

Ephesians 6:10-14 Spiritual Warfare – The Full Armor of God Part 1

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 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, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

Week 2 on the Subject of Spiritual Warfare

A) Some Christians are surprised to find that this life as a follower of **Jesus is not a cakewalk. It is a conflict.**

B) **It is not a playground. It is a Battleground.**

1) The day you committed your life to Jesus Christ, the day you had your spiritual eyes opened,

C) **And as it says in the book of acts you turned from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God/**

1) that was the day the devil declared war on you.

The Bible says that the god of this world, speaking of Satan, had blinded our eyes.

A) Scripture tells us that we were taken captive by him to do his will.

B) **We See He had you where he wanted you before. He was quite happy with that arrangement.**

1) But we weren't

C) **We got sick and tired of being ripped off and we put our faith in Christ.**

The devil is not happy about this and he is not going to take this lying down.

A) **He is going to do everything he can to trip you up or to defeat you on this battlefield.**

B) **It has been said conversion has made our hearts a battlefield.**

1) Listen. Anyone who chooses to be on the side of the Lord Jesus Christ will face severe opposition from Satan and his followers.

C) **The devil wants to discourage us – defeat us and weaken us from being effective in the lives of others.**

“The question is not whether we will be in a spiritual war. The question is whether we will win or lose in this spiritual war. Will we advance, or will we retreat? Will we gain ground, or will we lose ground? There are no other alternatives.” Greg Laurie

We need to understand that we have everything we need in Jesus to be **Victorious if we just learn how to apply what we have been given in Christ!**

A) **Fighting not for Victory – but from a position of Victory**

B) **Last time: Strong in the Lord and in the Power of His might!**

1) **Divine strength and power is ours in JESUS**

C) **Today we are going to begin discussing the Armor that God has given to us to stand strong and Victorious in the Spiritual Battle**

Set Scene: Paul is writing from prison - chained to Roman soldier

A.) **In that setting the Lord gives him this insight into spiritual warfare**

B) **And using the very Armor that was common to the Roman Soldier God gives us a [Visual Picture] of what the Christian is to be Clothed with**

C) **Notice v11, 13 – Put on the whole Armor - Whole thing – not partial**

D) **Picture a Football player - no helmet and pads - foolish ! won't work! Hurt!**

E) Same is true of us as Christians when we seek to go through life without the armor of God – we make ourselves vulnerable

2 DIVISIONS to this Armor - HAVING & TAKING

A) 1st 3 - he says *"having girded waist w/ truth; having put on the breastplate of Righteousness, having shod feet w/ ..."*

B) By using the word *"having"* puts this in the past tense /

1) Something that has already happened - when did this happen? {Moment received Jesus Christ

C) Application is this: The first 3 pieces of armor deal w/ who you are in Christ. Your position in Christ

1) They deal w/ knowing what Christ has done **for you and in you!** **Not redoing but knowing!**

D) Example: You don't go out each day and re-check the registration on your car! Make sure this is my car

1) You know! (*wish it wasn't*) but you know it – have it - Just put key in and Drive

E) So the first three pieces have already been given to us – they just need to be applied by us

1) So the first three deal with who you are in Christ!

The 2nd set of armor has to do with – Who Christ is in YOU!

A) Their reference is in the present tense! *Daily take up our shield; our helmet and our sword- Praying Always*

B) Daily applying these pieces of armor in the battle that we find ourselves in!

C) Distinction – Having and Taking – think of it this way:

1) **The first three.** The belt, the breastplate, and the shoes of the soldier were attached to the body and really never removed.

D) **The second three** the shield, the helmet, and the sword **were for specific purposes** and methods of attack.

Ray Stedman

“The armor is nothing more than a symbolic description of the Lord himself. The armor is Christ, and what he is prepared to be, and to do, in and to each one of us. When Paul speaks of these various pieces, he is speaking of Christ and how we are to regard him, how we are to lay hold of him as our defense against the stratagems of the devil. It is not merely Christ available to us, but Christ actually appropriated by us.”

Why do we Daily put on the armor? Because The devil never takes a day off.

A) Wouldn't it be nice if Satan took like a month off?

B) Somehow we found out Satan is taking November off. That is going to be an amazing November

C) Or Satan is taking Mondays off now. Mondays are devil free.

1) Satan doesn't take a month off. He doesn't take a day off. He doesn't take an hour off.

2) He doesn't take five minutes off.

D) Never goes on vacation - He is always on duty looking for lives to ruin.

1) Reason He never takes time off? -He knows his time is short

E) For that reason it is essential that we make sure we are clothed in the armor of God

Today we will focus on those first 3 pieces of armor - having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

A) As Paul is sitting in prison next to soldier - the 1st thing the Lord draws his attention to is the **belt around waist!**

B) Roman Tunic / purpose of belt - hold in his tunic-GIRDED UP

1) Idea is readiness! / Freedom of movement- not entangle

2 Timothy 2:4 *No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.*

C) Satan wants to Entangle you w/ the things of this life & one way that he tries to do that is by Loosen that Belt of Truth

D)If you and I are going to stand strong against the attacks of the enemy

1)It is important that we first of all have this belt of truth on.

E)Also note - Holds breastplate in place / the Sword is attached to it

What is the belt of truth we are to have on represent?

A)The Foundation for truth is the gospel which centers in Jesus who is the embodiment of God's Truth!

John 1:14 states of Jesus, "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

B)The Belt of truth is about having our foundation Right about who Jesus is –

1)who and claimed to be and what He did to prove it.

C)Every other piece of the armor feeds off of this foundation of truth!

D)Which is why the Devil is forever attacking – the person of Jesus

E)Jesus was a good man – a great teacher – a do-gooder – but was not God!

1)Jesus is a way – not the way – one of many ways

Jesus claimed to be God in Human flesh – why they wanted to kill him – blasphemy

A)Jesus said – Seen me seen the Father – Jesus said – He was the Way

B)He proved all of those statements and everything else he ever said about himself –

1)Died on the cross – 3 days later – Rose again

C)So that is what it means for us to be girded in this truth

1)and why this is so foundation and the key to everything really

D)**All the "controversial"** parts of the Bible that Satan and skeptics and those who don't like the church – love to question

E)I can embrace them as truth because Jesus spoke of them as FACT

1)CREATION –

JONAH AND THE FISH

A)Flood and Noah –

B)Reality of Heaven or of Hell

1)Sodom and Gomorrah –

Listen Jesus Spoke about every single one of those things as FACT!

A)JESUS cannot be right about who He is – God in human flesh – the only way – proved by his Resurrection!

B)He can't be right about that – and wrong on Creation – Wrong about Jonah

1)Wrong about Heaven

C)So His Resurrection from the dead – validates everything that he said and taught

D)So being armed with the belt of truth is about being secure in my heart as it relates to Jesus -

1)Such freedom in that!

John 8:32 - "*Know the truth and the truth shall set you free! / V.36 -..... son makes free is free indeed!*"

A)The world says that following Jesus is bondage – restrictive – the opposite is TRUE

His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue. 2 Peter 1:3

B)key to full life – abundant life – the purpose WE were made to Live in relationship with God in a way that brings him glory

1)That is all made available to us in Jesus -

C) Anything less than that is – not living –
1) Opposite of that is slavery – because self is never satisfied

D) Anything less than that is Dangerous and puts us on collision course for Disaster!

Battleship was out one night in Stormy conditions - The visibility was poor with patchy fog, so the captain remained on the bridge keeping an eye on all activities. Shortly after dark, the lookout on the wing of the bridge reported, "Light, bearing on the starboard bow." the captain called out. "Is it steady or moving astern?"

Lookout replied, "Steady, captain," which meant we were on a dangerous collision course with that ship.

The captain then called to the signalman, "Signal that ship: We are on a collision course, advise you change course 20 degrees." Back came a signal, "Advisable for you to change course 20 degrees." The captain said, "Send, I'm a captain, change course 20 degrees." "I'm a petty officer second class," came the reply. "You had better change course 20 degrees." By that time, the captain was furious. He spat out, "Send, I'm a battleship. Change course 20 degrees." Back came the flashing light, "I'm a lighthouse."

The Battleship changed its course.

Jesus is like that lighthouse pointing to the way of life, safety and God, and we are like that battleship.

A) In our human arrogance, we chart our own course and demand that the world adjust itself to our wishes.

B) But God's truth In JESUS is unchanging, unbending, unyielding.

C) It is not God's duty to alter His truth.

1) It is our responsibility to chart our course according to the light of His Word, which is ultimate, objective reality.

D) If we fail to do so, we risk running our lives aground.

E) So the Belt of Truth – represents – who Jesus is / Who I am in Him /

Now watch how these other pieces of armor are connected to this Belt

A) Next Paul moves to the Breastplate of Righteousness – the Breast plate of the Roman Soldier was fastened to the belt –

B) And likewise there is a connection between the belt of truth and the Breastplate of righteousness

C) The Breastplate – consisted of 2 parts of layered metal scales that was fastened upon leather –

1) One that covered the front & the other the back

Notice that the breast Plate covered the VITAL organs – in fact in Roman times – it was called the HEART GUARD !!!

A) That the area of the Chest that covered that area of the VITAL organs the Heart/ Lungs / intestines / abdomen /

B) Covered that area central to emotions – the heart

1) THIS IS IMPORTANT because Satan plays on our emotions –

2) Big weapons are Guilt & Condemnation {Breastplate crucial

So what is this Breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS – THE layered ASPECT OF THE Breastplate gives us a clue .

A) It speaks to us of two aspects of our Righteousness IN CHRIST – IMPUTED & IMPARTED

B) 1st look at IMPUTED POSITIONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS

C) The Bible speaks of righteousness that is imputed to all who believe

Romans 3:21- 22, But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God which is through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all who believe.

Romans 4:24, It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification. NKJV

D) Paul declares that there is a righteousness of God APART FROM THE LAW -

1) The Law is RIGHTEOUS – Problem is we can't follow it

E) So the Law Condemns us - **Guilt ridden – We feel guilty because we are guilty**

1) Satan plays on that and accuses us.

But there is a Righteousness of God that is apart from the Law

A) It is the Righteousness of Christ – that is Imputed or Transferred when believe in Jesus

B) Paul put it this way in 2 Corinthians 5:21 *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

C) Key is in that last Phrase – IN HIM - We come to Christ – thru faith /

1) He comes to Live in us thru His Spirit

D) But we are also placed IN HIM – The Father sees us righteous in His Son –

1) Covered in the righteousness of Christ –

Jesus who was Sin-free became sin-filled so that we who were sin-filled could become sin-free

This aspect of our Breastplate - Speaks of our POSITION IN CHRIST –

Isaiah 61:10 - I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

A) God sees us Robed or covered in the Righteousness of Christ

1) As a result of this Paul wrote in Romans 8:1 - *No Condemnation.... in Christ*

Now it is important that we understand – because Satan is the accuser of the brethren – this righteousness becomes our Breastplate, of Protection

A) This is basically how it works –

B) The devil comes along & finds us flat on our faces in some failure & he begins to Condemn us!!

C) He places thoughts in our minds (fiery Darts) like how can you call yourself a Christian – blowing it like that”

1) *Fight w/ your wife: Supposed to be Mr. Christian/ Bob the godly husband - yea right -*

D) Great influence on Kids - why pray / give it up / FAILURE –worthless {

But this is how this IMPUTED righteousness works / Protects us

A) When Satan the accuser of the brethren comes along seeking to condemn us like this / pointing out our failure

B) Here is how we respond – You are right / it is true everything that you are saying is absolutely right – I blew it –

1) But oh how thankful I am that my Righteousness has nothing to do w/ whether I fail or Succeed

C) But everything to do w/ the Fact that Jesus did not fail but He succeeded

1) He died for my sin & Rose again & now I am Righteous in HIM

D) There is no Condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus –

That is the Protection of God's truth – found in IMPUTED Positional Righteousness – that is the First layer

A) However there is a second layer – Briefly Discuss – would call Imparted Practical Righteousness

B) This is how we can move from our failure to more consistently living in Victory

C) It is imparted to us because it comes to us directly from the Lord & is the Direct work of God's Spirit in our Lives

1) In 2 Pet. 1:4 We are told that we have become *Partakers of a divine nature*

D) Salvation is not merely the Declaration that we are now Righteous but it is Simultaneously an impartation of the DIVINE nature of God

LJ puts it this way

“ The Seed has been put into me, and that seed grows and develops. This is what is meant by the idea of ‘imparting’ righteousness. Another term that has sometimes been used states that the righteousness is ‘infused’ into me. It is not only put upon me as a cloak and a covering, but also ‘infused’ into me. It is comparable to a blood transfusion where the blood from one person is put into the circulation and the blood of another. It can be ‘transfused’ or ‘infused’, ‘injected’, ‘imparted’ --- these are all terms which stand for the same operation.” MLJ

E) That transfusion of God’s life and power into my life – results in Power to live righteously to walk victoriously in this world

*Eph.3: 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to **the power** that works in us,*

*Col. 1: 29 To this end I also labor, striving **according to His working** which works in me mightily.*

C) That is what has been made available to me thru Christ

1) Divine nature – imparted righteousness – the ability through Christ to live more consistently a life marked by righteousness – following Jesus His way

So having on the Breast Plate of Righteousness is Knowing I have been made Righteous in Christ

A) And that the Lord has imparted / infused w/ in me the power to live a Righteous life thru the Holy Spirit living inside of me / as I yield to Him

B) As I walk in the Spirit and not after the Flesh
1) Discover that God’s Commandments Become God’s enablements –

C) Confidence in the battle – I can be victorious

Now the next piece of armor is directly connected to this righteousness that we experience as a result of God’s truth - 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace

**A) Good shoes are a necessity - Doberman Story
..... Ran Baseball – worn out cleats –**

B) And when talking about soldiers a good pair is vital part of their equipment

1) Needed for marching / climbing / running / being sure-footed in fighting the enemy!

C) Shoe of the Roman soldier was a specially designed sandal w/ a thick leather bottom

1) In the leather was attached nails called hobnails

D) When wearing this sandal the soldier could step on stakes thorns, rocks - & not be fazed at all! {

1) In hand to hand combat the nails would grab into any surface allowing him to stand steadfast & fight !

So they had this especially designed shoe for battle & God has given us such a shoe so that we can Stand / withstand / standfast – { Immovable

A) Now what do these shoes represent? What is this peace referred to here?

B) 1st consider what it doesn’t represent

1) Doesn’t mean sharing the gospel

In Romans 10:15 - Paul said how beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace: who bring glad tidings of good things!"

C) Because of that some have taught that having your feet covered w/ the gospel of peace means - to be preaching the gospel

D) But a simple rule of interpretation in scripture is to take the verse in context w/ rest of passage

1) This passage is about standing strong in spiritual battle it **is not about evangelizing!**

Now it is true that the gospel is awesome & we need to share it / & there is a blessing to those who do!

A) It transforms the lives and brings peace to those who receive it

B) The focus here is on spiritual warfare – the focus is on what you have IN CHRIST

1) Not something you do for Christ

C) So what does having your feet shod w/ preparation of the gospel of peace represent? /

1) TWO SHOES - 2 aspects of this peace

Because we have embraced the truth concerning who Jesus is and what Jesus did to save us

A) We are now covered in the righteousness of Christ

B) God sees us now not in our sin but in His Son – Saved redeemed / righteous

C) Which means that now we get to experience being at Peace w/ God

Romans 5:1,2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace w/ God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

D) Knowing that we have been declared righteous – (Embraced truth) We have peace with God!

We were enemies – we were rebellious

A) But we have been brought near – brought in as Kids, Beloved – Peace with God is the First aspect

B) Knowing that we are at peace with God helps us then to experience the peace of God – in every situation.

C) PEACE OF GOD is the second aspect

Philippians 4:6,7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

How does it relate to the battle:

A) Our enemy Jesus described as a thief and a robber - and he seeks to rob us of our peace!

B) One tactic of the enemy is to make you feel being at peace w/God isn't as easy as just believing in Jesus 1) You (**must do more**)

C) God's word tells us that salvation is a gift that we receive –

1) but Satan **says no/ not that easy you need to earn it**

D) Instead of just receiving & enjoying Him / Satan Tries to get us to seek to earn favor we already have

Another way is thru the storms & that come into our lives

A) What is opposite of peaceful setting? **stormy !-**

B) exactly what he seeks to do - when storms into your life!

C) He is the author of confusion: of chaos – Tactic “ **you wouldn't be going thru this if God really loved you – really was w/ You**”

Jesus warned his disciples of coming difficulty and tribulation

John 16:33 - These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

It is a given that as believers we are going to face difficulties -

A) But having my feet shod w/ the preparation of gospel of peace means:

B) that I can experience the peace of God in the midst of that situation –

1) because I know I'm at peace WITH God!

C) JESUS IS WITH ME – FOR ME – COMMITTED TO ME!

Close on this thought:

Everything I have said in this message is for the follower of Jesus Christ. It is for the Christian.

This is not for the nonbeliever. Listen. The nonbeliever can't put on the armor of God. The nonbeliever cannot resist the devil.

In fact a lot of times for you a temptation is an opportunity isn't it?

A) Maybe you have come to discover what a rip off this is.

B) Maybe you are finally figuring out how empty life is without God.

1) Maybe you have taken a lot of those things Satan has offered – this will make you happy

C)The opposite has happened – enslaved to those things

1)and you have realized those things are ruining your life.

Here is the difference between God's plan for you and Satan's plan for you.

A)Jesus said speaking of the devil, "The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy". In contrast Jesus said, "But I have come that you might have life and that more abundantly". John 10:10

B)Here is your choice. Death or life. Hell or heaven. Chaos or Christ.

C)The Devil wants to keep you from this God of love.

You say, "I will fight the devil on my own." How?

A)"I have got a silver bullet." Maybe it will kill an imaginary werewolf – It won't stop Satan.

B)"I have garlic. I hang it around my neck."

1)That will keep your friends away. It won't keep the devil away.

C)The only power that Satan fears is the power of Jesus Christ.

1)You need Christ living inside of you.

D)Opportunity to receive Jesus right now –

Let's pray!