

New Believer's Bible Study



Combat!

Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:10-18 that born again believers are in a constant battle with satan, sin, and the “principalities and powers in the heavenly places.” The Bible tells us explicitly that evil forces exist in the spiritual realm that have a substantial influence on the world and human events. If we intend to stand up to the onslaught of these powerful adversaries, we must fight them on their own turf – the spiritual – with weapons that are appropriate for combat.

Satan uses every aspect of life in the battle; such as financial pressures, relationships, injury, illness, emotions, politics, and philosophies. The list of issues and struggles can go on and on. There are many other ways in which the powers of darkness attempt to subvert the purposes of God. Our intent in this study is to help you arm yourself properly for the spiritual battles you will face in every area of your life. Fortunately, you only need one set of armor.

Read **Ephesians 6:10-18** (NIV) and answer the following questions:

1. Verses 10 and 11 both have a command for the believing soldier of Christ. The first is to _____ in the Lord and His mighty power. (vs. 10) The second is to _____ the full (whole) armor of God. Why should you do this? So you can _____ the devil's schemes.

Paul gives us a positive, constructive strategy for “taking our stand” against our spiritual enemies. The key is to “be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power” (Ephesians 6:10). As always, it's all about Jesus! It is His strength and His power that give us the ability to gain the victory over Satan, because Christ has already defeated him. “No, in all these things we are more than _____ through him who loved us” (Romans 8:37).

The Christian's battle armor is made up entirely of spiritual weapons fit for spiritual combat. Those weapons are truth, righteousness, the Gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the Word of God, and prayer. By learning to wear and wield these seven powerful armaments properly, we can fully resist the carefully laid plans of the devil, and when the fight is over, we will still be standing strong.

“The Whole Armor” described in Ephesians 6 derives from the Greek word panoplia (pan-op-lee-ah). It means the total equipment of the soldier, both offensive and defensive. This equipment enables us to stand against the enemy of our souls, who is Satan. Certainly Christians face opposition from humans in many forms, but our primary enemy is more than human. We need divine strength to overcome and be victorious. The battle with the enemy is described in serious terms, “For our



Roman Solider dressed for battle.

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” (Ephesians 6:12 NIV). That is a staggering lineup of spiritual evil forces and their human agents who war against God and His people. These forces are at war with you and I and the strength of these evil forces needs to be taken seriously.

- The goal of war is to win. The way you know you’ve won is when you see that you are still standing and your enemy is not. It’s that simple! Paul emphasizes that the goal in battling the forces of evil is to be standing at the end. How many times does Paul mention the importance of “stand or standing” in Ephesians 6:10-14? _____ “Standing” speaks of stability, dominance, and victory. It is the opposite of falling in battle.

Ephesians 6:10-18 give us a beautiful and graphic portrait of the Christian soldier outfitted for battle. Let’s examine our battle armaments.

- Read Isaiah 59:17. What did God arm Himself with?

The armor of God is both the armor He supplies and the armor He Himself uses in battle. Notice that the items of equipment are listed in the order in which they would be put on. A paratrooper in the Army possesses certain items of equipment that must be worn in a certain way and in the proper order. The preparation of the paratrooper is double checked by “Jumpmasters” because once the soldier is in the air it is too late to discover an equipment error. Each item of battle equipment is identified by the spiritual quality it represents, but keep in mind the overall emphasis is on the whole armor. In the Army, team, squad, and platoon leaders are constantly checking to make sure their soldiers have all their equipment. Going into combat partially armed likely means you will not return.

- The first step in battle preparation is to have the _____ _____ _____ buckled around your _____ (vs. 14). Men in ancient times wore long robes. These could hinder movement, so for work or battle, they were pulled up and tied around the hips and waist with a girdle or belt. For you as a Christian, the belt, or girdle is _____, which literally means honesty, sincerity, and integrity of character. As a Christian going to battle against the lies and deceptions of the devil you must not be tripped up by any untruth in your own life. As David confesses his sin in Psalm 51:6 he says, “Surely You desire _____ in the inner parts,” and in Psalm 51:10, “Create in me a _____ _____ O God, and renew a _____ spirit within me.”



Belt of Truth

- The breastplate was vital because it protected the heart and lungs. It can be compared to bullet proof vests of today. Having the breastplate of _____ in place protects the heart and soul of a Christian (Ephesians 6:14). Your basic defense against evil is your obedience to God’s will and your uprightness in conduct. Wrong attitudes and sinful actions become weak spots in your armor through which the enemy can thrust his weapons.



Breastplate of Righteousness

- Every soldier learns that shoes are extremely important. Shoes that slip, pinch, squeeze, or otherwise slow you down may make the crucial difference in battle. Having your feet fitted with the _____ that comes from the _____ _____ _____ makes your feet spring lightly across the field of battle (Ephesians 6:15). Both Paul and Isaiah emphasized the feet of those who preach the Gospel. Read Isaiah 52:7 and Romans 10:15 and summarize them below:



Shoes – Readiness of the Gospel of Peace

7. The shield spoken of here is the very large shield for full body protection. It was about thirty inches wide by forty eight inches tall, often with a twelve inch extension angled back from the top to protect from arrows coming down from the sky above. It was usually made of leather and wood, often soaked in water to offer extra protection from the flaming arrows. The Christian's shield is _____, symbolizing the complete confidence you have in God's power (Ephesians 6:16). The "taking up" does not mean grabbing but receiving what is given freely by God. What does Hebrews 11:1 tell us about faith?



Shield of Faith

8. The helmet protects the most vital and vulnerable part of the body, the head. Over the years there have been many military improvements in this important piece of armor. American soldiers now wear Kevlar helmets for protection. The Christian's most basic protection is the helmet of _____. Because of God's grace and the promise of eternal life, the soldier of Christ can be fearless. When the battle is over, the head can be held high, unharmed by the enemy. The devil cannot take your security in Christ away from you. Read Romans 8:35-39. In verses 38-39, what one word best describes that which can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord?

_____ This is the personal, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ that you recently established for yourself when you asked Him into your heart. That's the reason you are doing these studies. You've come to realize that the Christian life is combat! You do battle with Satan and the forces of evil we've been talking about. And there is also a battle raging within you, between the old nature and the new one. Take heart – with Jesus on your side and living within you, you cannot lose! If God is for us, who can be against us (Romans 8:31b)? The obvious answer is no one.



Helmet of Salvation

9. The sword is the only offensive weapon in this passage. God expects the believer to be ready to attack the enemy as well as defend. The sword is provided by the Spirit of God, and it's God's own weapon, the _____ of _____ (Ephesians 6:17). This refers to God's message, whether written, in the form of the Holy _____, or spoken, in the form of your personal _____. According to John 1:1, _____ is the personal Word of God. He Himself wields the sword against the forces of evil. What does Revelation 19:15 teach us about God's Word?



Sword – The Word of God

"For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). Jesus used Scripture to repel Satan's attacks, and so can we. Someone used the Bible to help you understand your need for a Savior in Jesus, didn't they? And Scripture is the only weapon or tool you need to lead other people to Jesus. Study the Bible, memorize Scripture, carry a Bible with you when you travel. Keep a spare to give away to someone you lead to Jesus and salvation. You don't have to memorize the entire Bible, but it's good to know the important ones necessary to lead someone to Jesus for salvation. There are many effective helps in leading someone to Christ such as the Roman Road, or Four Spiritual Laws, or the F.A.I.T.H. evangelism method.

10. Before soldiers go into battle they receive combat operation orders. These are the orders and instructions of how to take the fight to the enemy. Our Christian operation orders are found in Ephesians 6:18. Write this verse below.

11. What are our operation orders? _____ in the _____ on all _____ with all kinds of _____ and _____. What two commands does God give Christian soldiers from Paul? "With this in mind, _____ and always _____" (Ephesians 6:18).

LET'S REVIEW:

To fight the spiritual battles ahead of us, Christian's must be _____ and _____ the whole armor of God.

What is the Goal of combat? To _____!

We know we've won when the battle is over if we are the ones who are still _____.

Our combat armament includes:

- The Belt of _____.
- The Breastplate of _____.
- The Shoes of the _____ of _____.
- The Shield of _____.
- The Helmet of _____.
- The Sword of the Spirit which is the _____ of _____.
- And finally, our operation orders are to _____ and keep on _____.

COMBAT ANSWERS:

1.
 - a. Be strong
 - b. Put on
 - c. Take your stand against Conquerors
2. Four
3. He put on righteousness as His breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on His head.
4.
 - a. Belt of Truth
 - b. waist
 - c. Truth
 - d. Truth
 - e. Pure heart
 - f. Steadfast
5. Righteousness
6.
 - a. Readiness
 - b. Gospel of Peace
 - c. How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"
 - d. "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"
7.
 - a. Faith
 - b. Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
8.
 - a. Salvation
 - b. Nothing
9.
 - a. Word of God
 - b. Bible
 - c. Witness
 - d. Jesus
 - e. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations.
10. 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.
11.
 - a. Pray; Spirit; Occasions; Prayers; Requests
 - b. Be alert; Keep on praying
12.
 - a. Strong; Put on
 - b. Win
 - c. Standing
 - d. Our combat armament
 - Truth
 - Righteousness
 - Gospel of Peace
 - Faith
 - Salvation
 - Word of God
 - Be Alert; Praying