Lesson 22

Spiritual Warfare adapted from Greg Ogden’s *Discipleship Essentials*¹

Ephesians 6:10-20  Darrin Woods, Facilitator

**Key Verses:** “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”² (Ephesians 6:13).

- **Thoughts to Consider:**
  - **The Warfare**
    - Paul’s metaphor of warfare is appropriate given his audience’s familiarity with soldiers and military and given his being chained to a Roman soldier in Ephesians 6:20³
    - “The Christian life is a warfare, a struggle not only with common calamities and inner desires, but with opposing forces of the powers of darkness which seek to destroy the testimony of the believer. It is therefore requisite that the Christian soldier be stout-hearted and well armed with spiritual weapons which God supplies. The sword of the Spirit and the access of prayer are weapons against which Satan is powerless.”⁴
  - **The Whole Armor of God (see diagram)**
    - Defensive weapons: belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, sandals of the preparation of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation
    - Offensive weapons:
      - sword of the Spirit/God’s word and prayer
      - “God’s sword has life and power (Heb. 4:12) and never grows dull.” ⁵
  - **The Wiles (Strategies) of Satan**⁶
    - Temptation
    - Accusation
    - Deception
    - Direct attacks

- **Ephesians 6:10**
  - “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might”
  - “power”→Greek term *kratei*—“power that overcomes resistance” as used in Christ’s miracles) of God’s inherent strength (*ischyos*; cf “the power [*kratous*] of His inherent strength” [*ischyos*] in 1:19). Hence believers can be strengthened not only by the person of the Lord but also by His resources (cf. Phil. 4:13).⁷

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⁷ cf. confer, compare
Ephesians 6:11
  - “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil”
  - “whole armor” => Greek term *panoplian* — full armor including weapons
  - “stand” => Greek term *histēmi* — stand firm, hold position
  - “wiles” => Greek term *methodeia* — scheming, strategies, or craftiness
  - “devil” => Greek term *diabolos* — the adversary or the accuser
  - “Christians are not to attack Satan, or advance against him; they are only to “stand” or hold the territory Christ and His body, the church, have conquered.”

Discussion about spiritual warfare and application for believers

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**The Armor of God**

The Apostle Paul, inspired by God, wrote a letter to the church of Ephesus from a Roman prison. As he wrote, Roman soldiers guarding the prison walked about in the armor of first century legionary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>ARMOR OF LEGIONARY</strong></th>
<th><strong>ARMOR OF GOD</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Galea (Helmet)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Helmet of Salvation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Protected head and neck from enemy attacks</td>
<td>...and take on the helmet of salvation...’ Ephesians 6:17a</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lorica Segmentata (Breastplate)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Breastplate of Righteousness</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Guarded vital organs</td>
<td>...and having put on the breastplate of righteousness...’ Ephesians 6:14b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gladius (Sword)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sword of the Spirit, Word of God</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Powerful offensive weapon in the hand of a skilled soldier</td>
<td>...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...’ Ephesians 6:17b</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cingulum (Girdle or Belt)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Belt of Truth</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supports sword, dagger and bronze armor</td>
<td>‘Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth...’ Ephesians 6:14a</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scutum Shield</strong></td>
<td><strong>Shield of Faith</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overlapping shields allowed soldiers to advance together</td>
<td>‘In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one...’ Ephesians 6:16</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Caligae (Sandals)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Readiness/Preparation of the Gospel of Peace</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fit for both marching and fighting</td>
<td>‘...and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.’ Ephesians 6:15</td>
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Scripture: English Standard Version

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