

Sunday, June 16, 2013—The Battlefield of the Mind—The Whole Armor of God

Introduction/Review

- II Corinthians 10:3-4—we have seen that as believers we are at war and the weapons of our warfare are not carnal or fleshly.
- Ephesians 6:11-13—regarding these weapons Paul instructs us to put the whole armor of God so that we might be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. In our last three studies we discussed how Satan seeks to attack us as members of the body of Christ.
 - Phase One (first line of attack): Attack the Message. Battle Cry--Deceive
 - Phase Two (second line of attack): Attack the Messenger. Battle Cry—Intimidate
 - Phase Three (third line of attack): Discredit or Discourage the Messenger. Battle Cry--Hopeless and Despair
- Satan can only work in accordance with what God is doing.
 - I Corinthians 12:13—God is not long dealing with humanity through the nation of Israel. He is presently forming a spiritual body in which all earthly distinction have been dissolved.
 - Galatians 3:26-28
 - II Corinthians 5:16—our relationship with Christ and each other is not based upon the flesh.
 - Ephesians 4:14—Satan has had to adjust his tactics to account for the revelation of the mystery.
- Now that we have understood how Satan seeks to attack us as believers we can now begin to understand how the armor of God is designed to allow us to “stand against the wiles of the devil” and “withstand in the evil day.”

Overview of The Armor of God

- Ephesians 6:14-17—in these verses Paul identifies six pieces of armor that believers are to “put on.” They include the following
 - Belt of truth—verse 14
 - Breastplate of righteousness—verse 14
 - Sandals of peace—verse 15
 - Shield of faith—verse 16
 - Helmet of salvation—verse 17

- Sword of the Spirit—verse 17
- First notice that the pieces of the armor need to be “put on.” The Greek word translated “put on” means to sink into (clothing), put on, clothe one's self, according to *Strong's Concordance*.
 - Mark 1:6—“clothed with”
 - Acts 12:21—“arrayed in”
 - Revelation 19:14—“clothed in”
- When you woke up this morning were you automatically “clothed with” or “arrayed in” what you have on this morning? No. You had to a conscious decision to get dressed and “put on” what you are wearing. So it is with the armor of God, we have to make a conscious decision to put it on or else we will not be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
- II Corinthians 10:4—it is also important to notice/remember that the weapons our warfare are not carnal. Notice how each piece of armor is associated with a spiritual truth or reality. Paul is using physical armor to illustrate spiritual realities. This is doctrinal armor that fortifies the soul and spirit of the believer and provides protection against Satan's plan of attack.
- Please note that the armor is not designed to make it so that there are no afflictions or hardships experienced by believers. It is not designed to make Satan's attacks go away. Rather, it is designed to fortify us so that the “wiles” and afflictions of the policy of evil can be endured and withstood.
- Keith Blades author of *Satan and His Plan of Evil* suggests the following overview and breakdown of the pieces of armor.
- The first three pieces of armor (belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, and sandals of peace) are grouped together because they would not only be the first pieces to be put on by a soldier attiring himself for battle, but also because they are designed to deal with Phase One attacks. In short, these three pieces of armor are designed to handle Satan's attacks on the message.
- The next piece of armor (shield of faith) is described by itself. The statement in verse 16 “above all” set it apart from the previous pieces. Its purpose is to provide protection against the fiery darts of the wicked. This piece of armor is designed to handle the “wiles” of phase two and Satan's attack upon the messenger. The shield of faith is designed to fend off personal attacks and provide courage for battle, instead of allowing cowardice to set in.
- According to Blades, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit are designed to deal with phase three attacks of seeking to discredit or discourage the messenger.
- H.A. Ironside in his commentary on Ephesians points out the connection between the armor and its purpose. “We are not to turn our back and flee from the foe. We are not to act on the presumption that “he who fights and runs away may live to fight another day,” but we are to face

the foe, for there is not armor for the back. If we turn our backs, if we retreat, we but expose ourselves to the fiery darts of the wicked one, but as we face the foe unflinchingly in the power of the finished work of Calvary we shall be able to stand.”

- All of this reiterates the exhortation to stand and withstand and hold the line. No provision has been made to cover the believers back because God desires the believer hold and maintain a fixed position.
- Ephesians 6:11, 13—these six pieces of armor constitute the “whole armour of God.” The English word “whole” means “all; total; containing the total amount or number, or the entire thing; as the whole earth; the whole world; the whole solar system; the whole army; the whole nation,” according to *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*. Nothing has been omitted from the believers divinely provided equipment. These six pieces of armor are all we need to “stand against the wiles of the devil.”
- I Samuel 17:31-51—Paul is not giving us unproven or untested armor. Paul had faith and knew first hand that standing in the provisions that God had given him would carry the day and allow him to stand against the wiles of the devil.