

If so, how does spiritual character or attitude fit with the part of the armour Paul chose? For example, why would Paul associate the truth with a belt, or salvation with a helmet?

What is the final aim of wearing the armour of God? How does each spiritual characteristic or attitude represented by the armour help in achieving that aim?

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

Does your spiritual life ever seem like a battle? If so, do you realise against whom the battle is to be fought?

Does realising whom the real enemy is make a difference to the way you prepare yourself for the day?

Are you wearing the armour of God? Or do you try to provide some other armour of your own?

Christ has not left us defenceless against the enemy of God and the church. In grace, and through the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, every Christian is fully equipped to withstand the assaults of the enemy and hold firm to their faith. So “be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.”

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A Short Study of EPHESIANS 6:10-20

In this study from the sixth chapter of Ephesians we learn about the armour of God that will equip us to stand firm in our faith. Paul reminds the Ephesians that they must ultimately stand in God's strength and not their own.

EPHESIANS 6:10-20

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

12 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.

13 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.

14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,

20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

OBSERVATION

Mark every occurrence of the phrase “whole armour of God.”

- What reasons does Paul give the Ephesians for urging them to take up the armour of God? Note the use of the words ‘stand’ and ‘withstand.’

Mark the word ‘against.’

- What does Paul tell the Ephesians that they are actually standing against?
- What might the Ephesians have thought that they were standing against?

Mark the words “put on,” “take up,” ‘take’ and “fastened on.” What are the six items of armour that Paul tells the Ephesians to put on?

Each of the six parts of the armour is associated with a spiritual characteristic or attitude. What are they?

Mark the words ‘praying,’ ‘prayer’ and the phrase “to that end.”

- What does Paul ask the Ephesians to pray for?

INTERPRETATION

When Paul links parts of the armour with aspects of spiritual character, or attitude, do you think he was making deliberate points in which parts of the armour he associated with which spiritual characteristics?