FOUNDATIONS, THE ARMOR OF GOD: LESSON #4

Intro. As we conclude our series on the whole armor of God I want to remind us that we are opposed by a very real and very dangerous enemy.

1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)
Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Ephesians 6:10-13 (Phillips NT)
In conclusion be strong - not in yourselves but in the Lord, in the power of his boundless resource. Put on God's complete armor so that you can successfully resist all the devil's methods of attack. For our fight is not against any physical enemy: it is against organizations and powers that are spiritual. We are up against the unseen power that controls this dark world, and spiritual agents from the very headquarters of evil. Therefore you must wear the whole armor of God that you may be able to resist evil in its day of power, and that even when you have fought to a standstill you may still stand your ground.

1. Both of these portions of scripture deal with the real threat we face from the enemy
   a. This sounds really intimidating

   ex. “...the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” “We are up against the unseen power that controls this dark world, and spiritual agents from the very headquarters of evil.”

2. There are hellish demonic forces against us and while they are a threat we aren’t meant to feel intimidated
   a. We’re meant to be confident

3. Our confidence comes out of what we have been given
a. **Ephesian 6** lists two things God gives us to help us stand and overcome
   1. His power

**Ephesians 6:10 (NIV)**
Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.

**2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)**
For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

2. His armor

**Ephesians 6:11 (NKJV)**
Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

- *If we receive His power and put on His armor we will win!*
- *We’ve already talked about the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the sandals of peace, and the shield of faith*

- *Tonight we’re going to look at the last two specific pieces of our armor*

**Ephesians 6:13-17 (NKJV)**
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.
14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,
15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.
17 *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

**I. AND TAKE THE ___________________________**
quote from, “There’s a Crack in Your Armor”, Perry Stone

The Roman soldier’s helmet was made from a copper-iron alloy. These helmets were used to protect the head. The top was bowl shaped and protected the top of the head from blows. There was a neck guard connected to the back of the helmet to protect the back of the neck, and a brow guard that protruded out of the top near the forehead guarded from frontal downward blows. Two metal pieces that were like movable flaps were attached to the left and right side of the helmet, designed to protect the cheekbones and the jaws from any impacts to the face. Thus, the helmet protected the head and front of the face from all directions—the side, front, and back!

A. THE HELMET OF SALVATION PROTECTS OUR __________

• Most spiritual warfare occurs between our ears in our minds!

  1. Our mind is the ____________________ for our life
     a. The devil knows if he can plant even one small thought or idea in our minds he can wait for it to germinate and spread throughout our life

2 Corinthians 2:11 (NKJV)
lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

  b. The word “devices” in this verse is the Greek word noemata, a form of the Greek word nous
c. The Greek word nous describes the mind or the intellect
d. So in one sense Paul is saying, "...we are not ignorant of the way Satan schemes and thinks."

• It’s important for us to understand the way the devil schemes and thinks

  ex. His strategy is to plant sinful, negative, lying, or doubtful thoughts in our minds.
He has been at this for a long time and he knows our weaknesses. He knows our likes and dislikes. He knows what we are susceptible to and crafts thoughts to lure us toward those areas.

James 1:14-16 (NKJV)
14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.
15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.
16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

- Satan attempts to deceive us with tempting thoughts that progress to sin and ultimately death

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (KJV)
4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;
5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

B. WE HAVE TO PRACTICE ______________ IMAGINATIONS AND ______________ EVERY THOUGHT

1. The helmet of salvation implies _____________ over the way we think
   a. When we got saved we were given the mind of Christ

1 Corinthians 2:16 (NKJV)
For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

- Our minds are protected by the helmet of salvation

2. Just as with the other pieces of armor the helmet of salvation is something we must ______________
   a. The thoughts we dwell on and consider must be filtered through the covering God has given us
b. The helmet of salvation refers to our relationship, experience, and life with Christ

3. Before we allow thoughts to continue we should monitor them by questioning, “How does this line up with my ________________?”

ex. Sinful, tempting, doubting, or negative thoughts will be easier for us to recognize if we ask ourselves, “Is this really good for my relationship with Christ or true to Him or about Him?”

• Those thoughts that aren’t true to Him we have to take captive

2 Corinthians 10:5 (KJV)
Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

quote from Sparkling Gems: From The Greek New Testament, Rick Renner
“The words “bringing into captivity” are from the Greek word aichmalotidzo, which pictured a soldier who has captured an enemy and now leads him into captivity with the point of a sharpened spear thrust into the flesh in his back. This is not a one-time affair; it is the lifelong occupation of this soldier.

ex. We need to constantly monitor the thoughts that go through our minds.

“Is what I’m thinking about helping my relationship with Christ?”
“Is it true about who I am in Him?”
“Is it true concerning who He is and what He has promised me?”

• “Casting down imaginations and bringing into captivity every thought...”

ex. “I don’t allow these thoughts to go unchallenged. They are not godly or from God and I cast them down in Jesus’ name. Thank You Jesus, for covering my mind with the helmet of salvation (my life through You).”
II. THE FINAL PIECE OF ARMOR WE’LL LOOK AT IS THE _______________________, GOD’S WORD

A. THE OTHER EXQUIPMENT IN GOD’S ARSENAL ARE DEFENSIVE IN NATURE, BUT THE SWORD IS PRIMARILY AN _______________________

Ephesians 6:17 (NKJV)
...And take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

1. We ____________ sword of the Spirit by ____________ the word of God

ex. When we studied the “belt of truth” we talked about the importance of reading and knowing God’s word. It’s the truth of the word that sets us free.

But when the Bible speaks about taking the sword of the Spirit, God’s word, it’s referring to our use of that word.

2. Jesus knew how to __________________ in spiritual warfare
   a. When in the wilderness, Jesus fought with the enemy at a time of great personal weakness after a 40 day fast and won!

Luke 4:3-4 (NKJV)
3 And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."
4 But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' "

• There were two other temptations to follow this one and Jesus responded the same way, by speaking the word of God
• He didn’t argue or reason with the enemy, “Of course I’m the Son of God!”
• He simply spoke the truth of the word and won in the wilderness!
Revelation 1:16-17 (NKJV)
16 He had in His right hand seven stars, **out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword**, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.
17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

ex. *Jesus is pictured here with a two-edged sword coming out of His mouth. That sword is His word!*

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)
For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**B. THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, GOD’S WORD, IS ONLY____________ IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE WHEN IT IS____________**

1. It is important for us to ____________ the word
   a. We will only know what God is like, what He has promised us, and all we can become if we read the Bible
   
   • Bible reading should be one of our daily disciplines

2. It’s important for us to ____________ on the word

Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)
This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall **meditate in it day and night**, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

ex. *We meditate in God’s word by thinking about it. Going over it in our minds. Letting it get deep inside us.*
3. **But as far as spiritual warfare is concerned we will only be effective with the sword of the Spirit by**

- Satan’s attacks against us come in the form of lies
- Those lies are normally expressed by words, thoughts, or ideas that attack our minds

- **We overcome those lies the same way Jesus did; by speaking God’s word, “It is written…”**

**ex.** Satan lies and says we will always be weak in our faith.

*We counter that lie by speaking God’s word. We do this by finding a verse or verses of scripture in the Bible relating to the attack and then personalizing it.*

**Romans 4:20-21 (NKJV)**

20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,
21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

> “I am strengthened in faith by giving glory and praise to God. I’m fully convinced that what He has promised me, He is able to perform.”

- **When we do this it’s like flashing a sword against the lie Satan tried to lodge in our minds and strikes it down**
- **It’s important to remember that as important as reading and thinking about the word is, it’s only truly effective in spiritual warfare when God’s word is spoken**

- **This concludes our series on the Armor Of God**

- **We need to remember to take the “full armor” of God and as we do we will be able to resist and overcome every attack against us!**
PRAYER AND CONFESSION:
Thank You, Jesus, for giving me all I need to win in spiritual warfare. Thank You for the helmet of salvation that guards my mind. My mind is covered by the relationship I have with You. Thank You for the sword of the Spirit. I will speak Your word against every lie of hell. Your word will be in my mind, my heart, and my mouth. I am more than a conqueror through You. Thank You for that in Your name, Jesus, Amen.

FILL IN THE BLANKS FROM LESSON #4

I. AND TAKE THE ____(HELMET OF SALVATION)

   A. THE HELMET OF SALVATION PROTECTS OUR ____(MINDS)

      1. Our mind is the ____(central control center) for our life

   B. WE HAVE TO PRACTICE (CASTING DOWN) IMAGINATIONS AND ____(TAKING CAPTIVE) EVERY THOUGHT

      1. The helmet of salvation implies ____(a covering) over the way we think

      2. Just as with the other pieces of armor the helmet of salvation is something we must ____(put on)

      3. Before we allow thoughts to continue we should monitor them by questioning, “How does this line up with my ____(life in Christ)?”

II. THE FINAL PIECE OF ARMOR WE’LL LOOK AT IS THE ____(SWORD OF THE SPIRIT), GOD’S WORD

   A. THE OTHER EXQUIPMENT IN GOD’S ARSENAL ARE DEFENSIVE IN NATURE, BUT THE SWORD IS PRIMARILY AN ____(OFFENSIVE WEAPON)
1. We __(“take”)__ sword of the Spirit by __(speaking)__ the word of God

2. Jesus knew how to __(use the word)__ in spiritual warfare

B. THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, GOD’S WORD, IS ONLY ____(EFFECTIVE) IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE WHEN IT IS ____(SPOKEN)____

1. It is important for us to __(read)__ the word

2. It’s important for us to __(meditate) on the word

3. But as far as spiritual warfare is concerned we will only be effective with the sword of the Spirit by ____(speaking God’s word)__