

FOUNDATIONS

week 6

Read: Ephesians 6:4-20 (Use two different translations for fuller understanding.)

What do we learn about God in this passage? What parts of His character are on display?

Where should our strength come from? What other sources are you tempted to draw strength from?

In the current climate in our country, who/what do our battles seem to be against?
How does this compare with what we're told in this passage?

What are some of the dangers of going into battle with only certain parts of God's armor, but not the full equipment? Consider what it might look like to be missing each piece individually.

All of the pieces of armor mentioned are defensive, except for one.
Which piece of God's armor is the only offensive weapon? Why is this significant?

What might happen if we attempt to use our own skills and abilities in an attack?

Recall a time when you've tried to stand in your own power, and your own might.
What was the outcome?

Using any weapon well takes training to learn it, and time to practice. What are some ways you can become more comfortable handling the Sword of the Spirit? Where do you need more training?

READ: Romans 5:2; 1 Corinthians 15:1; 1 Corinthians 16:13; Colossians 4:12

What are some of the other gifts God gives us as Christians to stand in?

How do these gifts work in tandem with, and mutually support, the full armor God provides?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for providing everything we need to protect and guard our faith and our hearts, and to stand firm in any attack. We know that the battle has already been won and we can confidently stand in the finished work of Jesus. May the devil's schemes only succeed in driving us to seek your face even more and to find our strength in you. In the name of Jesus, amen.

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EPHESIANS 6: 10-24 (NIV)

The Armor of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ 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 Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Final Greetings

²¹ Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing. ²² I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage you.
²³ Peace to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

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