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2 | OUR DEFENSE (AND OFFENSE)

BOOKS

1. Penetrating the Darkness: Discovering the Power of the Cross Against Unseen Evil and Prayer is Invading the Impossible by Jack Hayford.
2. Born for Battle by R. Arthur Mathews.
3. The Spiritual Warfare Answer Book by David Jeremiah.
4. Pulling Down Strongholds: Mighty Weapons for Spiritual Warfare by Derek Prince.
5. [Scan the code to read the teaching online.](#)



WE ARE IN A SPIRITUAL WAR!

It is through obedience to the LORD of Hosts and by being fully clothed in the armor of God that victory is won. It is not brute force, but godly character that triumphs in the battle!

1. The areas of spiritual battle, including the Church, the flesh (our old nature), the world and its values, etc., and the demonic realm (Ephesians 6:12; James 4:1-7).
 - 1 John 2:15-17 *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the **world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*
 - Romans 12:2 *Do not **conform** to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind...*
2. Our spiritual battle is not against people but against a demonic, spiritual enemy. Like the Kingdom of God, Satan's kingdom is highly strategic, organized, and united! (Ephesians 6:12)
 - Matthew 12:22-30 *...If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?...*
 - Mark 3:23-27 *So Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot*

stand; his end has come. In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can rob his house."

3. He is subtle, crafty, calculating, and scheming. 2 Corinthians 2:11 *...in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.*
4. He is fully committed to his cause. John 10:10 *The thief comes ONLY to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*
5. It is only through Christ that we have full and complete victory over our enemy. However, the only way to overcome our enemy is to entirely rely on Christ's finished work on the cross (Colossians 2:15), to be strong in the power of the LORD, and to put on the whole armor of God.
 - **Character, not brute force, wins the spiritual battle.**
 - Luke 10:19; Ephesians 6:11; Romans 16:20; Hebrews 2:14; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 John 4:4, 5:4; James 4:7; Revelation 12:11

The Armor of God represents the vital aspect of the believer's character that should become an authentic part of who we are in our spiritual journey and victory over our adversary.

THE ARMOR OF GOD | READ EPHESIANS 6:10-20 (Romans 13:12-13 The armor of light)

The Roman Empire's military success was rooted in the deep bond between its soldiers. Each man saw the next as his brother, and the thought of abandoning him in battle was unthinkable. The greater vision of the whole kept them steadfast, no matter the odds.

When Paul wrote about the armor of God, he envisioned a Roman soldier, an image familiar to him through his imprisonments. The Roman soldier represented discipline, strategic training, and readiness for battle, and they were known for their weaponry and armor. Paul used this powerful imagery in Ephesians to describe the spiritual armor believers must wear for defense and offense in the battle against spiritual forces.



1. The six pieces of armor:
 - Three are defensive weapons: The helmet, breastplate, and shield.
 - Two are offensive weapons: The shoes and sword.
 - One was considered "neutral": The belt (girdle).
2. Each piece of the armor (7 PIECES) described in Ephesians 6:10-20 symbolizes a vital aspect of Christian character and spiritual defense: truth, righteousness, readiness, faith, salvation, the Word of God, and prayer. This is a powerful reminder that our strength comes from God. To stand firm against the spiritual challenges we face, we must actively develop these traits and rely on His power to overcome the enemy's schemes.

1. The belt of TRUTH

- Aletheia: The unveiled reality lying at the basis of and agreeing with an appearance. Truthful, not concealing, integrity, moral courage. (John 8:31)
- **Point:** A critical key to victory in spiritual warfare is **clearly** understanding the true reality and recognizing what is unfolding in the spiritual realm. We risk turning on each other when confusion sets in, misidentifying the real enemy. In times of spiritual blindness, friendly fire can occur. However, when we discern the true nature of the battle, we can unite against the forces of darkness. (2 Chronicles 20:22-23; Luke 22:49-51)
- **Character trait of truth/discernment:**

2. The breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Diakaios: Conforming to God's rightness, to fulfill God's claims in contrast to the lawlessness of this world. In essence, it is obedience to God's Word and to His ways, doing right. (1 Samuel 15:22-23; Song of Solomon 2:15; Psalm 19:13-14; John 14:30)
- **Point:** Satan has authority over a life which is not submitted to God and filled with sin. David cried out to God after his horrific sin with Bathsheba and Uriah and asked that he be restored and filled with God's Spirit. (2 Samuel 11-12; Psalm 51) The warrior's character and right behavior growing from a right heart is a great defense.
- **Character trait of righteousness:**

3. Footwear of READINESS

- Hetoimasia: Preparation, adjusted, to be ready, and face the enemy with firm-footed stability. (Matthew 25:13; Mark 14:32-42; 1 Corinthians 16:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:6; 2 Timothy 2:21; Revelation 16:15)
- The imagery of "fitting your feet" refers to the need for preparation and stability in the midst of spiritual conflict. As followers of Christ, we are called to be spiritually equipped, rooted in the peace and assurance of our relationship with Him. This peace enables us to stand firm against spiritual attacks and empowers us to resist opposition and actively carry the Good News to a world in need.
- Because Peter was asleep and not ready to stand against what was about to take place (the soldiers coming to arrest Jesus just before the crucifixion), he not only reacted against the soldiers but did not have the power to stand with Jesus that night. The result was that he denied the Lord and fell away for a short time. (Matthew 26:69-75)
- **Point:** Being ready requires us to always be ready. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.*
- **Character trait of readiness:**

4. The shield of FAITH

- Pistis: To be persuaded in belief and in action, choosing to believe God and His word in the face of conflicting reality. (2 Chronicles 20:20-24; Hebrews 11:1-2, 6, 32-40)

- **Point:** Satan's arrows are his lies, deceptions and perversions of reality. True faith is active and powerful (James 2:17-26) and stands firm in the battle.
- **Character trait of faith/faithfulness:**

5. The helmet of SALVATION

- Soterion: The confident and anticipative hope of salvation, past, present and future. (1 Thessalonians 5:8-9)
- **Point:** The helmet both protected the soldier and provided a striking symbol of military victory. With His helmet, we can block out the enemy's lies, focus on God's Word, and win the battle. Salvation is our hope in the midst of battle, and our victory is both a spiritual triumph and a public declaration of Christ's power over the devil!
- **Character trait of salvation/hope:**

6. The sword of the Spirit, GOD'S WORD

- In Greek, *Rhema*, and *Logos* both mean "word" but have a distinctly different meaning in a biblical context. **Logos** refers to the general, universal Word of God—God's full revelation, truth, and message, as seen in Scripture and in Christ (John 1:1). It represents God's eternal communication. **Rhema** is more specific, referring to a spoken, timely word from God directed at a particular situation or person. It's when God's Word comes alive and speaks personally to a current need or circumstance.
- Here, the sword of the Spirit, which is the WORD of God is the word for **Rhema** — the spoken and specific Word of God. In **Matthew 4:1-11**, Jesus powerfully used Rhema, speaking Scripture directly to counter and defeat the devil's temptations. This demonstrates the power of God's spoken Word in spiritual battle. (Romans 10:17; Hebrews 4:12)
- **Point:** The battle we face is spiritual, and it must be fought in God's strength and with His Word. When Jesus was tested in the wilderness, He skillfully used Scripture to defeat the enemy. In the same way, we possess a powerful weapon in God's Word—especially when it is applied with personal understanding and sincerity.
- **Using God's Word effectively:**

7. **And pray in the Spirit** *on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*

- **Point:** This is the ultimate and active weapon in our spiritual armor, built upon and empowered by all the other elements. It is both the weapon AND how we directly engage and confront the enemy.
- **Praying dynamic, effective prayer:**

ACTION (James 2:17)

1. The key to victory over the devil: _____ to God. _____ the devil, and he WILL flee from you! (James 4:7-8)

2. Then, in the armor of God and in His strength ...*pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.* (Ephesians 6:18)



ENGAGING THE ENEMY

Deuteronomy 28:1-2,7 *The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.*

Isaiah 54:17 *"No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from Me," says the LORD.*

1. _____ is the first step in experiencing victory over the enemy.
 - James 4:7 *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.* (Deuteronomy 28:1-2,7)
2. _____ before you engage the enemy. Go through each area of the armor in the cleansing process.
 - 1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
 - Ephesians 6:10-18 *Finally, be strong in the LORD and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes (plans, trickery).*
3. Be confident in the fact that God is with you.
 - Romans 8:35-39 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?... (2 Chronicles 20:15)*
4. Engage the enemy from a _____.
 - John 16:33 *Jesus said, "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have perfect peace and confidence. In the world you have trials, distress and frustration; but be convinced, confident and courageous! I have overcome the world. I have conquered it for you."* (1 Samuel 17:49-54)
5. Praise the LORD _____ the battle.
 - 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 *...as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the Lord, for His mercy endures forever." Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated...* (Joshua 6:1-21)
6. Always _____ and pray.
 - Ephesians 6:18 *...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints...* (1 Peter 5:8)

Answers: submit | resist | submission to God | repent of sin | position of victory | in | be alert

KEY SCRIPTURES (ADDED FLIER)

1. Genesis 3:15 *(The promised Redeemer and King) And I (God) will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers (Christ); He will crush your head (resurrection), and you will strike His heel (the cross).*
2. Isaiah 54:17 *No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from Me, says the LORD.*
3. Zechariah 4:6 *Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.*
4. Luke 10:19 *Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*
5. John 16:33 *I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*
6. Romans 8:37-39 *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
7. Romans 16:20 *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.*
8. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 *The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*
9. Colossians 2:15 *And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*
10. James 4:7 *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*
11. 1 Peter 5:8-9 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith...*
12. Hebrews 2:14 *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil.*
13. 1 John 4:4, 5:4 *You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world... For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.*
14. Revelation 12:11 *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*



NEXT WEEK: Using God's Word effectively against our Adversary.