

Stand Firm in the Full Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-24

It is easy to be pushed around by trickery, craftiness, and deceitful scheming (Eph. 4:14). The world conspires with the devil to push us off the solid ground of Christ. In our own power, we will not be able to stand. We must “be strong in the Lord and in the might of His strength” (Eph. 6:10) and must “put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil” (Eph. 6:11). The full armor of Yahweh includes the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the boots of peace-filled gospel preparedness, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit.

Topic: Isaiah 59 describes Yahweh as a mighty warrior who will punish evil and save His people. He takes up armor to fight the battle. Our God’s armor is available for us to dawn as well as we fight our battles. Importantly, our battle “is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Eph. 6:12).

- Why is the belt of truth listed first? How does the truth allow for fluid movement in our battle against spiritual darkness?
- Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the word of God are all described as truth. How does growing in knowledge of Jesus, the Spirit, and the enable us to more effectively put on the rest of the armor? See John 14:6, John 15:26, and John 17:17.
- How do we put on righteousness if we are sinful? See 2 Corinthians 5:21.
- The gospel produces peace, yet we must be prepared for battle. How is the gospel like shoes or boots as we make our stand?
- The shield of faith can be linked with other believers’ faith to create a strong wall. How does faith extinguish flaming arrow attacks?
- Why salvation like a helmet? See Romans 12:2 and Ephesians 4:17-23.
- The sword of the Spirit is the only offensive aspect to this armor. How does the word of God cut through the nonsense of the devil’s schemes? See Hebrews 4:12.

Association: This depiction of armor strikes a stirring image of our place in the spiritual fight.

- Is it easy for you to imagine yourself in the spiritual realm? Which aspect of the armor of God do you gravitate toward to the most? Which is the most difficult for you to put on?
- How tightly does God’s truth surround you? What truths are difficult for you to accept?
- Are you well prepared to share the gospel? How often do you share the gospel?
- How well do you wield the sword of the Spirit? On what non-biblical topics do you consider yourself an expert? Does your passion for the word match your passion for that other topic?

Guidance: Share the best techniques you have for training with your sword or for generating increased passion regarding the word. How can you better memorize the word or be reminded of the word? Pray for the spiritual imagination that embraces seemingly mundane things as an important part of the preparation for spiritual warfare. Pray with and for one another regarding discipleship—increasing our discipleship, their discipleship, and discipling others, too.