

SERMON OUTLINE

In Ephesians 6:10-24 Paul closes his letter by equipping God's people to enter into spiritual warfare by addressing 6 key elements of the believer's spiritual battle.

- I. The resource of the battle is God's might.
 - A. Be strong from a position of strength (v. 10a).
 - B. Be strong in the source of strength (v. 10b).
 - C. Be strong with the armor of strength (v. 11a).
- II. The purpose of the battle is to stand against Satan's schemes (v. 11b).
- III. The opponents in the battle are Satan and His agents (v. 12).
- IV. The result of the battle is victory.
 - A. Resisting (v. 13a, b).
 - B. Standing firm (v. 13c, d).

V. The apparel for the battle is God's armor.

- A. Belt of truth (v. 14a).**
- B. Breastplate of righteousness (v. 14b).**
- C. Shoes of readiness given by the gospel of peace (v. 15).**
- D. Shield of faith (v. 16).**
- E. Helmet of salvation (v. 17a).**
- F. Sword of the Spirit (v. 17b).**

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- VI. The front-line offensive in the battle is prayer.
 - A. Prayer which is to be all-encompassing.
 - 1. In all times (v. 18a).
 - 2. Of all types (v. 18b).
 - 3. With all perseverance (v. 18c).
 - 4. For all believers (v. 18d).
 - B. Prayer which is to be specific (vs. 19-20).
 - C. Prayer which may be answered through you (vs. 21-22).
 - D. Prayer as benediction (vs. 23-24).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 10, 2017

Passage: Ephesians 6:14-17

Memory Passage: Ephesians 6:14-17 (Review 1:1-6:13)

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Eph. 6:14-17:** “Having fastened on the belt” (lit. “having girded your own loins/waist”), refers to the act of cinching up one’s garments so your legs are unencumbered and ready for work or battle (cf. Is. 11:5, Ex. 12:11, Ps. 65:6, Luke 12:35-37 [cf. ESV note]). Is Paul speaking of objective truth (as in Scripture: cf. Eph. 1:13, 4:21, Ps. 119:160, Jn. 17:17) or subjective truth (as in an attitude of faithfulness and living according to truth: cf. Eph. 4:15, 25, 5:9, 2 Pt. 3:17-18), or both?

(b) The belt is worn tightly around the waist, the center of the body. How does one make truth central to one’s approach to battle, and why must it occupy such an important place?

(c) In what ways do Satan and his agents fight truth in order to destroy God’s kingdom? In what ways must you “gird your loins with truth” in order to stand against these schemes? (think abortion, marriage, gender, Scripture, authority, science, etc.).

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Eph. 6:14-17.** To what type of righteousness does Paul refer: justifying righteousness (Christ’s righteousness imputed to us for salvation [cf. Eph. 4:24]), ethical righteousness (the righteousness of godly living [cf. Eph. 5:9]) or both?

(b) Why do you think Paul used the imagery of a breastplate to convey the armor of righteousness?

(c) How does the weapon of justifying righteousness both protect the believer and enable him/her to thwart Satan’s schemes?

(d) How does the weapon of ethical righteousness both protect the believer and enable him/her to thwart Satan’s schemes?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Eph. 6:14-17.** Does v. 15 refer to the preaching of the gospel, the results of the gospel in one’s life, or both (i.e. is this weapon offensive, defensive, or both [cf. Is. 52:7])?

(b) Does the imagery of a soldier’s or messenger’s shoes help you answer question (a), and if so, how?

(c) How does the gospel of peace used as an offensive weapon enable the believer to thwart Satan’s schemes?

(d) How does the gospel of peace used as a defensive weapon enable the believer to thwart Satan’s schemes?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Eph. 6:14-17.** For what reason does Paul change from “having put on” to “take up” in vs. 16-17?

(b) The shield spoken of here is a large, rectangular shield app. 4 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide. It was made of wood and covered with canvass and leather, and then soaked in water as to make it fireproof. It was often convex so as to wrap around the soldier’s body, and it was reinforced with metal to strengthen a soldier’s defense against stones and swords.

(c) To what kind of faith does Paul refer: the objective body of truth found in Scripture (cf. Eph. 4:5, 13; Jude 3), the subjective truth of our personal faith, trust, and confidence in God (cf. Eph. 4:15), or both (cf. Eph. 4:23)?

(d) In what ways does Satan attack you with “flaming darts,” and how does employing the shield of faith extinguish them?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Eph. 6:14-17.** How does appropriating the doctrine of salvation (past, present, and future) protect your mind while engaged in the spiritual battle? Be specific, addressing ways in which Satan attacks you with his schemes in this area.

(b) How is the word of God “of the Spirit” (cf. 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21)?

(c) What ways do you (or should you) appropriate the word of God in your battle with Satan and his schemes? Think both personally, in your own walk, and corporately, in the church’s mission, and think both offensively and defensively because the short sword of the soldier was used in both ways.

(d) Identify ways in which your appropriation of all of the weapons found in vs. 14-17 is affected by not properly or powerfully wielding your sword, and write down ways you will improve upon your knowledge and use of the word of God to strengthen these weaknesses.

DATE: September 10, 2017

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Spiritual Warfare: Dress Well