

# The Fullness of Armor

(Eph. 6:10-20)

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“Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil” (Ephes. 6:10-11).

Preparedness is the central theme of the context, and that it is not an option, but rather a requirement.

The figure of the Christian as a warrior with his arms, wages, etc., occurs repeatedly in the Pauline writings...No doubt the Roman soldier is particularly in view. Paul, the Roman citizen, would think of him, and it was the Roman military power that filled the eye when Paul labored and wrote.

God is a warrior!

“The LORD will go forth like a warrior, He will arouse *His* zeal like a man of war. He will utter a shout, yes, He will raise a war cry. He will prevail against His enemies” (Isaiah 42:13 ).

"The LORD is a warrior; The LORD is His name" (Exodus 15:3 ).

The Lord has an army!

“So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life, and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army” (Ezekiel 37:10 ).

Satan is militarily arranged! (6,000)

“And He was asking him, "What is your name?" And he said to Him, "My name is Legion; for we are many” (Mark 5:9 ).

The angels are militarily arranged!

"Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels” (Matthew 26:53)? (72,000)

And demons and angels war against one another!

“And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war” (Rev. 12:7).

Jesus said that His kingdom was not of this world. (Jn. 18:36). It is called the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven and kingdom of the Spirit. Therefore our theater of warfare is not in the natural world, but the spirit world. Our weapons are powerful, but not natural.

Since this is a war not after the natural, then we must learn an entirely different type of tactics and strategy, and also learn new skills with the new weapons.

“for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses” (2 Cor. 10:4).

The world is a battle ground between God and His angels; and Satan and his demons. Satan has chosen to contest God by causing Him to fail in His purpose to have a family after His likeness and image. The battle front in the world as we know it, was opened in the Garden of Eden. Satan landed on the beach head of the soul and won.

From that time until now, the contest has waged in the soul of man (mind, will and emotions). But the major counter attack by God through Christ Jesus, has opened another important front—the spirit world. For 4,000 years the devil was not seriously challenged in the second heaven (lower heaven that surrounds the earth), but the resurrection of Jesus has changed that status quo. “New creatures” have emerged into that realm, and what was secure by the devil, now is being challenged by a new kind of warrior, equipped with new skills and new weaponry.

A commentary on Eph. 6:10-20.

“Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might” (Ephes. 6:10).

“Be strong” = *endunamoo* or to clothe one’s self with strength as one puts on a coat. This is continuous and the strengthening is in the Lord.

“Strength” = *kratos* or manifested power.

“Might” = power as an enduement (inherent)

“Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil” (Ephes. 6:11 ).

### **Fullness of weapons**

“Put on” or to clothe oneself.

“Full armor” = *panoplia*, literally, all the weapons.

*Panoply* is the English spelling and the idea is completeness.

“Schemes” = *methodeia* or deceit, trickery. The word means to employ by a method and settled plan to deceive and trick. *Stratagem* is a good word of description.

“Stand firm”, is to hold one’s ground and not flee.

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*” (Ephes. 6:12).

“Struggle” is a contest between two in which each endeavors to throw the other and which is decided when the victor is able to press and hold down his prostrate antagonist, namely, hold him down with his hand upon his neck.

When we consider the loser in a Greek wrestling contest had his eyes gouged out with resulting blindness for the rest of his days, we can form some conception of the seriousness of the contest.

It is a contest at close quarters!

Our struggle is with rulers, against powers (1st in order, leaders) and world forces and spiritual forces, that is people that are influenced and possessed by the devil, and demons in the lower atmosphere.

“Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm” (Ephes. 6:13).

This is a military command. You are to hold your ground and not flee.  
“Stand firm” is used three times in the contest.

### **The panoply of a Christian Soldier compared with the Roman Soldier.**

1. “Having girded your loins with truth”

A belt that was essential in keeping other pieces of armor in place.

“Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you **abide in My word**, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free**” (John 8:31-32).

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me” (John 14:6).

Truth is a person, not a doctrine.

2. “Having put on the breastplate of righteousness”

This piece was protection from a fatal or disabling wound.

This protects the heart center

The righteousness imputed by God, and thus you are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

“He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5:21).

The weapon of condemnation cannot pierce this armor.

3. “Having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace”

It is a Christian’s responsibility to put on the equipment for the feet.

The Roman soldier wore sandals which were bound by thongs over the instep and around the ankle, and the soles were thickly studded with nails.

The gospel of peace is the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

“For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2).

4. “In addition to all, taking up the shield of faith”

The Roman oblong heavy infantry shield measured four feet by two and one half feet, sometimes it was curved on the inner side.

Faith is the opposite of fear. We are saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8). This faith overcomes the world. 1 Jn. 5:4.

5. “The helmet of salvation”

Salvation, or deliverance from the power of sin, disease and from the mental onslaught of the devil.

“And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philip. 4:7).

6. “The sword of the Spirit”

The sword serves both for attack and to parry the thrusts of the enemy.

“The written word” was used against the Devil by Jesus. M’t 4.  
“Prophecy”, the spoken word is just as affective.

Praying constantly, earnestly, in all seasons is the great requirement of standing ready for combat, and by so doing the equipment is kept in place and ready for use.

### **Five major weapons of the Christian warrior.**

“for the *weapons of our warfare* are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses” (2 Cor. 10:4).

#### 1. “In the name of Jesus”

"And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:13).

“But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene-- walk” (Acts 3:6)!

"And these signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly *poison*, it shall not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover” (Mark 16:17-18).

“Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name” (Philip. 2:9 ).

The Christian has been given the legal right to use the name of Jesus to perform His will, conquer His enemies, and to advance His kingdom in all the earth. Authority is the delegated power of another.

#### 2. “The written word” M’t 4:1-11.

Jesus in confronting the devil, repeated the phrase, “It is written” four times. This established the base of His authority.

#### 3. “The blood of the Lamb”

"And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death” (Rev. 12:11).

It was the blood payment that bought us out of the slave market of sin and out from under the control of the devil.

#### 4. “Weapons of righteousness”

“and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God” (Romans 6:13).

Our yielded members are the weapons of righteousness. Our soul (mind, will and emotions) yielded to God become affective against the works of the devil.

#### 5. “Hallelujah”

Our praise to the delivering God is glorious weapon against the activities of Satan.

The acknowledgment that God is exalted above every power or anything named pierces the armor of the heart of Satan.

It is a word of judgment against him. Psa. 104:35 and Rev. 19:1-6.

As the evil day grows more intense, and the last of the last days are encountered, mature and seasoned warriors will emerge to play an important role in summing up the purpose of God upon the earth.

Knowing the position of Christ is important!

Knowing our position in Christ is important!

Knowing the plan of peace is important!

Knowing the plan of His mystery is important!

Knowing the program to develop maturity is important!

Knowing the fullness of the armor is important!