

We are in a Battle

June 4, 2023

Ephesians 6:10-20

We are to be strong and in the power of HIS power.

Wouldn't it be easier if our battle was against that which we could see?

Our Adversary

Subtle "Wiles"
Spiritual
Strong

1) The Belt of Truth (The Believer's Integrity).

"Gird your waist with truth." **Ephesians 6:14**

"The soldier was gird with a large, heavy belt that braced him and held the armor in position, making it possible for him to be free and unfettered in his attack." ~ **W.A Criswell**

Truth is what holds it all together.

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

Truth is a person and that is God. The truth has been brought to us in Jesus.

In fact, if there is any "truth" then there has to be one who sets the truth, there has to be a standard. That standard is God and He has given us His Truth via Himself and His Word.

Know the Truth.

Live the Truth.

Pass on the Truth.

Truth is not **relative** (true for you, but not for me or vice versa).

God is absolute Truth, that which is true for all people, at all times and at all places.

Either you are following Truth or following yourself.

Remember Truth (God) holds it all together.

2) The Helmet of Salvation (The Believer's Sanity).

We must be careful what we allow to come into our mind and heart.

A soldier uses a helmet to protect his head, because if his head is wounded, he wouldn't be able to think. Every believer needs to have the mind of Christ under the control of Almighty God.

Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. **Proverbs 4:23** It is the wellspring of life.

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.

1 Peter 3:15

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalms 51:10

We need to be ready to "flush" our heart and mind of the things that are not of the Lord. A heart and mind can be a tremendous blessing in the hands of Jesus or they can be a great liability and destroy a person if they land and stay in the hands of the enemy.

When a person is saved, for the first time he has his right mind. A person without the Lord Jesus Christ has a form of insanity. They do not operate with the mind that God made them to have. The most important thing for you to have at all times is an assurance of your salvation. Do you know that you are saved? If you are not, then you cannot win the battle.

3) The Breastplate of Righteousness (The Believer's Purity).

Sometimes made of woven chain to cover the vital organs. Our breastplate is righteousness.

The enemy wants to attack you not only with lies, but also with impurity. He wants you to read filthy magazines, watch immoral movies, and engage in all temptations of the flesh. The bottom line is that Satan wants to get into your heart and mind. He's looking

for a crack in your armor. And don't be fooled. Satan knows where that crack is. Is your heart pure before God? If not, then you cannot win the battle.

4) Shoes of Peace (The Believer's Tranquility).

"Hobnails" on the sole, much like cleats today, to have solid footing.

"When Satan comes against your tranquility, he throws out stones and briars of doubts and discouragement to cause you to stumble."
~ Adrian Rogers

5) Shield of Faith (The Believer's Sanity).

Size of the shield – 2 ½ foot wide and 4 foot tall. Covered the major part of the body.

"Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one." **Ephesians 6:16**

"Above all" – it is of most importance.

If a shield of faith is needed, then we know that the armor wasn't enough. These are not just darts, but fiery darts. Some of the darts that were shot in warfare had poison on the end of them so that if they pierced you it would most likely kill you.

Remember, it is the enemy's desire to steal, kill and destroy us. (John 10:10)

6) Sword of the Spirit (The Believer's Offense).

It protects:

The head against doubt.

Protection of the mind, head and intellectual doubt.

Now "doubt" will arise, but the question is, what do we do with that doubt? Always direct your doubts to the Truth.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. **Romans 12:1-2**

"When I turn aside from God and His promises and His people, I turn to face nothing but a dismal night of darkness and ultimate despair. When I turn aside from the faith, I have no alternative but to face the darkness of despair and inevitable hollowness of nothing. Life has no meaning without faith. It has not purpose. It reaches toward nothing." **W.A Criswell**

The heart against love of the world.

Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **James 4:4**

The Shield of Faith will guard us from a wayward heart.

Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love, Here's my heart. O take and seal it; Seal it for thy courts above. **Lyrics – Come Thou Fount**

"The rich young ruler could not enter in because the gate is too narrow for the man who loves the world. One cannot hold the world in his heart and still enter into the kingdom of God. The gate is not wide enough. The road is not broad enough."

The hand that holds the Bible.

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. **Hebrews 4:12-13**

Without the Sword of the Spirit we are lost.

All of this must be rooted and protected by PRAYER:

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. **Ephesians 6:18**

Prayer Focus:

- Am I a soldier in the battle?
- Do I know I am in a battle?
- Am I ready for the battle?
- Am I battling?