

# Sermon on Structure of Divine Armor

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## Text

**Ephesians 6:14-18** <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> 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.

## 1 Introduction

Ephesians 6:14-18 is the last passage we will discuss in the epistle from Paul to the churches in Ephesus and Asia Minor. The preceding passage, Ephesians 6:10-13, describes the setup for spiritual warfare that requires the believer to be empowered through God. The believer's foe is unseen forces arrayed in the spiritual realm whose purpose is to "steal and kill and destroy" (John 10:10) and "who prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). To successfully battle this foe requires the believer to receive divine power, which is superior to Satanic power. As part of this divine power, Ephesians 6:14-18 describes spiritual warfare armor that you need and how to use it.

Every part of a soldier's uniform and armor has a purpose for defense or offense in battle. There is a bullet proof vest, a jacket holding laser pointers, a helmet with night goggles, pants with inserts for knee pads, calf storage slots, and boots. The uniform is designed to aid the soldier in modern warfare. In the same way our passage describes the uniform to be worn by soldiers of the Lord engaged in spiritual warfare. Just as with the US soldier's uniform, every part of the spiritual warfare uniform is designed to make you victories in battle.

Unlike the US soldier, however, who only wears the battle uniform when going to the war front, the Christian soldier is always in the war front and so he has to be in uniform all the time. The battles and skirmishes with the devil and his agents are ongoing and never cease.

## 2 Spiritual Warfare Uniform

Let's now describe the various parts of the spiritual warfare uniform.

### 2.1 Helmet

### Salvation

Verse 17 of our passage specifies the helmet of the spiritual warfare uniform as the helmet of salvation.

- Helmet protects the brain/mind: the power center of the will.
- Satan attacks the brain/mind with doubt, fake salvation, compromise Christianity, bad thoughts about others, ulterior motives, plot to damage others with gossip.
- Let your mind be fully given to Salvation by the blood of Jesus and be truly a full-born Christian.

### 2.2 Breastplate (Bulletproof vest) Righteousness

Verse 14 of our passage specifies the bulletproof vest of the spiritual warfare uniform as the breastplate of righteousness.

- Your heart is the center of life sustenance in your body.
- Satan tries to shoot hatred, unbelief, rage, lust to weaken your heart and thus cut-off your spiritual life
- Righteousness fends off sin which blocks Satan (Ps 45:7, Prov 11:4-6, 13:6)

### 2.3 Belt

### Truth

Verse 14 of our passage specifies the belt of the spiritual warfare uniform as the belt of truth.

- Truth is your belt – holster for carrying guns & bullets
- Satan is master of lies and half-truths.
- He scares you with misinformation.
- Satan lied when tempting Jesus. “Okomfo also worships God just through a different means and medium” is a lie.
- God's truth stands eternally, unwavering, and makes you keep your armor on. Because Jesus is the truth!

## **2.4 Boots**

## **Gospel of peace**

Verse 15 of our passage specifies the boots of the spiritual warfare uniform as the footwear of the gospel of peace.

- Good boots protect soldier's feet and enable him to walk miles to be able to wage war.
- The bottom of feet contains points that represent organs of body. Satan attempts to weaken foot and therefore weaken the rest of the body.
- Satan fights your urge to testify about the Lord, to tell people about the Gospel.
- But as you evangelize you are forcefully advancing the kingdom as John the Baptist did.

## **2.5 Shield**

## **Faith**

Verse 16 of our passage specifies the shield of the spiritual warfare uniform as the shield of faith.

- Faith is your shield - bunker
- Satan hurls flaming arrows at us in the form of temptations and trials. Without faith we cannot persevere.
- Temptation is enticement to sin such as little lies, little insults, and big ones like adultery.
- Trial is a suffering such as marital discord, financial problem, health problem, etc.
- Paul's faith during prison: "I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day" (2 Tim 1:12)

## **2.6 Sword**

## **Word of God**

Verse 17 of our passage specifies the weapon of the spiritual warfare uniform as the Word of God.

- Jesus battled Satan with the word of God during the temptations.
- David battled Goliath/Satan with the word of God.
- Moses battled Pharaoh with the word of God
- A soldier must know his gun, grenade, missile launcher, laser pointer well to use it effectively.
- You must be steeped in the word of God to be able to use it effectively against Satan.
- Word of God is your sword - Gun

### **3 Fire Weapon**

### **Pray in the Spirit**

You need all the six features of the spiritual warfare uniform in order to be positioned to fire the weapon of spiritual warfare. Praying in the Spirit is your act of firing your spiritual weapon as stated in verse 18 of our passage: “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.”

Paul says in Romans 8:26 that “We do not know what we ought to pray for.” You and I cannot see into the future, nor can we even see everything that is happening in every place in the present. Thus if some enemies are plotting against you this very moment in the room next door, you cannot see them. But the Holy Spirit is God and therefore he is omniscient and omnipresent. This means he knows the past, the present, and the future in all localities and timeframes. As a result he knows what situations you are in and what situations are ahead of you. He therefore knows exactly what to ask God the Father on your behalf. This is accomplished as you pray in the Holy Spirit, which is praying in tongues.

A football team gathers in the locker room for a pep-talk from the coach. The coach speaks to them to motivate them, encourage them, empower them, and strengthen them, and then he charges them to go out and win now. Then they go out into the field and start exercising the power they have been reminded of. So in a similar way as you pray in tongues, you are praying with your spirit by the aid of the Holy Spirit in inexpressible words to God. And in this process God encourages you, empowers you, strengthens you, and charges you to go out and win!

To win you must now start lobbing grenades and shooting at the enemy by using the Word of God, which is the sword of the Spirit! That is why Paul says in 1 Corinthians 14:15, “I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.” Paul also says in Ephesians 6:18 of our passage, “And pray in the Spirit [that is, pray in tongues] 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.”

### **4 Conclusion**

To successfully battle Satan and his agents you need to receive divine power. As part of this divine power, our passage taken from Ephesians 6:14-18 describes spiritual warfare armor that you need and how to use it. Unlike a US soldier who only wears battle uniform when going to the war front, as a soldier of the Lord you are always in the war front and so you have to be in

uniform all the time. The battles and skirmishes with the devil and his agents are ongoing and never cease. But God has given you the uniform and weapons to be victorious all the time.

I call upon you to constantly wear this divine uniform to ensure your success against the enemy.