

Ephesians 6:10-24 Spiritual Warfare – The Full Armor of God Part 3

Intro: This is our 4th and final study dealing with the subject of Spiritual Warfare – and we'll also finish the book of Ephesians [Rd v.10-20]

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—19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

In our look at the Armor of God

A) We have seen a division between the pieces of Armor – { Represented in the words *Having & taking*

B) Concerning the first three pieces of Armor – Paul says V.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

C) The word **having speaks** of that which is in the past tense –

1) We noted that while on duty – the Roman soldier would always be wearing his belt, breastplate, shoes

Spiritually - These 3 pieces of the armor depict that which we already possess in Christ!

A) They each depict something that is a regular aspect of who we are in Christ

B) Set free by the truth – Made righteous through the righteousness of Christ

1) We have a present standing in Christ of being **AT PEACE WITH GOD!**

C) So the first three pieces of the armor depict who we are in Christ

D) But in V.16 there is a shift as Paul moves from looking at our position in Christ – daily Practice

From who you are in Christ to who Christ is in You and for you in your daily life – V16 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; praying always....

A) Last time we looked at two of these aspects of the armor – the **shield of faith & Sword of the spirit**

B) Above all = Shield – is important [**It Covers the whole man**] – *The Just shall live by Faith* – Refers to that basic trust in the Lord –

C) It takes daily faith to stand in the truth that I am free /

1) To believe that I am Righteous / to believe that I am at peace with God –

C) It takes Faith to apply truth!

Last week we also looked that the Sword of the Spirit – which is the Word of God –

A) Word = rhema – Specific word for specific situation

B) Fear – **Not given a spirit of fear but power love and a sound mind!**

C) Not giving into these feelings of fear

1) So often the problem is we accept our feelings at fact – this must be true because I feel this way! / **God hates me**

Listen, our feelings are 100% real, but not always 100% honest.

A) So we apply the truth of God's RHEMA word – to combat those feelings

B) That is how we can stand in TRUTH!

1) Rather than being dictated by our feelings

C) Well today – we are going to finish up by talking about the Helmet of salvation

1) and the weapon of prayer

D) And then we will finish up our study in the book of Ephesians

E) What is the Helmet of Salvation?

Paul answers that question for us in 1 Thessalonians 5:8 - Speaking of the Coming again of our Lord - "But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation."

A) Hope = Absolute expectation of coming good! Bank on it! Plan your life around that event!

B) Hope is not - I hope I make it. – It is a surety this is going to happen!

C) So, having on the Helmet of Salvation means that I can stand absolutely assured - That my salvation is secure!

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. John 5:24

¹¹ And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God. 1 John 5:11-13

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate

us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

The Lord is saying – I want you to know beyond the shadow of a doubt you are saved! - LOVED

A) Sometimes I meet believers who think they have committed the unpardonable sin –

B) Consequently lost their salvation?

C) I will ask them why do you think that?

1) I did something really bad – or I denied Christ – I didn't stand up for Christ – Peter did too.

D) Or I yelled at God and told him I was mad at him

- So did David – a man after God's own heart!

E) Listen the only sin that is unforgivable is rejecting Jesus – No longer believe and die in that STATE

The very fact that you are concerned about this is a sign you are saved –

A) If really rejected JESUS/ You wouldn't care

B) But the enemy of our souls doesn't want us to live with an assurance.

1) Throws fiery darts – if you were really saved – this wouldn't be happening to you.

C) OR Doesn't the Bible say – he will not give you more than you can handle –

1) The Bible doesn't say that – quite the opposite

In the Bible God is always giving people more than they can handle in their own strength

A) Moses – Red Sea – Joshua and Jericho – Gideon 300 vs 185,000

B) Paul his thorn in the flesh

1) Why does God do that? – He is always wanting to take us from being self-dependent to God dependent

C) But why does that idea get promoted so much? God will not give you more than you can handle?

Because many people misinterpret this verse

1 Corinthians 10:13 which says - ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the

temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.

Let's break down this verse for a moment

¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man – no new temptation/ tactic

A) Satan's strategy hasn't changed much – all temptation – lust of the flesh, eyes, pride

B) So first of all the context is temptation - but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able,

C) There it is – God will not allow me to be tempted beyond what you are able –

1) Isn't that the same as saying he won't give me more than I can handle?

D) No – it isn't – again this is talking temptation – God will not allow you to be tempted.....

1) Cancer is not a temptation – Job loss is not a temptation – hard things to deal with

E) Sure there is temptation that CAN follow those TYPE OF things

1) Remember – at the heart of all temptation is for us to act independently of God – OWN HANDS

Paul says, God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able,

A) Here is why? but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.

B) For everything of temptation that this world or the Devil or our flesh throws at us –

1) Paul is saying – we never have to give into it

That is how we stand strong in the truth of who we are in Christ!

A) So having on the Helmet of Salvation is being absolutely assured that my salvation is secure.

B) Being secure – noting can separate me from the Love that is in Christ Jesus!

1) Not even myself – own stupidity

Having on the Helmet of Salvation also means - I am secure in the Hope of heaven

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I

go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. John 14:1-3

A) Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us and he will come again to receive us to himself.

B) Having on the Helmet of Salvation is knowing that I have an inheritance in Jesus

1 Peter 1:3,4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **to an inheritance incorruptible** and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

C) I have an inheritance in Christ Jesus - that is incorruptible, undefiled, and doesn't fade away, **reserved in heaven for you!**

D) Your inheritance is reserved for you! – You have a reservation

When my wife and I are going on vacation somewhere –

A) I am the one that researches where – makes the plans and reservations

B) I will read tons of reviews on that Hotel – or that place – or that Airbnb

C) Because I want to get our money's worth –

1) and I want to bless my wife in taking her somewhere that is going to be really nice

Once I make the reservation – I live with this sense of dreaded hope – **I hope it is as good as the picture**

A) Experienced a few – something wasn't – apologizing to Denise – looked way better in pic

B) I am hoping the fact that there was way more positive reviews than negative is really true

C) So there **is this trepidation that is in my heart – until we get there –**

1) I am either going to be blessed or disappointed

Listen when it comes to heaven and the inheritance that we have in Christ there is no need for fear anxiety or trepidation

A) Heaven and our inheritance throughout eternity with Jesus is going to be way better than we could ever imagine

B) Paul in a vision – Human words could not describe

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9

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, ²¹ to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen Ephesians 3:20

C) So Having on the Helmet of Salvation is living in the awareness that

I am going to heaven! ASSURANCE

1) That Jesus my hope is coming again - take me to be with himself

D) Helps me live with the right perspective in this life – this world is not my home –

1) I am just passing through

E) Now The enemy tries to get me focused on this life – overly concerned about this world & the things of this world

The helmet of salvation is constantly reminding me – I belong to another Kingdom – have a King

A) Living here is living as a part of his Kingdom

B) On earth as it is in Heaven –

C) How do we represent His Kingdom here Vs trying to build my own Kingdom

1) Or getting caught up in the Kingdom that – he is against

D) So that is the Helmet of Salvation!

1) Living with perspective and Hope and purpose

Notice how Paul wraps this up V.18 –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

A) The weapon of prayer – also offensive – like the Sword

Prayer is an important weapon: Three reasons why –

A) #1 v.18 – Prayer is a mark of our dependency upon God : (*praying always*)

Jon Bunyan *"You can do more than pray, after you have prayed, but can't do more than pray until you have prayed.*

B) 1 Thessalonians 5:17 *"pray w/out ceasing?"*
What does that mean? - **Can't constantly pray!**

C) It means to live in constant communion w/ the Lord!

1) Keeping in touch /always aware of His presence
Always aware of HIS KINGDOM

This is how we live in this World – this Kingdom – but for His Kingdom

A) Constantly seeking his guidance

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. – Proverbs 3:5-6

B) Lord I can't do this without you – so please help me – guide me

#2 Prayer is a mark of being Watchful - praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end

A) Being watchful and alert is a key for those who in battle –

B) Never want to be taken off guard!

C) Garden of Gethsemane – **the Disciples were sleeping** when Jesus asked them to watch with him – 3 X

D) The enemy came they didn't know how to respond – Peter – sword and chopped off a guy's ear

1) All the disciples ended up fleeing
Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak." Matthew 26:41

"Watch" is a word meaning to have vigilant awareness, like a sentry at night.

A) A sentry is to be on guard for anything out of order, for the enemy's advance,

B) Watching, in this spiritual sense of watching and praying, is being aware of the snares of the world.

First Peter 5:8 warns, "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

So Prayer is a mark of our watchfulness being alert in the battle

#3 Prayer is a mark of our perseverance 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

Pray with Persistence: Keep on praying - don't quit

A) Have you ever prayed for something and felt like no one was listening? - I have

B) Or time and time again - you bring your request before the Lord and yet nothing changes!

1) What do you do then?

C) **If you are like most people tempted to give up** Don't do that! - Don't quit!

D) Effective prayer involves endurance - like running a marathon!

Matthew 7:7, 8 - Jesus made a wonderful promise: "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

A) What most people fail to realize is this is a conditional promise

B) Unfortunately the condition is missed in most our English translations: **The condition is perseverance**

C) In the Greek - literal - rendering needs. **Keep on asking - keep on seeking; keep on knocking**

D) We must endure in Prayer!

Sometimes our tendency is to think- I can't do anything else so I guess I should better pray

A) We wrongly view prayer as our last resort - when in reality it needs to be our first resort and our constantly resort

B) Praying is the most effective and powerful thing that I can do -

1) We should pray until something happens or God tells us to stop

C) Part of the way - we wage effective warfare is through prayer!

D) There is Power in Prayer! - Don't forget that!

Paul knew that - Notice how he wraps up this chapter - he says V.19 Pray for me that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Note this: Paul prays that he would have boldness in declaring the gospel

A) Why was this Paul's prayer? I think it was because he didn't always have boldness

B) Encouragement to me - I don't always have boldness either

C) **Lack boldness - good company - Joshua be strong and courageous - Why - he wasn't**

1) Corinth - **Paul don't be afraid** - why - he was

D) But when our emotions get the best of us - prayer is a great way of combating that -

1) So Pray ALWAYS

FINISH: But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you;²² whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that he may comfort your hearts. **SENDING A MESSENGER**

²³ Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ **Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.**