit which gives the Word its influence and power upon the soul. The words on the page remain mere words until the Holy Spirit takes them and makes them effective. And, when He makes them effective, there is no force in earth or hell that can effectively resist them.

The only offensive weapon that Paul places in the hand of the saint is the Word itself, the written documents containing God’s message both for the world and for the saint.

And how, exactly, do we use this ‘weapon?’

Many think that one memorizes passages from the Bible and then projects them at situations in which God’s help is needed. Unless one is very careful, such usage of God’s word crosses a line and becomes little different than the memorized spells of the witch doctor or pagan priest.

The Bible is not a collection of magic words but an encyclopedia of profound, true, and very powerful principles. Those principles are to be brought to bear upon every situation and scenario. And, when those principles are brought to bear upon the enemy from a heart that is given to God in obedience, right in that moment, there is nothing stronger.

Consider this. How powerful is any temptation of the devil when the soul is fresh from and encounter with God, filled with commitment to the principles of scripture and willing to apply those principles? Is there a temptation that the devil has that can move him from his commitment to Christ? No! He has the Sword of the Spirit and is willing to use it in just the way that Paul is teaching here.

Or this. Have you ever thought about what happens in those moments just before a hardened sinner is brought to true repentance and faith? Is it the power of the presentation? Is it the supreme skill of the preacher? Is it the atmosphere or the music that may be playing? Or it is

the Word of God piercing the darkness of his fallen heart, loosing him from the power of the kingdom of darkness and revealing to him the reality of his sins and the wonder of the Savior?

So, we should spend time with the scriptures, trying to lay hold of the principles contained in them and meditating on how we can make use of those principles during our day. The memorization of scripture is a good exercise and useful. But, it is far more important to learn the meaning of scripture and fasten those meanings to one's heart. One need not be able to quote a passage to make use of biblical principle in a situation. It is true that Jesus quoted the scriptures to the devil when He was tempted but it is also true that Jesus was devoted in His soul to the principles of scripture and clung to them as He reminded the devil of what they said.

Paul made some lists of sins and forbidden behaviors in scripture. He almost always added, "and such like," to expand the list to everything that would violate the principles that surrounded those issues.

People argue sometimes that because a particular thing is not mentioned by name in scripture it must not be forbidden, for example, marijuana. Look at how Paul dealt with the subject.

Gal 5:19-21

- 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,  
20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,  
21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. KJV

Not only is drunkenness a sin but everything 'like' it is a sin as well. The one who uses wisely and well the scriptures realizes that there is a principle here imbedded in the words. Everything which would diminish the senses and rob a person of his presence of mind is forbidden, regardless of its chemical structure. When one lays hold of the principle, the Word is an effective instrument to keep him from sin.

"The Scripture is the sword by which the Spirit of God enables His saints to overcome all their enemies. The Spirit will do nothing for them without the Word, and they can do nothing that matters without Him. The Word is the Sword and the Spirit is the arm which wields it in and for the saints. All the great accomplishments that Christ, through His saints, achieves in this world are done by this mighty Sword." (Somewhat paraphrased from Gurnall)

Adam had no such sword to defend him from the temptations of the evil one. He stood only on his own devices and sought to stand in his own strength. His only sword was the fiery one which stood guard to prevent him from returning to the garden after he was cast out.

The believer, however, because of the great victory of the Lord Jesus Christ has a mighty and powerful weapon which can vanquish the spiritual power of the enemies of the gospel.

**I. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints**

Praying Always

All (kinds of) prayer and supplication

Watching thereunto with perseverance

Supplication for all saints

A well-organized, consistent discipline of prayer.

None of the rest works without it because without prayer the mind and heart lose focus.