

SHAPED2LIVE

The Warfare of Christianity

Part 7 – "How Do We Fight?"

Ephesians 6:10-20 Amplified Version

As we dive into the final lesson of this series, I want to begin with this caveat. This series, in its entirety, is not for us to either go out looking for a fight or to see a supernatural spiritual battle in every situation or event. We are only to be ready when one arises and be able to identify what it is and what is the will of God in that instance.

The Whole Armor of God

Eph 6:10 In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides].

- "be empowered through your union with Him."

NOTE: The "power" is not of ourselves it is God's. He allows us to use it with this important note. That we are in "union" with Him, ask the sons of Sceva in Acts 19:15.

- "draw your strength from Him."

Eph 6:11 Put on God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies] that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil.

- "Whole armor" – You cannot pick and choose.
- "Why": to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil.

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Eph 6:12 For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere.

- Not "contending only with physical opponents" – Some things are nothing more than an individual operating from the truth of their hearts, whatever that may be. When God brought judgment on the earth with a flood it was not because of what was being done in the spirit realm but because of what humankind had become.

Gen 6:5 The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination and intention of all human thinking was only evil continually.

Amplified Version

Eph 6:13 Therefore put on God's complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place].

- "put on God's complete armor" – Repeated/Reminded
Purpose: "you may be able to resist and stand your ground."
- "having done all [the crisis demands]" – This puts us on noticed that there is an expectation from God for us to do our part.
- "to stand [firmly in your place]" – Personal choice and resolve to hold your ground.

Eph 6:14 Stand therefore [hold your ground], having tightened the belt of truth around your loins and having put on the breastplate of integrity and of moral rectitude and right standing with God,

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- "Stand therefore [hold your ground]" Repeated
- "tightened the belt of truth around your loins."

"Truth or sincerity is our girdle. It was prophesied of Christ (Isa_11:5) that righteousness should be the girdle of his loins and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. That which Christ was girded with all Christians must be girded with. God desires truth, that is, sincerity, in the inward parts. This is the strength of our loins, and it girds on all other pieces of our armour and therefore is first mentioned. I know no religion without sincerity. Some understand it of the doctrine of the truths of the gospel: they should cleave to us as the girdle does to the loins, Jer_13:11. This will restrain from libertinism and licentiousness, as a girdle restrains and keeps in the body. This is the Christian soldier's belt: ungirded with this, he is unblessed. " Matthew Henry's Commentary on The Whole Bible

- "the breastplate of integrity and of moral rectitude **and** right standing with God."

NOTE: Rectitude defined says this.

Rightness of principle or practice; exact conformity to truth, or to the rules prescribed for moral conduct, either by divine or human laws; uprightness of mind; uprightness; integrity; honesty; justice. <http://www.websters1913.com>

"Right standing with God" encompasses both our salvation through Jesus the Christ and continual fellowship that is not being hindered by unconfessed disobedience and repentance."

Eph 6:15 And having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace. [Isa. 52:7.]

- "shod your feet in preparation."

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Why: "to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news of the Gospel of peace."

Gospel of Peace? Matthew Henry gives a great answer to this.

"Resolution must be as the greaves to our legs: And their feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, Eph_6:15. Shoes, or greaves of brass, or the like, were formerly part of the military armour (1Sa_17:6): the use of them was to defend the feet against the gall-traps, and sharp sticks, which were wont to be laid privily in the way, to obstruct the marching of the enemy, those who fell upon them being unfit to march.

The preparation of the gospel of peace signifies a prepared and resolved frame of heart, to adhere to the gospel, and abide by it, which will enable us to walk with a steady pace in the way of religion, notwithstanding the difficulties and dangers that may be in it. It is styled the gospel of peace because it brings all sorts of peace, peace with God, with ourselves, and with one another.

It may also be meant of that which prepares for the entertainment of the gospel, namely, repentance. With this, our feet must be shod: for by living a life of repentance we are armed against temptations to sin, and the designs of our great enemy. Dr. Whitby thinks this may be the sense of the words: "That you may be ready for the combat, be shod with the gospel of peace, endeavour after that peaceable and quiet mind which the gospel calls for.

Be not easily provoked, nor prone to quarrel: but show all gentleness and all long-suffering to all men, and this will certainly preserve you from many great temptations and persecutions, as did those shoes of brass the soldiers from those gall traps," etc."

Matthew Henry's Commentary on The Whole Bible

Eph 6:16 Lift up over all the [covering] shield of saving faith, upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked [one].

- "Lift up over all the [covering] shield of saving faith" - "shield of trust" Complete Jewish Bible

"This is more necessary than any of them. Faith is all in all to us in an hour of temptation. The breast-plate secures the vitals, but with the shield we turn every way.

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This is the victory over the world, even our faith. We are to be fully persuaded of the truth of all God's promises and threatenings, such a faith being of great use against temptations... Faith, as receiving Christ and the benefits of redemption, so deriving grace from him, is like a shield, a sort of universal defense." Matthew Henry's Commentary on The Whole Bible

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation and the sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God.

- "helmet of salvation."

"Salvation must be our helmet (Eph_6:17); that is, hope, which has salvation for its object; so 1Th_5:8. The helmet secures the head." Matthew Henry's Commentary on The Whole Bible

- "the sword that the Spirit wields... the Word of God"

Note: "the Spirit" does not wield the written "Word of God." So, what is He wielding?

He wields the living spoken Word of God. The first example that we see of this is in Genesis chapter one. We also see this in John 14:26 when Jesus spoke to the disciples of the Holy Spirit and what He would do when He came.

"But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you." Amplified Version

Eph 6:18 Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end, keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people).

- "Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit."

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NOTE: Prayer (Looking to God) grants us the ability to know not only what we are dealing with, but what if anything that God wants us to do about it. John 5:19; John 12:49

- "I do nothing" – John 5:18-20; John 8:28
- "Whatever you bind on earth" – Matthew 18:18 **Focus:** True understanding.
(Functioning in faith.)

"Truly I tell you, whatever you forbid and declare to be improper and unlawful on earth must be what is already forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit and declare proper and lawful on earth must be what is already permitted in heaven." Amplified Version

ADDITIONAL NOTE:

Sometimes what we want to pray against, rebuke, cast out or pray for deliverance from, may not be within God's will. Ask Job. All of the prayer in the world would not have changed Job's situation because God had a desired purpose for what he had to go through.

Paul's "thorn in the flesh" had a God given purpose as shown in 2nd Corinthians 12:7-10. The man that was born blind in John 9:1-3. The death of Lazarus in John 11:1-27.

- "pray without ceasing" 1st Thessalonians 5:16-18
"Be happy [in your faith] and rejoice and be glad-hearted continually (always);

Be unceasing in prayer [praying perseveringly]; Thank [God] in everything [no matter what the circumstances may be, be thankful and give thanks], for this is the will of God for you [who are] in Christ Jesus [the Revealer and Mediator of that will]."

"Prayer must buckle on all the other parts of our Christian armour, Eph_6:18. We must join prayer with all these graces, for our defense against these spiritual enemies, imploring help and assistance of God, as the case requires: and we must pray always."

Matthew Henry's Commentary on The Whole Bible

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Eph 6:19 And [pray] also for me, that [freedom of] utterance may be given me, that I may open my mouth to proclaim boldly the mystery of the good news (the Gospel),

Eph 6:20 For which I am an ambassador in a coupling chain [in prison. Pray] that I may declare it boldly and courageously, as I ought to do.

Prayer in this walk and in the warfare is what will keep us, guide us and strengthen us. So pray for yourself and your brothers and sisters so that we all will "fight the good fight of faith"!