

# The Christian and His Battles

Ephesians 6:10-20

October 2, 2022

## Assessing the Enemy (6:10-17)

1. A Word of Encouragement (6:10) *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."*

2. A Word of Enlightenment (6:11)

a. Our Protection (6:11a) *"Put on the whole armor of God."*

b. Our Protagonist (6:11b) *"That ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."*

3. A Word of Enablement (6:12-17)

### a. The Arena (6:12)

(1) This Is Not an Ordinary Battle (6:12a) *"We wrestle not against flesh and blood."*

(2) This Is Now an Occult Battle (6:12b-e)

(a) We Wrestle Satan's Crowned Dignities (6:12b) *"Against principalities."*

(b) We Wrestle Satan's Conquering Deputies (6:12c)

Christ's resurrection is a crowning example of Satan's power being broken.

(c) We Wrestle Satan's Capable Deceivers (6:12d)

*"Against the rulers of the darkness of this world."*

**Their supreme task is to blind people to the gospel.**

Satan is desperately afraid of the Holy Spirit. That is why we can only wage our warfare "in the power of his might" (Ephesians 6:10).

(d) We Wrestle Satan's Countless Demons (6:12e)

*"Against spiritual wickedness in high places."*

### b. The Armor (6:13-17)

(1) A Demand (6:13) *"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."*

(a) Provisions for Our Security in the Battle (6:14-17a)

i. Protection for What We Sow (6:14a)

*"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth."* For sowing

God's truth. We must sow His truth. Sincerity is not enough; we must also be right.

ii. Protection for What We Show (6:14b)

*"The breastplate of righteousness."*

The Roman soldier's breastplate protected his upper vital organs, particularly the lungs and heart.

Proverbs 4:23 *"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."*

Matthew 15:18-19 *"Those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies."*

The theme of Romans is righteousness. Paul spoke of

**righteousness revealed** (1:17),

**righteousness required** (1:18; 3:10-16),

**righteousness received** (4:5),

**and righteousness reproduced** (6:12-23).

iii. Protection for Where We Go (6:15)

*"Your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace."*

We have our marching orders in Matthew 28:19-20: *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*

#### iv. Protection for What We Do (6:16)

*"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."*

The first temptation in the garden of Eden questioned **the goodness of God**. "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Genesis 3:1)

The second temptation questioned **the government of God**. "Ye shall not surely die" (Genesis 3:4).

The third temptation questioned **the goals of God**. "God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:5).

#### v. Protection for What We Know (6:17a)

*"The helmet of salvation."*

**The head is the site of a person's intellectual powers, the faculty that sets him apart from the beasts—in his origin, his development, and his potential.** Only a human being can think and express thoughts in an organized, verbal, and articulate way.

**Satan would like to undermine our belief in the Bible as the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God.**

The more we wear the helmet of salvation, the more we will think about the things of God, fill our minds and memories with God's Word, and dwell on the enormous cost of our salvation and its ramifications in our lives. Therefore, the more we wear the helmet, the more we will be protected against Satan's lures and lies.

#### (b) Provisions for Our Success in the Battle (6:17b)

*"The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."*

God's Word is like a sword. Hebrews 4:12 says that it is *"quick [living], and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

### B. Assailing the Enemy (6:18-20)

#### 1. Warring (6:18a) *"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit."*

First we enter **the hidden place** where we are alone with God.

The second realm is **the heavenly place**, the sphere mentioned in Ephesians where our blessings and battles are.

The third realm is **the holy place**.

Ephesians 6:18 "all prayer"—prayer in all its aspects. We are absorbed in **confession, adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise**. Paul specifically mentioned the aspect of supplication.

#### 2. Watching (6:18b)

*"Watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."*

#### 3. Witnessing (6:19-20)

##### a. Sharing in a Brother's Opportunity (6:19)

*"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."*

Prayer **annihilates distance**.

Prayer **annihilates dread**.

Prayer **annihilates difficulty**.

Paul also needed hearers whose ears and hearts had been made receptive. These needs could be met through prayer.