

# Dressed for Battle

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November 19, 2023 ▪ Dan Eckley

**The soldier's duty is to be \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord!**

**The soldier's \_\_\_\_\_ is Satan!**

**The soldier is issued \_\_\_\_\_ armor!**

**The soldier's \_\_\_\_\_ weapon is the Sword of the Spirit!**

## ***Ephesians 6:10-17***

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

<sup>13</sup> 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 firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup> and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (ESV)

## ***Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions***

**Open:** Have you ever left your house and forgotten something you needed? How did you feel when you discovered that you had forgotten something essential?

**Read:** Ephesians 6:10-17

**Discuss:**

1. Paul refers to schemes of the devil in v. 11. What does the word "scheme" imply about how Satan is at work today? What do you know from the rest of Scripture about ways Satan might attack us? (*See for example 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 Corinthians 7:5; 2 Corinthians 11:3; 12:7; Revelation 2:10*)
2. In verse 12, four kinds of opposing forces are identified. Have you ever sensed a battle around you that involved more than physical foes and forces? What caused you to think that might be the case? How should we understand the connection between such powers and our daily lives?
3. In verse 13, Paul says the purpose of taking up the armor of God is that we "may be able to withstand in the evil day." The same word translated "withstand" here is used in James 4:7 and 1 Peter 5:9, where it is translated "resist." This indicates that believers are to have a defensive posture in their conflict with the devil. What is the significance of recognizing that our posture in spiritual warfare is to be primarily defensive rather than offensive?
4. Paul lists six pieces of armor in verses 14-17. Each one is associated with some aspect of the spiritual life. For each piece of armor, note why and how you think it is important for our spiritual warfare.
  - a. Belt of truth (v. 14a)
  - b. Breastplate of righteousness (v. 14b)
  - c. Shoes which are the readiness given by the gospel of peace (v. 15)
  - d. Shield of faith (v. 16)
  - e. Helmet of salvation (v. 17a)
  - f. Sword of the Spirit (v. 17b)
5. In verse 10, Paul encourages us to "be strong in the Lord." Yet, in verse 12 speaks of how "we" are the ones wrestling. As you read through this passage, how would you describe the relationship between God's role and our role in regard to the battle being described here?

**Apply:** Considering these six pieces of armor mentioned in verses 14-17, which might the weakest link be in your armor? What specifically could you do to better arm yourself this week?

**Pray:** Ask God to strengthen us spiritually so that we might withstand the spiritual attacks against us and live out our proper identity in Christ.