

Ephesians 6:10-18 Spiritual Warfare – The Full Armor of God Part 2

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

INTRO: In 1845 two ships carrying 138 of England's finest sailors set sail for the Arctic: Led by Captain Sir John Franklin.

A) Their Task? To chart the N.W. Passage around the Canadian Arctic to the Pacific Ocean

B) They hoped that this effort would be the turning point in Arctic Exploration: **History shows it was!**

1) Not because of its success, but because of its failure.

C) **The ships never returned; every crew member perished**

1) And those who followed in the expeditions path to the pole learned this Valuable lesson:

➤ **Prepare for the Journey!**

D) It seems that Franklin's crew didn't

Although the voyage was projected to last 2 to 3 years, they only carried a 12 day supply of coal for the auxiliary steam engines.

A) What they lacked in fuel they made up for in entertainment.

B) Each ship carried a 1,200 volume library

C) **A hand organ, china place settings for officers, as well as cut glass wine goblets and sterling flatware**

1) They were More prepared for a Caribbean Cruise than an Arctic Expedition

D) **The sailors didn't bring any special clothing to protect them from the cold.**

1) Only their regular uniforms which were **Noble - respectful, but thin and inadequate**

Well as these two ships sailed ill-prepared into frigid waters the inevitable occurred

A) **Ice coated the deck - the sea froze around the rudder - the ship was trapped**

B) **The crew was stuck in freezing temperatures without proper supplies or clothing -**

1) They all died - either from starvation or because they froze to death - **Because not prepared for the journey**

C) Well Paul writing here in Ephesians 6 – **ALSO WANTS US TO BE PREPARED –**

1) NOT FOR ARTIC EXPEDITION – BUT FOR BATTLE

D) Noted "*The Christian life is not a playground but a battleground*".

1) But Our enemy would like us to think the opposite.

E) He wants to dupe us into thinking that this is a cakewalk not a conflict

1) When the heats is turned up we are caught off guard

But Jesus never said that being his follower was going to be easy –

A) In fact he said quite the opposite many times –

Aa) We looked at one of those references last time: **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."*

B) The very fact that Jesus has overcome the world – means that you and I in Christ can also be overcomers in this battle –

Now This is our third study in our look at Spiritual Warfare

A) 1st Dealt with Satan & His Strategy / plus God's exhortation for us to Stand – strong in the power of HIS MIGHT

B) Last time in our 2nd study we began to look at the armor that God has provided for us. {Paul in Prison – God gives him a visual illustration

C) We noted a distinction between the pieces of Armor – the first 3 are mentioned in the past tense – *Having Belt of truth / Breastplate of Righteousness / Shoes of peace!!!*

The Focus of these first 3 pieces of armor are on who you are in Christ- Our position in Him

A)They describe the Results of your salvation

- Standing in the truth of who Jesus is and who you are in Him
- Standing in the Righteousness that he supplies
- Standing knowing that because of Christ's work you are at peace with God which means you can experience the peace of God.

B)So These first three pieces of armor are about who you are in Christ! – Our position in Him

The 2nd four pieces of armor SPEAK OF who Christ is in you!

"Greater is He that is in You than He that is in the world" 1 John 4:4

A)The First 3 pieces of the armor were always attached to the Soldier when he was on duty

B)The next pieces of armor that Paul mentions had to be physically picked up and carried
1)Daily take up the shield; daily taking the helmet and putting it on, taking out the sword and wielding it

C)The same thing is true of the Armor of God –
1)Truth is attached – it is the foundation,

D)Righteousness is ours in Jesus –
1)Peace with God is ours through Christ - Position

E)But we have to daily take up the Shield of faith
1)daily put on the Helmet of Salvation – daily take up the sword of the Spirit – Praying always

Pick up today in V.16 considering first the Shield of faith

16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery Darts of the wicked one.

There were Two shields used by Roman soldiers in Paul's day!

A)One small round, light, Attached to wrist - hand to hand combat

B)The other shield was large - 2 1/2 feet wide and 4 to 5 feet tall-

1)It was made of Solid wood - covered in metal/

C)It is this Larger Shield Paul is referring to Here

D)These shields were sometimes referred to as Doors because they covered the Whole man!!!

1) This shield was used by the Romans as a very vital piece of their armament!

In those days one of the finest weapons of the enemy was the arrow! Shoot from distance -

A) Sometimes The enemy would often take the arrows & wrap the tip with cloth - covered w/ pitch

B)Light on fire - become flaming missiles! / Hit target – not only puncture but burn

C)So Soldiers take their shield and squat behind it and be completely protected!

D) The shield was an excellent defense against these flaming missiles because it couldn't puncture

1)And the metal extinguished the flaming arrow missiles!

As this Shield covered the entire SOLDIER against the flaming arrows of his enemy –

A)The Shield of Faith covers us from the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Victor Hugo the author of the classic book Les Miserables made this statement, **"A good general must penetrate the brain of his enemy".**

B)That is true. Our enemy the devil. Has his own Fiery darts/ flaming arrows

1) thoughts he shoots into our brain.

Think for a minute: Do A quick poll. How many of you have ever sinned? Raise your hand. Wow.

A)You are a wicked bunch of people.

B)No seriously my hand was up too.

C)If you will trace back that sin I think you would find that it started with a thought -right?

D)The Devil is smart he knows the lust in us that are easy to ignite-

1)He shoots the arrow of that thought of temptation – Why not ?

You looking at some cookies and someone says would you like a free sample.

A)Yes I would! A sample won't hurt – Costco

B)You are shopping – look at a dress – price tag – too much –

1) the sales person who sees you and says why don't you try it on. Look great on you! – Really think so

C)Man with his wife – Look but don't buy – comes home with new Dress – the devil made me do it

1)get behind me Satan – I did – He said it looked good from that side too.

The Devil is like that – He knows the buttons to push

A)He knows the area's that we are the most vulnerable –

B)He shoots those thoughts into our mind – ignite things like fear or depression – insecurity –

1)Even Suicide – Oregon story

C)How stupid – Lord forgive me and teach me to fight

The Devil is good at Igniting thoughts of Doubt - Pride - Bitterness – even Hatred

A)He is really good at getting us to think that – there is no hope – there is no way out –for us

B)We need to recognize where these thoughts are coming from –

C)**McCheyene** { Like them? } Hate them - *Not your thoughts*

So how is faith like a shield?

A)1ST **FAITH IS LIKE A SHEILD** – because it covers the whole man

B)the Shield of Faith covers us entirely against the fiery darts.....

Psalm 5:12 For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as with a shield.

Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

Romans 10:17 - **"Faith comes by hearing & hearing by the Word of God"**

C)It is our Faith in the Lord and the truth of God's Word –

1)the truth about Who Jesus is and what He has done that covers us

D)Faith is acting upon belief. Faith is decision, action, resolution.

1) Faith is saying, *"Yes, I believe Christ is the truth.*

E)He is my righteousness, he is my peace.

Therefore I am going to respond & live in that reality

Faith is working out the implications of belief.

A)It is taking the general truth and applying it to the specific situation and saying,

B)"If this be true, then this must follow." That is the shield of faith.

1 John 5:4,5 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-- **our faith.** Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

C) Notice it is Faith not our feelings helps us to be overcomers /

1) Listen feelings will come and go / My feelings are effected by the type of day - what you might eat!

D) Give me some Mexican food and dessert – my head is spinning – feelings all over the place!

Our problem is we have grown accustomed to believing our feelings as though they were facts!

A) We never take them and say is this true? Instead because of how feeling -

B) I feel this way - therefore it must be true!

1) This is why so many are constantly defeated - living by feelings

C) Our faith is must be anchored in truth –

So Faith is Like a Shield First of all Because it Covers the Whole Man –

A) **Above all** – We need Faith to rest in and walk in the truth that has been accomplished for us in Christ – Righteousness – Peace

B) Note: Faith works in conjunction with the Sword of the Spirit which is the word of God

B) Question – How does the Sword of the Spirit being the Word of God different from the Belt of Truth?

1) Great question – glad you asked it

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. John 1:1-2

A) When John refers to the Word there he uses the Word Logos – The embodiment of who Jesus is He is the truth – He is the Life – Everything is bound up in Him

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

B) When Paul says the Sword of the Spirit is the word of God –

1) he uses a different word to describe the word – The Word is “Rhema”

C) Logos is Broad – the whole essence of who Jesus is

1) Rhema is specific – speaks of specific words for specific situations

D) The Roman soldier used his sword in hand to hand combat –

1) We use the Sword of the spirit the same way – Illustrate how this works

When the enemy comes and attacks me during prayer saying - He doesn't hear you!

A) It is w/ the shield of faith that I remind myself of

PSA 34:15-18

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry. The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit. Psalm 34:15-18

B) When enemy comes trying to discourage me not to worship - you sound horrible - you are in sin

C) With the shield of faith I am reminded that **God is Spirit and he is looking for those to worship him in Spirit and in truth!** John 4:24

D) Faith responds: - That He inhabits the praises of his people

When the enemy shoots that arrow that says - you can't do anything - you are too weak

A) With the shield of faith - *I respond you are right But His grace is sufficient for me, and His strength is made perfect in weakness.* 2 Corinthians 12:9

B) When the enemy comes and whispers - your sin is great! Faith Responds: His grace is greater

C) When he shoots that arrow - God has cast you off - gone too far! Faith responds - no way -

1) "He hates putting away – He does not cast off his people, neither does He forsake his heritage". Psalm 94:14

2) Never leave or forsake you – Hebrews 13:5

When the enemy throws the fiery dart of fear into my mind

A) Faith responds: **God has not given me as spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind!** 2 Timothy 1:7

B)So faith works in conjunction with the Sword of the spirit – faith grabs a hold of specific truth

1)That is fitting for the attack at hand!

C)This is why it is so important for us to hide God's word in our hearts

1)It is how we in Faith – strike down the fiery darts of the wicked one

D)Every lie – the enemy throws our way – We can respond in faith like Jesus did - **It is written –**

E)So those are some examples of how we handle the Shield of Faith –and the Sword of the Spirit work hand in hand to quench the fiery darts of the enemy

One last thing about This Shield of Faith !

A)Often times in battle the soldiers would ban together w/ their shields standing side by side shields up & over head

B)Make a human tank / march on their enemy / united & bound together / covered by their shields

C)To me this is a perfect picture of what the Lord can do when His people are bound in faith ! -

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. ¹ Peter 5:8-9

Listen. This is a global fight. We are all in this battle together.

A)Peter is saying you are not fighting that lion all by yourself.

B)Pull together with your fellow soldiers and lock shields together as you march forward in the battle that God has called us into.

**C)Be real with one another – have friends call –
1)I am struggling –**

**D)Stand with each other
1)Pray for each other –**

Some of you have been listening to the Lies of the enemy – filling your heart with

Fear/ Anxiety / Discouragement/ Condemnation

THOSE ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS!

Today: Repent for entertaining them:

Repent = Change mind/ results change of attitude
Action and direction

Leave today: Walking in and Resting in the truth about who you are IN CHRIST!

RELYING UPON – Victory that is ours in Christ

Others: You're Listening to your feelings – NOT TRUE

Need to stand today – withstand today – Faith in Facts – TRUTH – GOD SEES YOU

GOD SAYS ABOUT YOU:

APPLE OF HIS EYE

SON/ DAUGHTER – beloved, well pleased

He hasn't cast you off – or forsaken you!

Reminder:

Armor – Is for those who are in Christ