

Ephesians 6

6:10-24

10 We need to be strong in the LORD, not in our own power, but in his mighty power. 1:19 tells us it is an incomparably great power! We need to be strong in Him to submit to the relationships God has called us to minister in (5:21-6:9). Sometimes we need encouragement to do that (1 Samuel 23:16). It isn't about the natural (2 Corinthians 12:9,10).

11 To stand we need to put on the full armor (*panoplia*) of God. We will face difficult trials as we try to live out our relationships in a godly, Christ honoring way. The devil will incite others to test your submission. You will not be able to stand up to the test without the strength of the LORD. In 4:24 he told us to put on our new self. Romans 13:12 calls it the armor of light.

12 Your fight is not against people! 2 Corinthians 10:4 It is very important for us to see that. We are fighting spiritual forces that incite them. Our submission to one another is for the purpose of expressing Christ that they might be won to Him. If we fight against them we have lost the whole purpose and meaning of the battle. It would be like burning the city you were trying to rescue from the hands of an enemy. This verse seems to imply a demonic hierarchy. Colossians 2:15 says that Jesus has defeated them. We just step in and enforce His victory. Acts 26:18

13 So when that day of warfare comes, make sure you are clothed in the New Man so that you can keep your witness solid, maintaining the ground you have taken. When you don't know what to do, stand firm in what you know to be true.

14 Now Paul begins to describe the *panoplia* that we are to put on. The soldier of that day had an outfit to make him the most capable of fighting. We are told to stand our ground each of the various parts of equipment in place. We are to have a belt or girdle of truth. It went around the loins and was essential to keep the rest of the equipment in place. If we are deceitful, every other part of our witness falls. We must first of all be truthful. 2 Corinthians 6:7 Jesus said He is truth. The breastplate is of righteousness protects our vital organs. If our life is lived in a righteous way, there is no opening for the enemy to fatally strike us. The Lord is our Righteousness. 5:9; Isaiah 59:17

15 We should have our feet shod with a readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. Jesus is our peace. We are ready to serve at His command. With our feet fitted properly with peace, we can speak kindness and understanding at a moments notice. That we are at peace with God means we do not have the need to demand acceptance from men. When an attack comes, our footing is firm. Romans 10:15

16 The shield mentioned here is a large infantry shield about 4 by 2 and a half feet in size. The enemy shoots fiery darts your way. They come through the mouths of men. They are meant to wound you and cause great pain. The arrows were tipped with pitch so that when they strike they burn an area of the skin and are hard to put out without spreading the fire. Pretty nasty! Remember it is not the person, but spiritual powers behind them. Hide behind your shield of faith. Romans 10:17 The word of Christ strengthens your faith. Don't let them strike you or cause you pain. Your faith will put out the fire. Genesis 15:1; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 1John 5:4-5

17 We are to put on the helmet of salvation. The Ephesians were already saved. We must consider this then as salvation from the world and the attacks of the evil one. Jesus is the salvation of God, not only eternally, but right now in my daily life. 1 Thessalonians 5:8
The sword is used both to block the blows and to attack the enemy, and so we use the Word of God, whose name is Jesus. Hebrews 4:12; Revelation 1:16 Do you know it well enough to use it as Jesus did in the wilderness temptation? Soldiers spend time sharpening their swords. Have you noticed that all the panoplia is Jesus? Romans 13:14

18 This is a good verse to introduce the next topic for our Sunday morning studies, intercessory prayer. Some take this to mean that we pray as led by the Spirit of God. Others believe this means to pray in tongues. Which ever, we are to pray for one another because we are under attack. Since the attack is spiritual in origin, we need to pray for spiritual assistance. Philippians 4:6; Colossians 4:2; 1Thessalonians 5:17; Isaiah 62:6-7

19-20 The great Apostle Paul had a prayer request for boldness to proclaim the Gospel in the face of death. He did not want fear to affect the way he presented the Gospel. We need the same prayers! He was an ambassador of the Kingdom of God sent to the Roman government, but he was in chains. Matthew 10:27-28

21-22 Tychicus would carry the letter and fill in the details and encourage them. Colossians 4:7-8 These letters may have been delivered on the same trip.

23 Peace to all the brothers. How we need the peace of Christ in our churches today! Love with faith from the Father – a sincere desire for them to experience the love of God and a gift of faith.

24 Grace to those who would persevere because they would not let their love for Christ die out. Let's not let our love for Him grow cold!