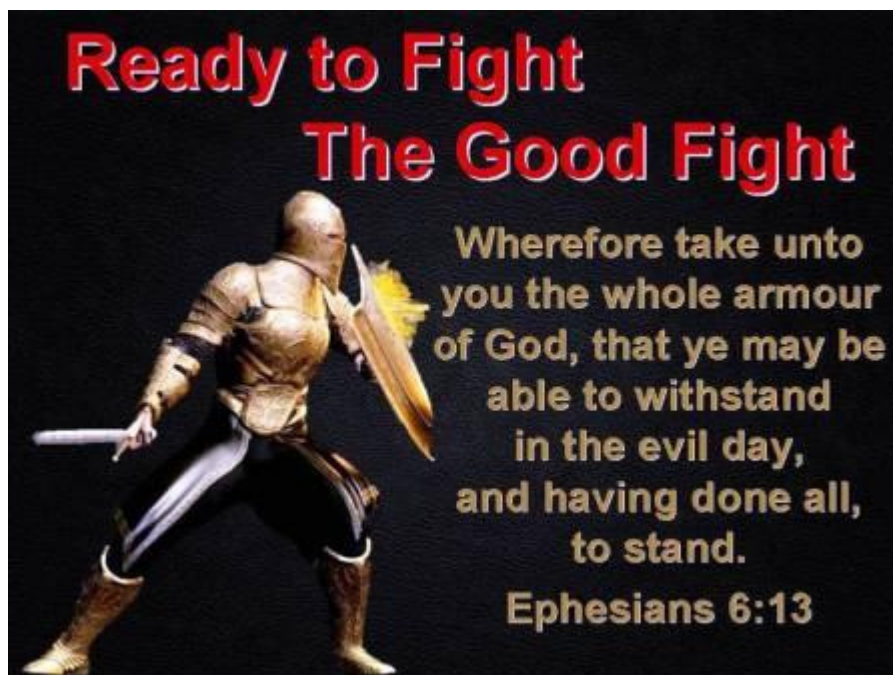


# The Spiritual Warfare of the Christian

*Wrestling With Another World*  
Ephesians 6



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## The Spiritual Warfare of the Christian

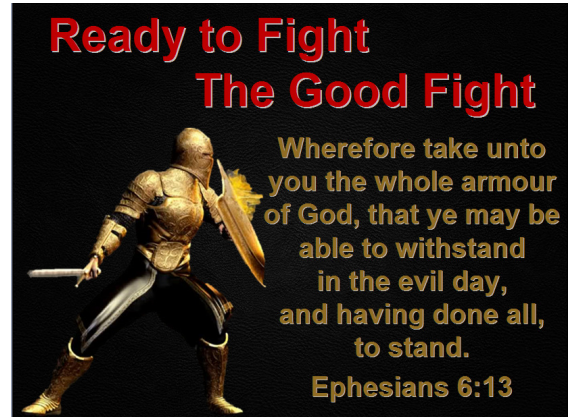
Wrestling With Another World – Part 1  
Ephesians 6

August 11, 2013 AM  
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### I. Introduction (Ephesians 6:12; Matthew 11:12)

#### A. We Are in A Spiritual War

1. There are TWO realms, two kingdoms at war all around you! (Mt 11:12)
  - a. Whether we like it or not
  - b. Whether we are prepared for it or not!
  - c. Whether we believe in it or not!
2. The apostle Paul refers to it as WRESTLING – hand to hand combat:
  - a. Not Remote control fighting
  - b. Not shooting from a distance
  - c. Not virtual like in computer games
  - d. But hand-to-hand, hand on neck, blow by blow fighting!
3. It is a fight for souls of men and women
4. It is a fight for dominion
5. It is the most important event going on right now! Forget about all that the newspapers and news programmes are talking about!



#### B. Five Spiritual Facts

1. Every human being is more than just flesh and bones – we are a body, soul and SPIRIT (1<sup>st</sup> Thes 5:23)
2. God is not an alien living on another planet – God is a Spirit (John 4:24) and He is not far from any one of us!
3. Not every illness or problem is only physical – some, and even many are spiritual problems (Luke 13:11-16) – and no amount of drugs, or therapy will cure them!
4. This life is temporary – the next one is eternal (Matthew 25:46)!
5. Satan will win if we do not put up a good fight!

#### C. Rarely are Christians ready for the 'spiritual' fight that they are in!

1. We fight well in the flesh – oftentimes too good!
2. But we are wimps about spiritual fights
  - a. We have very little power with God
  - b. We get so few prayers answered
3. Deep down we know that we are supposed to be on the offensive – on the attack – not running for cover!
4. Yet we only fight, and bite and devour each other instead of our real enemy (Eph 6:12)!

#### D. Satan and his devils are VERY powerful

1. Satan was Lucifer at first (Isaiah 14:12)

## The Spiritual Warfare of the Christian

2. He was kicked out of heaven when he became proud and rebellious
3. But he is in no way weak or powerless...
  - a. He still is the second most powerful being in the universe!
  - b. He is at war with God – hates everything good, and everything connected with God! Loves only to deceive and destroy!
  - c. He counterfeits everything that is good and clean and holy!
  - d. He damns most of the world
  - e. He devises countless ways to hinder the work of God
  - f. He stirs-up troubles, problems, tribulations
  - g. He devours Christians
4. Don't ever underestimate your enemy the devil folks!

### E. This Means War!

1. Most of our daily battles in our homes, and in our minds are really spiritual battles that we were either unaware of or ill-prepared to meet head on!
  2. The unsaved are completely under his dominion
    - a. Without even trying, they do his bidding!
    - b. Like puppets (2Tim 2:24-26)
    - c. Their spiritual father is Satan (John 8:44)
  3. But a born again child of God is different!
    - a. We have changed sides
    - b. We have a measure of protection (Luke 22:31,32)
    - c. We actually have ways to defeat our enemy when he attacks
    - d. Christians don't HAVE to let this happen (Romans 6:14)!
    - e. We have some stronger weapons – SPIRITUAL weapons!
- F. How can any selfish, self-condemned sinner ever expect to resist the devil, except by a superior power - a superior force?

## II. Message

### A. The Battles Belong to God (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 17:44-47)

1. Every battle, every fight, every struggle belongs to God – cannot just be fought like we are used to fighting
2. We have to fight in GOD'S realm, and using HIS ways
3. Young David shows us this!
  - a. Goliath only knows brute force – and he has plenty of it!
  - b. David knows there is a greater power in the God of heaven and earth!
  - c. He knows that the battle is won without sword or spear, or gun, or army!
4. Proves that anyone, no matter how insignificant, or weak, can fight and win this war!

### B. The Weapons of our Warfare are NOT physical (2 Cor 10:4,5) – they are better!

1. List some physical weapons: Fists, Yelling, Tears, Fingernails, Silence, Poison!
2. But a Christian's weapons are ONLY spiritual – just as real, but not made out of hands, metal, stone, wood, explosives, etc. But rather, spiritual in construction
3. If you feel powerless in the battle's you face as a Christian, it may be because you do not know just how powerful the spiritual weapons really are that God has given you!!!
4. You need a strength, a health, a power that is NOT physical

5. You need weapons that are not carnal
6. You need armour that is not defeatable!
7. We need spiritual weapons, and we need to know how to use them!
8. That is what our studies this month are all about!

### C. Our Greatest Need is to Get Strong in the Lord (Ephesians 6:10)

#### 1. God has Real Power

##### a. He has power

- 1) Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
- 2) 2Ch\_16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.
- 3) Eph 1:19,20 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,
- 4) Eph 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us
- 5) Col 1:29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

##### b. He Created EVERYTHING

- c. Holds everything together – the strong force! “by him all things consist”
- d. He is the very source of LIFE “in Him was life...”
- e. He is Power of the resurrection! Able to bring to life AGAIN!
- f. His very name is Almighty!

#### 2. We Are Pathetic! (Act 19:13-16)

#### 3. But that is okay – God loves using weak things!

- a. Like He did Abraham - Rom 4:16-21 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

##### b. Like He did Paul (1Cor 2:1-5)

- 1) 1Cor 2:1-5 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.
- 2) 2Co\_10:10 For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.
- 3) 2Co\_11:29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?
- 4) 2Co\_12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

## **The Spiritual Warfare of the Christian**

5) 2Co\_12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

- c. He will even use US (1Cor 1:26-29) For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence.

**D. Next Week I will teach you about ACCESSING God's Power – it's not for the flippant or timid, either!**

### **III. Conclusion**

#### **A. We Are in A Spiritual War!**

1. It is a fight for souls of men and women
2. It is a fight for dominion
3. It is the most important event going on right now! Forget about all that the newspapers and news programmes are talking about!

**B. Satan and his devils are VERY powerful.** Don't ever underestimate your enemy the devil folks!

**C. Satan will win if we do not put up a good fight!**

**D. Every One of Your Battles Belong to God**

**E. The Weapons of our Warfare are NOT physical** (2 Cor 10:4,5) – they are better!

**F. Our Greatest Need is to Get Strong in the Lord** (Ephesians 6:10) In HIS Power

**G. We Are Pathetic!**

**H. But that is okay – God loves using weak things!**

**I. But He must FIRST, SAVE weak things! Sinners have to get born again, into the very kingdom you need power in – the kingdom of God!** (John 3)

## ***Accessing the Power of God for your Life***

### Wrestling With Another World – Part 2

August 18, 2013 AM  
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#### **I. Introduction (Philp 4:13)**

- A. We like to say that “God is powerful”
- B. But we don’t experience it - not regularly
- C. We don’t even recognise His power when it IS at work – at least not in our lives!
- D. But we are supposed to!
- E. Whether we admit it or not, we need God’s help
- F. The god of this world has a death grip on our hearts, our mouths, our homes, and it is killing us!
- G. And there is only one way to break that grip
  - 1. Not by getting better at arguing, or debating
  - 2. Not by getting bigger and more powerful weapons than our enemies
  - 3. Not by getting louder and more aggressive
- H. But by allowing the power of the Holy Spirit of God to run our lives!

#### **II. Background**

##### **A. We are Blind To the Spiritual World (2Kings 6:11-15)**

- 1. We forget that There are three kingdoms at war
  - a. God’s Kingdom
  - b. Satan’s Kingdom
  - c. And OUR desire to have our OWN kingdom!
  - d. Only ONE will win in the end!
- 2. We rarely fight on the right side
  - a. Saul of Tarsus spent his life fighting the WRONG kingdom (Acts 9:6)
- 3. We need our eyes opened (Eph 4:17-20; Acts 26:18)
- 4. We MUST learn to wrestle and fight in the right kingdom!

##### **B. The Spirit of God is POWERFUL**

- 1. Shown In Creation (Genesis 1:1-3)
  - a. We live in an immense universe
  - b. It took IMMENSE power to create everything
  - c. It takes IMMENSE power to hold everything together
  - d. God’s eternal power and diety – godhead, is shown in creation (Romans 1:20)
- 2. Shown Throughout Bible History
  - a. The Red Sea
  - b. The Crossing of the Jordan River
  - c. The Sun and Moon staying in one place for 24 hours
  - d. Feeding 1 ½ million Jews every day for 40 years
- 3. Shown In the Virgin Birth (Luke 1:35)
- 4. Shown In the Resurrection (Romans 1:4)
  - a. To bring something dead back to life! That is power!

5. Shown In a Changed Life
  - a. To actually change someone from what they were, to something better
6. Shown In Answers to Prayer
  - a. Actual miracles
  - b. The suspension of the laws of physics
7. All of these we are prone to take for granted – to think they aren't that big a deal! But they definitely ARE some big deals!
8. But if we would believe that they have happened like God tells us, we might just be able to experience a taste of them in OUR lives
9. How to Access and Experience God's Power – one of the most important messages you will hear this year!

### **III. Message - How to Access and Experience GOD'S Power**

#### **A. Warning!**

1. It will cost YOU!
  - a. Cost Jacob that late night when he wrestled with God
  - b. Cost Job when he struggled with the rightness of God
  - c. Cost Moses when he had to lose everything so he could be sued of God to lead Israel out of Egypt
  - d. Cost Saul of Tarsus everything (Philp 3:7,8)
2. It will humble you
  - a. Break you
  - b. Expose every flaw in you
  - c. Cause you to crumble in desperate need of Jesus Christ
  - d. So sad when everyone around you is tearing at you, but the Lord is doing a marvellous work, so ignore all the accusers and all the persecutions
3. It will change YOU – not the world around you!

#### **B. Believe Jesus' Gospel For Yourself (1Cor 1:17-21)**

1. That is the ONLY access point – the only starting point for the power of God
2. Not rituals
3. Or traditions
4. Or ceremonies (Philp 3:3-7)
5. So many people only THINK they are okay with God, when they have never been truly born again – truly believing and resting in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ in their place on the cross!
6. Believe the Gospel, and you will experience the POWER of GOD!
7. The Gospel is POWERFUL –it can SAVE anyone from the righteous wrath of almighty God
8. If you keep waiting for a feeling, or for it to be popular, you will miss the power of God!

#### **C. Humble Yourself under the Authority of Christ (1Cor 1:22-31; 1Peter 5:6)**

1. Overruling our expectations
2. Trashing and crucifying our abilities (Philp 3:8)
3. Christ must have the pre-eminence – He must be everything
4. He must increase and I must decrease!
5. Become foolish – have NOTHING to brag or boast about
6. Suffer a while, while others are doing well (2Cor 12:7-10; 1Peter 5:10)
7. God's power is available ONLY to the HUMBLE (James 4:6,7) – to the LAST, to the somebodies who willingly become nobodies to get it!



**D. Clear Out All Blockages to His Work (Psalm 78:40,41)**

1. Don't Hinder God's Power, Presence or Plan in your Life. There is just SO much clogging the flow of God's power – we LIMIT the holy One of Israel.
2. Repent of everything that is not Christ's spirit in you!
  - a. Like Apathy (Mt 13:15)
  - b. Like Any and all Envy, Strife, Divisions, Pickiness, Fault-finding
    - 1) Rom\_13:13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.
    - 2) 1Co\_3:3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?
    - 3) 2Co\_12:20 For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:
    - 4) Jas 3:14-16 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.
  - c. Like Anything that is defiling you, physically, emotionally, or spiritually has to be dumped, hated, fled from and separated from! Leaves you empty, so that the Lord Jesus can fill you with Himself!

**E. Let the Lord Fight for You (Ex 14:9-14; Jude 1:9)**

1. The HARDEST part!
2. Pray against the spirit behind the problem – fight by PRAYER, not by words or weapons (James 5:13-18; Eph 6:12)
3. Restrain your flesh, and your mind from doing and saying what you may WANT to do and say!
  - a. Trust GOD to do right
  - b. Let God do what only He can do, His way, and in His time – not ours!
4. Crucify your hurts – we always want to crucify our enemies, but as Christians, we can crucify our hurts and injustices on the very cross that carried all our sins and our own injustices against God!
5. The idea is to get out of the way of the fight (Rom 12:19), and let GOD do the fighting
  - a. Like He did at the Red Sea, against the entire Egyptian army
  - b. Like He did in 2 Kings 6 against the entire Syrian army
6. God will do what you cannot, if you will start trusting Him to
  - a. 2Co 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.
  - b. Isa 40:29-31 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

**F. Live the Changed Life (1Cor 2:1-5) – there is SUCH power in a new and changed life – not in your old life!**

1. You don't seek God's power so you can continue in sin, or continue to be angry, or continue to hate, or continue to fight, or continue to justify yourself!
2. We easily may think that, if we are spiritual, and successful as Christians, we would...
  - a. Be great speakers

- b. Know all about every subject and issue
  - c. Be totally confident and sure of ourselves
  - d. Never have health problems or financial difficulties
3. But the power of God in your life is not in any of that!
  4. It is in the CHANGES, and SPIRITUAL IMPROVEMENTS that only God can make in the life of a born again believer!
  5. There is GREAT power AS you live for God – not in rebellion or stubbornness!
  6. Don't ever allow yourself to go back to living, thinking, reacting, and doing what you are so used to doing! Live the life of Christ!
  7. Not just a different life, but Living a Life Like Christ's
  8. You should be able to “demonstrate” / prove the Holy Spirit is at work in your life – it is called spiritual FRUIT

**G. Seek the Fullness of the Holy Spirit in Your Life** (Ephesians 5:18) – Tonight's Message

#### **IV. Conclusion**

- A. Don't be Blind To the Spiritual World** Anymore – quit thinking it's between you and your husband, or you and your parents... There are three kingdoms at war. Only ONE will win in the end! learn to wrestle and fight in the right kingdom!
- B.** The god of this world has a death grip on our hearts, our mouths, our homes, and it is killing us!
- C.** And there is only one way to break that grip
- D.** By allowing the power of the Holy Spirit of God to run our lives!
- E. Just remember the Warning**
  1. It will cost YOU!
  2. It will humble you
  3. It will change YOU – not the world around you!
- F. Remember How to Access and Experience GOD'S Power**
  1. **Believe Jesus' Gospel For Yourself**
  2. **Humble Yourselves under the Authority of Christ**
  3. **Clear Out All Blockages to His Work**
  4. **Let the Lord Fight for You**
  5. **Live the Changed Life** – there is SUCH power in a new and changed life – not in your old life!
  6. **Seek the Fullness of the Holy Spirit in Your Life** – it is not that complicated, but it will never happen if the other steps are not taken first!

## Seek the Fullness of the Holy Spirit in Your Life

Wrestling With Another World – Part 3  
Ephesians 5:18

August 18, 2013 PM  
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### I. Introduction (Ephesians 5:18)

#### A. What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit of God?

1. To be FILLED means, To be controlled by Him... your actions and reactions should be governed by His will. Your feelings, and your thoughts should be ruled by His hand!
2. We already know about being filled with earthly things, like:
  - a. Drink (Eph 5:18), or drugs, or anything that replaces dependency on the Holy Spirit
  - b. Anger and wrath – many people are consumed with it (Luke 4:28)
  - c. Our own ways (Prov 14:14) – no heart or mind for God but are consumed with themselves and their wants and wishes. *Pro 14:14 The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.*
  - d. Envy (Acts 13:45) – no joy or contentment in God! *Act 13:45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.*

#### B. Signs that you have the fullness of the Spirit

1. You are like Christ in the things you do – no longer living in the flesh - see Romans 8:5-16
2. You are now completely yielded to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and influenced ONLY through the Holy Spirit's work in your heart
3. You have a Boldness to witness and preach (Acts 4:8, 31)
4. You have a Hatred of sin in YOUR life as did John the Baptist (Luke 1:15)
5. There is an Instant and automatic Praise and thankfulness about EVERYTHING (Eph 5:20)
6. You easily forgive (Eph 4:31-32), no matter the offence. *“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”*

#### C. It is possible to be “FILLED” with God's Spirit

1. Peter was - *Act 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,*
2. The entire Church in Jerusalem was - *Act 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.*
3. Saul was supposed to be full from the moment of salvation - *Act 9:17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.*
4. Gentile believers were - *Act 13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.*

## **Seek the Fullness of the Holy Spirit in Your Life**

5. Servants, and the leadership in a Church were supposed to be - *Act 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.*

### **II. Background**

- A. How to know if the Holy Spirit is at work
1. He will be Convicting YOU
  2. Revealing – Teaching YOU (John 14:26; 16:13)
  3. Empowering – His work that He wants to do in you is to enable you to do just what GOD wants you to do (Rom 8:11)
  4. He will be Calming You - Resting – not panicking
- B. But, it ONLY happens as you YIELD to Him and seek to be filled by Him
1. Only THEN will you notice Him quietly at work in your life!
  2. Don't just taste Him, or say hello, or visit Him on occasion!
  3. Seek to become filled by HIM – not His powers, or His blessings, but HIMSELF!
- C. HE is power! With Him in charge of your life, you will experience power (Zech 4:6)
- D. Look what He does just when He just touches a life
1. Gideon (Judges 6:34)
  2. Samson (Judges 14:6,9; 15:14)
  3. David (1Samuel 16:13)
- E. And the good news is that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit – He doesn't come and go – He stays with us
- F. Filling of the Holy Spirit should not be a few high points in your life, but a constant walk IN His presence, and therefore, in His power!

### **III. Message - Seek the Fullness of the Holy Spirit in Your Life (Ephesians 5:18)**

Get Filled by:

- A. Repenting A Lot – emptying yourself of everything that is taking up the space you know needs to be filled by God's Spirit!
- B. Reading through your Bible A Lot (John 6:63; Romans 10:17) – so simple
- C. Asking to be filled A Lot (Luke 11:13) – prayer – not passing, but desperate
1. It is ONLY available to the Desperate for GOD'S power – not their own, or some other saviour
  2. We are too quick to rely on our own wit, or strength, or friends, or money
  3. There needs to come a time where we, like Jacob, wrestle with God to have HIS power, HIS strength instead of our own!
- D. Singing and Praising God A Lot (Ephesians 5:19,20)
1. Eph 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;
  2. Eph 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
- E. Using Your Filling for Others A Lot (1Co 14:12)

## Seek the Fullness of the Holy Spirit in Your Life

1. “Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.”
  2. Not for self
  3. But to bless and edify and help and encourage and build up and train others
  4. Like as a Sunday School teacher
  5. Or as a preacher, or Missionary
  6. Or as a godly, kind, soft wife and mother!
- F. Forgiving everyone A Lot – have nothing against anyone
- G. Walking more and more in His realm, than in *THIS* realm
1. Our affections ought to be THERE (Col 3:1-3)
  2. Our spirit is already THERE
  3. Our battle is in THAT realm – not with flesh and blood!
  4. Our thoughts are of THAT kingdom
  5. Our joy comes from THAT realm!
  6. Even though I am here, I choose to live there!
    - a. Above all the sin
    - b. Above all the strife
    - c. Out of the reach of the devil

## ***The Weapons of Truth and Righteousness***

The Spiritual Weapons of the Christian 1  
Wrestling With Another World – Part 4  
Ephesians 6

August 25, 2013 AM  
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### **I. Introduction (Ephesians 6:12; Matthew 11:12)**

#### **A. We Are in A Spiritual War**

1. There are TWO realms, two kingdoms at war all around you! (Mt 11:12)
  - a. Whether we like it or not
  - b. Whether we are prepared for it or not!
  - c. Whether we believe in it or not!
2. The apostle Paul refers to it as WRESTLING – hand to hand combat:
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  - c. Not virtual like in computer games
  - d. But hand-to-hand, hand on neck, blow by blow fighting!
3. It is a fight for souls of men and women
4. It is a fight for dominion – who is in control (*the world, your flesh, the devil, or the Lord Jesus Christ?*)
5. It is the most important event going on right now! Forget about all that the newspapers and news programmes are talking about!

#### **B. Five Spiritual Facts**

1. Every human being is more than just flesh and bones – we are a body, soul and SPIRIT (1<sup>st</sup> Thes 5:23)
2. God is not an alien living on another planet – God is a Spirit (John 4:24) and He is not far from any one of us!
3. Not every illness or problem is only physical – some, and even many are spiritual problems (Luke 13:11-16) – and no amount of drugs, or therapy will cure them!
4. This life is temporary – the next one is eternal (Matthew 25:46)!
5. *Satan will win if we do not put up a good fight!*

#### **C. Rarely are Christians ready for the ‘spiritual’ fight that they are in!**

1. We fight well in the flesh – oftentimes too good!
2. But we are wimps about spiritual fights
  - a. We have very little power with God
  - b. We get so few prayers answered
3. Deep down we know that we are supposed to be on the offensive – on the attack – not running for cover!
4. Yet we only fight, and bite and devour each other instead of our real enemy (Eph 6:12)!

#### **D. Satan and his devils are VERY powerful**

1. Satan was Lucifer at first (Isaiah 14:12)

## The Weapons of Truth and Righteousness

2. He was kicked out of heaven when he became proud and rebellious
3. But he is in no way weak or powerless...
  - a. He still is the second most powerful being in the universe!
  - b. He is at war with God – hates everything good, and everything connected with God!  
Loves only to deceive and destroy!
  - c. He counterfeits everything that is good and clean and holy!
  - d. He damns most of the world
  - e. He devises countless ways to hinder the work of God
  - f. He stirs-up troubles, problems, tribulations
  - g. He devours Christians
4. Don't ever underestimate your enemy the devil folks!

### E. This Means War!

1. Most of our daily battles in our homes, and in our minds are really spiritual battles that we were either unaware of or ill-prepared to meet head on!
2. The unsaved are completely under his dominion
  - a. Without even trying, they do his bidding!
  - b. Like puppets (2Tim 2:24-26)
  - c. Their spiritual father is Satan (John 8:44)
3. But a born again child of God is different!
  - a. We have changed sides
  - b. We have a measure of protection (Luke 22:31,32)
  - c. We actually have ways to defeat our enemy when he attacks
  - d. Christians don't HAVE to let this happen (Romans 6:14)!
  - e. We have some stronger weapons – SPIRITUAL weapons!

F. How can any selfish, self-condemned sinner ever expect to resist the devil, except by a superior power - a superior force?

G. With the Whole Armour of God!

1. This armour enables the Christian to STAND (6:10-13), and not fall when under attack from any enemy - spiritual, or physical! Most "Christians" fall like rain under pressure and attack. We need so desperately to learn to stand!
2. To fight Satan we must put on "*the whole armour of God*". Not just a few bits and pieces, but the whole package, every day! Why? Because Satan looks for the weak spots in our life to hit at.
  - a. Every soldier is issued weapons and defensive gear
    - 1) They are tools to get the war won
    - 2) Every fisherman has tools to catch fish, every carpenter has tools to build homes, and every Christian has tools to defeat the devil!
  - b. But all the training in the world wont do any good in battle if the soldier doesn't PUT ON THE ARMOUR - doesn't carry his weapons into the fight
    - 1) God is calling every Christian here to faithfully prepare for each day, and each battle by choosing to "put on" every piece of God's armour!
    - 2) Don't be like the idiot soldier that went to the loo, and was taken prisoner simply because he forgot to carry his weapon!
    - 3) Satan traps more Christians simply because:

## The Weapons of Truth and Righteousness

- a) They never learn their weapon - how it works, how to use it
- b) They let someone else destroy their faith in their weapons
- c) They forget to use their weapons, and try fighting against tanks with sticks, rocks, and mud! You wont survive!

- c. Preparation is found in personal discipline - reading and studying your Bible, being in church, praying, exercising your faith - growing stronger!
- d. A Christian who is not ready, and prepared to live for God each day, is destined to wind up spiritually shot-up, and wounded and hurt! And probably even dead. There is NO glory in that!

H. There are six pieces of armour the Christian needs to be wearing every day so to stand:

1. The under-garment of God's truth - wraps around us like a wide belt
2. The breastplate of God's righteousness
3. The boots of the Gospel
4. The shield and buckler of faith
5. The helmet of personal salvation (forgiveness)
6. The Bible (sword) of the spirit - the word of God

I. We will look at the first three this morning, and the remaining three tonight!



## II. Message – The Spiritual Weapons of a Christian...

A. **The Weapon of Truth** (Eph 6:14a).

1. The undergarment of Truth – doesn't sound very "powerful" – oh but it is!
  - a. Your loins is your waist – your skin
  - b. And it needs to be girt about (surrounded) – clothed upon with TRUTH!
2. All our armour rests upon this.
  - a. A person does not put on armour on top of bare skin!
  - b. Every soldier has to wear an undergarment upon which all the other armour rests. If they didn't have this garment on, the rest of the armour would pinch and cut into the flesh of the soldier when they moved and attempted to fight!
  - c. So, before you put on ANY of the following items, put on truth!
3. God requires truth of His people (Eph 4:25; Col 3:9). Honesty, sincerity, genuineness. This is where Christians should be easily different than the world! Trustworthy! Telling the truth at ALL times!
4. It is THE source of our confidence in winning each battle (Eph 6:14; John 8:32,36; John 14:6; 16:13)
  - a. Not in well prepared speeches, or fancy words – just the truth!
  - b. But in knowing that we have not followed "cunningly devised fables" (2Peter 1:16) but the very truth of God contained in a Book
  - c. Without TRUTH, all our weapons will do is HURT US instead of our enemy! Once a lie gets into the life of the believer, everything begins to fall apart.
  - d. When Jesus was attacked by the devil in the wilderness in Matthew 4, He used the TRUTH of the word of God to hurt the devil!





## The Weapons of Truth and Righteousness

5. God's Truth works! It made ME free! Saved MY soul!
  - a. *Liberates* – makes free (John 8:32) the mind and soul from darkness of lies and deceit
  - b. *Enables us to worship God* (John 4:24,25). You cannot worship God by following a “lie” or a fable (2Pet 1:16). Our approach must be **right** - not haphazard, or guesswork - not when our soul depends on it!
  - c. *Reveals the enemy* - Like a RADAR on a night sky. Satan uses cunning lies, and deceit as his weapons of destruction (Eve). And the only way to identify a lie (a counterfeit) is to know the truth!
6. How To Use Truth as a Weapon:
  - a. Face it First! Let it work on you!!! Quite trying to deceive yourself into believing the lies of this age. Face the truth.
    - 1) If you have NOT repented of your sinfulness, and have not called on Jesus Christ to once and for all save your soul from hell, then you are still lost and will die in your sins!
    - 2) If you claim to be a Christian, and yet have no fruit - no inward changes - then something is wrong somewhere. Be honest. Is Jesus in you? Are you allowing Him to work ON you? Be honest now!
    - 3) Satan's followers are religious zombies that won't face truth - they go through life blind, with the hope they will come out alright in the end! The Christian is not like that! We **know** how things will come out - we know the end! We faced the truth! And it saved us!
    - 4) You must KNOW God's truth and believe it, for you to face spiritual battle!
  - b. Just Wear It! *Put it on!* Before any other piece of armour can be put on, *truth* must be put on, and worn all day! (Philp 4:8).
    - 1) What do you know that is TRUE?
    - 2) God is true! The whole Bible is True! Jesus is true! Heaven is true! So is hell! God loved You so much that he gave His only begotten Son to save YOU!
    - 3) Do you truly know where you will be if you died this afternoon?
    - 4) Do you know Jesus Christ? Does He know YOU?
    - 5) Truth will overwhelm fear and doubts!
    - 6) So you have to put in on!
    - 7) Truth must be worn (lived) if you are going to call yourself a Christian! A person who calls upon the Lord Jesus to save them from their sins, and hell, becomes forgiven. But only a person who endeavours to live **like** Jesus Christ is called a Christian! Repent of lying, and Commit yourself to speaking the truth always!
  - c. Use it! When everyone is talking up lies and stupidity, give them the truth!
    - 1) About the Bible – prophecies, history
    - 2) About the law – being absolute
    - 3) About where the world is headed
    - 4) About Jesus Christ – over all religions and religious efforts
  - d. Handle it with love (Eph 4:15)!
    - 1) Be careful how you handle it! Don't misuse it for your own benefit!
    - 2) I am often very sharp with truth – and so are many of you!
    - 3) Use it lovingly, not angrily! Truth is NOT a stick to beat people down with, but a rope to pull people up with!
7. Summary – to wear this armour piece:

## The Weapons of Truth and Righteousness

- a. Spend much time in your Bible – reading it, learning it
  - b. Fill your mind with truths – saturate yourself with it! That’s why Bible believing Christians love LEARNING! We study everything! We love the truth!
  - c. Believe what you read in this Book! Test everything, but believe it!
  - d. Constantly develop your understanding of who the Lord really is! Not just what you have been told, but what you learn yourself!
  - e. Listen to the Spirit of Truth as you read! He will guide you, teach you, direct you!
  - f. Get into Discipleship mode – be a disciple, a firm follower!
8. If you will do that, all the other weapons will work! Without truth, you will find yourself actually working and fighting for the enemy!

### B. The Breastplate of Righteousness

1. The Christian has a chest-piece called a breastplate
  - a. A soldier needs a breastplate - a constant shield of protection over the chest area, protecting the most vital organs – organs you cannot live without!
  - b. This breastplate here is called “righteousness” (right-ness, being right - instead of being wrong, or guilty). Talking about “holiness”, “purity”, “perfection”, “just” (straight), “without flaw,” and “cleanness.”.
2. There are two kinds of righteousness: **God’s** righteousness (1 Jn 1:5), and **personal** righteousness (right living)
  - a. Our own righteousnesses are worthless to God (Isa 64:6) - no value!
  - b. We need GOD’s righteousness given to us (Matt 5:20; Rom 10:3,4; Philp 3:9). God exchanges our sinfulness for *His* righteousness - that’s called salvation.
  - c. But after we are saved, we do need to live **right** (Titus 2:11,12). Don’t misunderstand me! God’s righteousness is no means of free-living. Once a person comes to Jesus Christ, and asks Him for salvation, that sinner gets God’s righteousness, and then is expected to live right!
3. We are Given Righteousness...
  - a. First, THROUGH FORGIVENESS
    - 1) Be humble enough to Confess sins to God (1John 1:7-9)
    - 2) Confess your faults to those you have hurt - make things right
  - b. And then by FORSAKING (Prov 28:13)
  - c. And THEN, by DOING RIGHT THINGS! You can’t have it in any other order!
    - 1) **Choose Righteousness, instead of the same old same old, wicked and sinful habits - Put it on every morning**
      - a) Like, looking into a clothes wardrobe and choose an appropriate outfit for the day – a clean outfit!
        1. Choose to live, talk, react right – as a mirror of Jesus Christ
        2. Instead of choosing to live, talk, react as a mirror of the world around us!
      - b) Place it over the heart that you know is too touchy, or too prone to temptation, etc. It will actually help protect you!



## The Weapons of Truth and Righteousness

- 2) ***Yield to righteousness*** - let it defend you. A Clean Conscience is POWERFUL DEFENSE against demonic attack! It will be sufficient to PROTECT you from all the damage the devil seeks to do!
- 3) ***Rest in it*** - let it transform your life into a life like Jesus Christ lived! Far too many people try and obtain salvation, and God's righteousness, only to fold it up, and store it away (so-to-speak), until it is "fashionable" - ie, at church, or around other Christians! Live it every day!

### 4. This Spiritual Breastplate

- a. ***Saves!*** When you put on God's righteousness, you *dump your own*, and accept HIS to cover for your sin. His righteousness covers, and pays for all your sins!
  - 1) **Q:** Does sin originate with the hands, head, or the heart?
  - 2) **A:** With the heart (Mt 15:17-20)! Remember, not our own righteousness!
- b. ***It protects*** the "vital organs". A breastplate is like a "bullet-proof" vest that protects the heart, kidneys, and lungs. ***God's*** righteousness protects:
  - 1) The true heart - protects your love, emotions, joys, your feelings so that they don't get "crushed" and devastated. Most people erect WALLS around their hearts so they don't feel anything anymore (they end up living in those walls), but the Christian puts on this breastplate so that the attacks don't stop him from pressing on! Amen!
  - 2) The soul - from corruption. Our righteousness is not our own, but was given to us at Calvary by Jesus Christ! That righteousness keeps us from ever going to hell - an everlasting righteousness!
  - 3) So, This breastplate of righteousness enables the Christian to press into heavy battle, and to withstand intensive attack against the heart and soul!
- c. ***It produces a clean life.*** God's righteousness, in the believer, produces righteousness in the life of the believer (you cannot generate righteousness on your own)! Same with love (you first have to receive God's love before you can begin to really love anyone), and grace (you will never have any grace with anyone, until you have received God's grace at the cross)!
- d. ***It honours God*** (Ps 11:7). Righteousness is an attribute of God, and when a person desires God's righteousness, and wants to live like Jesus lived, they are paying the greatest honour to the Lord! Wanting to be like Jesus!

## ***The Christian's Gospel Shoes***

Spiritual Weapons of the Christian 2  
Wrestling With Another World – Part 5  
Ephesians 6

August 25, 2013 PM  
Pastor Craig Ledbetter  
Bible Baptist Church, Ballincollig, Cork, Ireland  
[www.biblebc.com](http://www.biblebc.com)

### **I. Introduction (Ephesians 6:10-18)**

- A. How can any selfish, self-condemned sinner ever expect to resist the devil, except by a superior power - a superior force?
- B. With the Whole Armour of God!
  - 1. This armour enables the Christian to STAND (6:10-13), and not fall when under attack from any enemy - spiritual, or physical! Most “Christians” fall like rain under pressure and attack. We need so desperately to learn to stand!
  - 2. To fight Satan we must put on "*the whole armour of God*". Not just a few bits and pieces, but the whole package, every day! Why? Because Satan looks for the weak spots in our life to hit at.
    - a. Every soldier is issued weapons and defensive gear
      - 1) They are tools to get the war won
      - 2) Every fisherman has tools to catch fish, every carpenter has tools to build homes, and every Christian has tools to defeat the devil!
    - b. But all the training in the world wont do any good in battle if the soldier doesn't PUT ON THE ARMOUR - doesn't carry his weapons into the fight
      - 1) God is calling every Christian here to faithfully prepare for each day, and each battle by choosing to “put on” every piece of God's armour!
      - 2) Don't be like the idiot soldier that went to the loo, and was taken prisoner simply because he forgot to carry his weapon!
      - 3) Satan traps more Christians simply because:
        - a) They never learn their weapon - how it works, how to use it
        - b) They let someone else destroy their faith in their weapons
        - c) They forget to use their weapons, and try fighting against tanks with sticks, rocks, and mud! You wont survive!
    - c. Preparation is found in personal discipline - reading and studying your Bible, being in church, praying, exercising your faith - growing stronger!
    - d. A Christian who is not ready, and prepared to live for God each day, is destined to wind up spiritually shot-up, and wounded and hurt! And probably even dead. There is NO glory in that!
  - C. There are six pieces of armour the Christian needs to be wearing every day so to stand:
    - 1. The under-garment of God's truth - wraps around us like a wide belt
    - 2. The breastplate of God's righteousness
    - 3. The boots of the Gospel
    - 4. The shield and buckler of faith
    - 5. The helmet of personal salvation (forgiveness)
    - 6. The Bible (sword) of the spirit - the word of God
  - D. We looked at the first two this morning, and the remaining four tonight!

## II. Message – The Spiritual Weapons of a Christian...

- A. **The Weapon of Truth** (Eph 6:14a). All our armour rests upon this
- B. **The Breastplate of Righteousness** (Ephesians 6:14b)
- C. **Gospel Shoes!** (Ephesians 6:15)



1. God knows we need armour on our feet
  - a. Usually people put a lot of emphasis only on arm strength and upper body armour – and when pushed and shoved by the devil and the world, they slip and fall!
  - b. These Gospel Shoes are more than just shoes, they are boots - *army boots*. They may be a bit uncomfortable to wear, but they are a very necessary part of our armour (Rom 10:15)!
    - 1) Boots - feet shod (covered) - enables a soldier to stand in all weather and conditions
    - 2) Preparation - ready to go, ready to stand, ready to fight
    - 3) The Gospel of peace: the words that make peace with God (at war with the devil) - most have it the other way around!
2. God gave us these shoes, and we **MUST** wear them all day every day – not just when we feel motivated to wear them!
3. Do you **KNOW** the Gospel? What is the Gospel? Get this clear in your minds!
  - a. Some think it is *a book* on an altar. Some think it's all about *the kingdom, miracles, signs and wonders!* These are **false** Gospels (Gal 1:6-9).
    - 1) Like Mormons, JW's, "*prosperity*" gospel promoters, *social* gospel ministers (feed the poor, etc), the *liberation* gospel fighters (free the oppressed minorities of the world)
    - 2) Some may be good causes, but are **NOT** the Gospel! There are "*feel good*" gospels (never offends), and "do your own thing" gospels - they are the devil's poison
  - b. **THE** Gospel is the **good news** about *one* Man, the God-Man, Jesus Christ! *His* death, burial, and resurrection in our place (1 Cor 15:1-4)! It is **ONLY** about Jesus! And that you **can** have eternal life - it is available to all who repent and receive Christ's gift by faith **ALONE!**
  - c. Believe any other "gospel" and you will go to hell as fast as a bullet!
4. The Gospel does **THREE** Things for the Christian besides saving them:
  - a. Knowing it Prepares us – for **SPIRITUAL** fighting
  - b. Knowing it Protects us – from slipping
  - c. Knowing it Propels us – to the farthest corner of the world
5. **The Gospel Prepares You for the Battle** (Eph 6:15)
  - a. Know this! Satan meticulously trains, and programs *his* army. So should **WE!**
  - b. Part of your armour is actually the preparation to fight - you can have the best weapons at your disposal, and still lose because you do not know how to use them!
  - c. The Gospel Prepares You To Stand - while serving, soul-winning, and under attack! It is like an army boot. How does the Gospel prepare a Christian to stand?
    - 1) Gives the person a **reason** to stand in the first place – for people's souls!
    - 2) Provides the **armour** to enable the Christian to withstand attacks - in muck, mire, on slopes, slippery places - it provides firm support

## The Christian's Gospel Shoes

- 3) Expands our understanding of what is really at stake in this spiritual warfare we are caught up in - Gospel gives us a view of eternity - that the whole world is going to hell under a wicked, evil tyrant named Lucifer (no fairy tale) - and they must be freed!
6. **The Gospel Protects You IN battle.**
  - a. To stand against your enemy, you need firm footing. Psa 40:2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.
  - b. The Gospel keeps you OUT of bad places!
    - 1) Psa 119:101 I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.
    - 2) Psa 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
    - 3) The Gospel will keep you out of pubs, jails, discos, off-licenses
  - c. The Gospel will keep you from slipping
    - 1) Into Calvinism
    - 2) Into Apathy
    - 3) Into laziness – people are dying and going to hell right now at almost 2 per second!
    - 4) Into filthy sin – that would ruin your testimony and send more people to hell
  - d. It keeps us focused on the real battles! Paul worried most about how people messed with the Gospel. Once you mess with the Gospel, you damn people – period!
7. The Gospel Propels You to the Battle – it is constantly in motion (1 Thes 1:5-9). It moves us to SAY something DO something in this messed up, lost world!
  - a. The Gospel came to these Thessalonians in Greece (1:5)
  - b. The Gospel changed those people - into followers of Christ (1:6)
  - c. The Gospel motivated those new Christians to sound it out across the region: into Macedonia and Achaia (1:7,8)!
8. That's why God calls the Christian's feet *beautiful* (Is 52:7; Ro 10:15)
  - a. If your salvation didn't affect your feet, and get you to taking the gospel to the lost, then something is wrong, and you need to get back right with God (too many are like the Dead Sea)
  - b. Realize what you are getting into - spiritual warfare - over lost souls!
9. The most victorious Christian is a witnessing Christian!

## ***The Christian's Shield of Faith***

Wrestling With Another World – Part 6  
Ephesians 6

Sept 1, 2013 PM  
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### **I. Introduction (Ephesians 6:10-18)**

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  - 1. This armour enables the Christian to STAND (6:10-13), and not fall when under attack from any enemy - spiritual, or physical! Most “Christians” fall like rain under pressure and attack. We need so desperately to learn to stand!
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  - D. We looked at the first three last week!



1. **The Weapon of Truth** (Eph 6:14a). All our armour rests upon this
2. **The Breastplate of Righteousness** (Ephesians 6:14b)
3. **Gospel Shoes!** (Ephesians 6:15)

## II. Message – The Spiritual Weapons of a Christian...

### A. The Shield of Faith (Ephesians 6:16)

1. Next, our challenge is to take up, and carry a shield - One that will deflect any missile (fiery dart) directed at you!
2. Note the words, "above all" – as if, most importantly!
  - a. What did Paul think was the most important piece of equipment for the Christian warrior?
  - b. Right... the shield! He tells us *above all* right at the start.
3. How a Shield Works
  - a. The shield is held in front of a soldier and gives us a place of safety in the midst of a battle.
  - b. It is like carrying a DOOR around
  - c. The Roman shield was as large as a door. It was made of wood, the surface of which was charred with a torch and then covered with thick leather. A soldier could hide his whole body behind this shield. The flying missile would hit and the liquid spread out, but the charred wood of the shield would not catch fire so the soldier was safe beneath his shield.
  - d. It was a great piece of armour!
  - e. It deflected arrows, darts, stones, and even hot oil that would constantly be raining down upon the soldiers!
  - f. When these large shields were joined together, they formed **a wall** behind which a body of troops could hide themselves from the rain of the enemy's missiles.
  - g. For the Christian, Faith is what gives us refuge against Satan's "*fiery darts*"
  - h. For the Romans the shield was not just a defensive weapon, it was also an offensive weapon. The metal bulge in the centre, was designed to hit the enemy at impact, put him off balance, and it allowed the soldier to follow up with his sword, to kill the opponent.
4. Faith is just like a shield
  - a. It allows us to put an immediate end to ALL of Satan's dart attacks. I'll explain this more in a few minutes!
  - b. **Our faith** has two uses:
    - 1) To deflect Satan's advances
    - 2) And to hit back at the devil hard when he is attacking us
  - c. According to the Bible, **faith** alone is the only way to resist the attacks of our enemy, the devil (1 Pet 5:8,9)!
    - 1) Not by will-power, or through self-help meetings – not in self confidence or pumping ourselves up
    - 2) But by absolute and confident faith in an almighty God who gives us the victory based upon our child-like reliance upon HIM (1 John 5:4,5)!
    - 3) Most people have a mis-placed type of faith: in the government, in their religion, in themselves, in angels, in fairy-god-mothers
    - 4) But the only faith that works is the one once delivered to us (Jude 3) found in the Bible! Not in some catechism, or some temple somewhere
5. What is Faith?





## The Christian's Shield of Faith

- a. Faith is often defined as a religious term; religious people are called "people of faith".
  - b. There are all kinds of 'faiths' (Buddhist, Muslim, Catholic, Protestant, Hindu, Evolutionist, Humanist, Atheist)!
  - c. But **true faith** is:
    - 1) Believing God (Acts 27:25; Rom 4:20,21; 2Tim 1:12)
    - 2) Believing God instead of myself and others!
    - 3) Complete **reliance** upon the God of the Bible, as expressed in the Bible!
    - 4) Your personal confidence in God and the promises of His Word.
    - 5) Knowing that God knows what He is doing, and being willing to let Him do the leading, and you do the following!
    - 6) Faith is trusting GOD enough to obey Him no matter the odds, knowing He will always give the victory (1<sup>st</sup> John 5:4; 4:4)!
  - d. There is no reason for a Christian to think that they have **blind faith**; God has provided us with reasoned faith... faith based upon reason, facts and logic.
    - 1) The Prophecies.
      - a) The Bible is filled with prophetic evidence regarding the Bible, and Jesus Christ, for example Isaiah 52:13-53:12, describes Jesus and his ministry 700-years before his birth.
      - b) The Bible foretells the exact time of Jesus death 539-years before His birth in the 70 Weeks of Daniel, Daniel 9:24-27. Why did God provide prophetic evidence for the person of Jesus? Why did Jesus do the miracles? To provide evidence of his identity, that we might have faith in Him.
    - 2) The Histories
    - 3) The Universal affect – makes better people, when obeyed!
6. How Does Faith Work as a Shield?
- a. It Rests behind **God** as our Shield (Gen 15:1; Ps 5:12; 119:114; Prov 30:5) – if you will trust Him
    - 1) Faith actually has no power, but the allowing for the power of God to act!
    - 2) When we use our faith, it shields us against doubts and discouragement, and against EVERYTHING the devil throws against you!
    - 3) Why? Because when you are believing God, you are NOT trusting your feelings anymore, nor even your experiences, but rather, you are fully trusting simply whatever God promises.
  - b. Makes HIM our place of safety – our defence! When He is our Defence (Psalm 62:6) we will never have to move backwards!
    - 1) Believing God permits us to manoeuvre on the battlefield instead of hiding in the fortress. Satan wants to make a bunch of "chickens" out of Christians so that they don't do any damage to the devil's work on the battlefield: ie, few strong Christians taking a stand in the workplace; in govt; in education!
  - c. It shields us even when it doesn't seem to be there
    - 1) David fought Goliath, and won by FAITH (1Sam 17:45) without a visible shield to protect him like Goliath had
7. How it Quenches ALL the fiery darts hurled at us!
- a. What are Fiery darts?
    - 1) Burning arrows, missiles, fast, pointed projectiles that usually killed its victim by burning them!
-

## The Christian's Shield of Faith

- 2) The Roman "fiery darts" were made from a hollow reed (something like bamboo). One end was stoppered, then the reed was filled with a flammable liquid like alcohol. A loosely fitting stopper holding a wick was slipped into the other end of the tube and lit. It was then shot like an arrow, not at a bundle of straw or at a fortress, but at the soldier himself. Since the missile had its own fuel source and the wick was protected by the tube, the missile kept burning until it hit something. When it hit a soldier, the wick popped out, the liquid spilled over the soldier's armour and ignited, cooking him in his own armour.
  - 3) These missiles were nothing special – nothing high tech. They were fired during daylight hours, so you could hardly see them coming, but when they struck, the effects were devastating.
- b. Satan's Fiery darts
- 1) Burning temptations
  - 2) Painful words by people
  - 3) Even demonic thoughts - evil thoughts, demonic ideas.
    - a) The devil knows very well that our most important stronghold is the mind. Once he can attack the mind, and short-circuit the mind, he's got us. Because then we are at the mercy of our emotions. It's our mind that keeps control of our emotions. So we have to guard our mind; the fiery darts.
    - b) He sends something our way - a thought, a doubt, an unholy idea, an event, a sound, a casual comment by a friend - which seems very innocent at first, but when it strikes, it spreads its destruction throughout our spiritual man engulfing us in flames.
  - 4) Most of our battle is in the thought life. Most of our conflict is not in our ordinary outward life; but in our thought life. That's where the devil attacks us, with all kinds of evil suggestions, doubts, blasphemous thoughts.
    - a) **Lust** (James 1:13-15) These darts (sinful desires) are meant not just to hurt you, but to destroy you - they have delayed action timers!
    - b) **Love of Money** (1 Tim 6:10) - possessions, success, the world
    - c) **The condemnation of the Law** - proving that you are not good enough – condemnation, personal guilt, etc...
    - d) **Lies** - people get into the habit of wanting to believe lies instead of the truth (about themselves; about God; about sin) - misunderstandings
    - e) **Loss** – discouragement – seems to be a regular dart
    - f) **Confusion** - doubt
    - g) **Depression** – is frustration and anger that is worn out
    - h) So many different kinds of these darts can come at you, and so many can all come at you at once! You need an effective shield that works!
  - 5) Christians who struggle with depression can only think thoughts which see negative images of the present or the future. Some of these thought patterns are from family influences, life experiences and other psychological factors. However, researchers admit that many of these thoughts seem to have no obvious origin.
  - 6) Well, I can tell you that origin, and it's a very hot place! Our enemy himself will try to plant thoughts in our minds that will cause us pain, and if possible, lead us to forsake God.
  - 7) What is our defence? The scripture tells us that *it is the shield of faith*.
- c. How does this work in a practice?
- 1) Examples

## The Christian's Shield of Faith

- a) For example lets take Mary Christian and her co-worker. Mary is at work, and her co-worker says, "Mary do you really believe the Bible?" "How can you believe such a thing?" The co-worker really might be asking a sincere in her question, or she could be shooting a fiery dart at Mary. If Mary Christian has never learned how to use her shield of faith, the dart might hit Mary, who might ask herself, yeah, "why do I believe the Bible?", "how do I know the Bible is true"?
  - b) Now God allows us to experience warfare, because through it *our faith can grow*.
  - c) The co-worker may be very sincere in her question, creating a door for Mary to advance the gospel. As Mary learns why the Bible is true, and why she believes Jesus is the Son of God, she can walk over to her co-worker, open the Bible (the sword of the Spirit) and show her. Now the fiery dart shot at Mary, becomes the cause of the Gospel is advanced, as Mary explains to her co-worker who Jesus is, and why he is the Son of God.
  - d) Another example, would be Joe Christian walking past a pub and the thought pops in his head... "Man could I use a drink!" "No one would know." "I only need ONE drink" If Joe did not have a shield against such darts, he will give in every time! He HAS to believe that he is living a better way, and that His Lord would want him to stay clear of drink and get home!
- 2) Satan has literally hundreds of fiery darts he can fire at us, in each case; we should learn how to take his attacks and train to respond. Ask yourself, **what fiery darts give you the most problems?**
- d. To "quench" is to "put out the fire" - the sting – the hurt – the desired effect
    - 1) Satan intends for his darts to penetrate deep into your heart, mind, life, and to explode, doing major damage!
    - 2) Most hearts in this room are scarred with spiritual holes that are burned-out! That is only because we neglected to use our armour! Shame on us!
  - e. The shield of faith actually "absorbs" the attacking dart, and prevents the dart from doing what Satan intended it to do.
    - 1) Like seeing porno material in front of you - faith (the belief that God is right and good and better than the pleasures of sin for a season) resists the attack, and engages the enemy in prayer! You can't pray if your eyes are open, and exploring the temptation! You have to deflect the attack, and get strength to push forward!
    - 2) Like hearing something said against you - faith resists the attack, and engages the real enemy in prayer, resting in Christ, and pressing forward - Satan senses you are headed at a vital target and seeks to divert your focus!
    - 3) Like trying to operate your business right, and the attacks start coming at your efforts (bad health, financial loss, depression) - faith rests in the course taken as being right, and engages the enemy head-on in prayer, and obedience to God's word!
  - f. When you hold up that shield, there is no missile of Satan that can harm your soul.
  - g. Be careful not to leave your faith, your fresh confidence in your Saviour and Lord, back at home, or at church - it must be with you at all times!
    - 1) Most Christians neglect faith, and leave life up to FATE! That is what the world does!
    - 2) Fate accepts whatever happens, and struggles just to survive - "my lot," or "bad luck."
    - 3) Faith presses through current attacks and seeks to conquer higher ground by trusting in God's leadership
8. How to Get Faith to work! So, How Do You Put on the Shield of Faith and Carry it Throughout the Day?

## The Christian's Shield of Faith

- a. Have fresh faith – get some fresh faith every morning from reading and believing what you read in the Bible (Rom 10:17)
  - 1) A weak shield is because of weak faith. The only way to have strong faith is by studying, and learning the word of God
  - 2) Have faith in God (Mark 11:2)
  - 3) Know what you believe – not what your heart tells you, or what man tells you, but what this Bible says – clear and firm!
  - 4) It is something that we believe in spite of what we see
- b. Use Your Faith (2Cor 5:7) – against everything that would strike against you, and attempt to turn you back!
  - 1) It only is powerful when used! All of these weapons have to be used – especially FAITH!
  - 2) At every chance, use your FAITH! Instead of just reacting to attacks by the same old ways, like:
    - a) Frustration
    - b) Anger
    - c) Quitting
  - 3) Look at every situation with the eye of faith – don't get caught up in the here and now. See beyond the battle, to the finish line!
  - 4) Have faith in God – trust him implicitly!
    - a) Nothing wavering - no haphazard attempts to live for Jesus
    - b) No turning back - the Lord knows your heart
    - c) Lots of practice - doesn't just come "naturally" - must get the hang of it
    - d) Hey! It will strengthen your faith when you use it and use it!
- c. Enjoy your faith – carry what you believe with you and HOLD IT HIGH!
  - 1) Enjoy its LONG-TERM benefits!
  - 2) They are eternal (Hebrews 11:32-40)
- d. Don't forget to Link your faith – with others! At Church, prayer meeting, discipleship... let other people know that you are praying with them about things in their life, and let them know what they can pray about for YOU!

## ***The Christian's Helmet of Salvation***

Wrestling With Another World – Part 7

Ephesians 6

Sept 8, 2013 PM

Pastor Craig Ledbetter

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[www.biblebc.com](http://www.biblebc.com)

### **I. Introduction (Ephesians 6:10-18)**

- A. How can any selfish, self-condemned sinner ever expect to resist the devil, except by a superior power - a superior force?
- B. With the Whole Armour of God!
  - 1. This armour enables the Christian to STAND (6:10-13), and not fall when under attack from any enemy - spiritual, or physical! Most "Christians" fall like rain under pressure and attack. We need so desperately to learn to stand!
  - 2. To fight Satan we must put on "*the whole armour of God*". Not just a few bits and pieces, but the whole package, every day! Why? Because Satan looks for the weak spots in our life to hit at.
    - a. Every soldier is issued weapons and defensive gear
      - 1) They are tools to get the war won
      - 2) Every fisherman has tools to catch fish, every carpenter has tools to build homes, and every Christian has tools to defeat the devil!
    - b. But all the training in the world wont do any good in battle if the soldier doesn't PUT ON THE ARMOUR - doesn't carry his weapons into the fight
      - 1) God is calling every Christian here to faithfully prepare for each day, and each battle by choosing to "put on" every piece of God's armour!
      - 2) Don't be like the idiot soldier that went to the loo, and was taken prisoner simply because he forgot to carry his weapon!
      - 3) Satan traps more Christians simply because:
        - a) They never learn their weapon - how it works, how to use it
        - b) They let someone else destroy their faith in their weapons
        - c) They forget to use their weapons, and try fighting against tanks with sticks, rocks, and mud! You wont survive!
    - c. Preparation is found in personal discipline - reading and studying your Bible, being in church, praying, exercising your faith - growing stronger!
    - d. A Christian who is not ready, and prepared to live for God each day, is destined to wind up spiritually shot-up, and wounded and hurt! And probably even dead. There is NO glory in that!
- C. There are six pieces of armour the Christian needs to be wearing every day so to stand:
  - 1. The under-garment of God's truth - wraps around us like a wide belt
  - 2. The breastplate of God's righteousness
  - 3. The boots of the Gospel
  - 4. The shield and buckler of faith
  - 5. The helmet of personal salvation (forgiveness)
  - 6. The Bible (sword) of the spirit - the word of God
- D. We looked at the first two this morning, and the remaining four tonight!

## II. Message – The Spiritual Weapons of a Christian...

- A. **The Weapon of Truth** (Eph 6:14a). All our armour rests upon this
- B. **The Breastplate of Righteousness** (Ephesians 6:14b)
- C. **Gospel Shoes!** (Ephesians 6:15)
- D. **The Shield of Faith (Ephesians 6:16)**
- E. **The Helmet of Salvation (Ephesians 6:17) – Eternal Security**

1. What is a HELMET, and what is it good for?

- a. A soldier's helmet was very ornate. It looked more like a piece of art than a helmet.

- 1) It was decorated with all kinds of engravings and etchings. On top was a plume of bright colours made of feathers or horsehair.
- 2) Usually it was made of thick bronze and designed specifically to protect everything from the base of the neck up, including the cheeks and jaws.
- 3) It was very heavy and the inside was filled with a sponge to make it more comfortable for the soldier to wear.



- b. But it was not made mainly for beauty – it was made to protect

- 1) Soldiers facing an enemy are supposed to wear protective armour capable of withstanding an attack!
- 2) Now, up to this point in Ephesians 6, the Christian soldier is covered except for their heads - *a pretty vital area to protect!*
- 3) So on comes the helmet. Usually a single solid piece of strong metal carefully shaped around the head with a portion of the front open for vision
- 4) Soldiers wore it at all times because the enemy's primary target was the head or the heart.
- 5) If a soldier didn't have a helmet on, they would literally "lose their head."
- 6) Once on, the soldier's helmet is intended to withstand direct blows by swords, rocks, arrows, and shrapnel from nearby explosions.
- 7) Nothing could pierce this helmet.
- 8) Without that helmet on, the soldier would last no time in battle!

2. Why Do Christians Need a Helmet?

- a. Many people think their religion needs to be pretty and fluffy and showy.
- b. But God says it just needs to be worn – even though heavy, or ugly to the world
- c. Its main purpose is to protect our MINDS!
  - 1) If there is one thing that we need protection of today, it is our HEADS, MINDS! Our way of thinking that is different than the world and culture around us!
  - 2) You got *a new mind* when you got saved – a new way of thinking (1Cor 2:16)
  - 3) You need to protect that new mind – every day!
    - a) God knows that we need lots of protection with all our armour covering our hearts, our feet, etc
    - b) But we also need a soundness of mind today with the constant barrage of *evolution, the cults, life on Mars, no need for God, turn to your inner self, and money* being screamed at you from TV, radio talk programs, zillions of magazines & newspapers!
  - 4) If our enemy can chop away at our thoughts, at our conclusions, at our beliefs, at our joys, then he wins!

## The Christian's Helmet of Salvation

- 5) We must wear a strong helmet so the devil cannot chop away at our minds and try to steal away the joys of our salvation. He will try.
    - a) He will hack away and tell you that you are not saved
    - b) That you are no good
    - c) And that you have failed one too many times, etc.
  - 6) Once Satan can wear down and defeat your MIND, then he has your HEART!
3. How Does the devil attack our MIND?
- a. Folks... All armies use propaganda to demoralise the opposing army – propaganda does not have to be true to work! Same with the devil!
    - 1) He is a LIAR (John 8:44; Rev 12:9)
    - 2) He is the author of Confusion (1Cor 14:33)
    - 3) He tricks you – lures, tempts, deceives, snares
    - 4) But he has NO POWER against the truth of your salvation
  - b. How does the devil attack our mind?
    - 1) Through getting you to believe false authorities – the TV, News, Radio, Music
    - 2) False doctrines
    - 3) Through wrong kind of fears (2Tim 1:7)
    - 4) Through feelings, senses, sights – all the gates into your mind, and into the control of your life
    - 5) Through “friends”
    - 6) Through failures in our past constantly being dwelt upon and grieved about
  - c. Satan cannot force you to sin, but we can be persuaded to sin.
  - d. And if we sin, then we are placing ourselves under the power of that sin (John 8:34; Cf 1Cor 6:12). The devil seeks to persuade us to sin because if we do, it will increase his power and influence in the world through our fall.
  - e. Once we are wounded, the goal of Satan is to destroy our minds – enslave it
4. So, the PLACE of the Christian's Helmet is *on the head*, not on the shelf (Is 59:17)
- a. Most religions are *hypnotic* - they seek to disengage the mind from feelings and emotions of the heart. They discourage questions, and objective examination. Instead they focus the person on superficial conclusions that are only designed to get the person to blindly trust the leader instead of Christ!
  - b. But God asks you to use your head (Isa 1:18) as a Christian – not just your heart – never just have blind faith!
  - c. In other words, USE your head in battle - don't go by feelings, or by fears - go by the BOOK!
  - d. Learn this Bible like God told you to, and then dive into battle fully confident in all of it's truths!
5. Without that helmet on, no soldier would survive in battle - so, none of the Christian's armour is expendable, or neglectable! So, Put them all on! Including this helmet!
6. **How to Wear the Helmet of Salvation?**
- a. Settle your eternal destiny (2 Cor 6:1,2; 2Cor 13:5) – make sure you have obtained God's gift of salvation! SETTLE IT once and for all!
    - 1) Settle that God did NOT lie when He said
      - a) They “shall NEVER perish” (John 10:28)
      - b) “That ye may KNOW that ye HAVE eternal life...” (1 John 5:13)
      - c) Do you HAVE the gift of God which is eternal life (Rom 6:23)?
-

## The Christian's Helmet of Salvation

- 2) The helmet of salvation is provided to us when we firmly believe who we are in Christ.
  - 3) His once and for all sacrifice has assured our Salvation from the wrath to come.
  - 4) It also secured our Sanctification. "With one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified." Hebrews 10:14
    - a) He has perfected forever (positional sanctification)
    - b) Those who are being sanctified (made holy) (progressive sanctification)
  - 5) We must have full understanding of our salvation or else we will be vulnerable to Satan's lies. We must study our salvation – make it part of our mind, part of our thinking, part of our confidence.
  - 6) We have to know what Jesus' death and resurrection has purchased for us. Then it won't matter how hard the devil hits us with his lies because we know God's viewpoint.
  - 7) A person's salvation (ie, their conversion from religion, and sinfulness, to possessing eternal life) does something for you - it protects you! Gives you confidence (Pr 14:26; Phlp 1:6), assurance, courage! It stops you from worrying about losing, and allows you to focus on defeating your enemy!
    - a) When your faith is weak, your knowledge of the Bible is lacking, and your courage is gone, you had better know that there was a day where you fell on your knees and cried out to a holy and almighty God, acknowledging your sinfulness, and asking Him to save your lost soul!
    - b) You had better know that you ARE SAVED! Do you!?! (1 John 5:11-13)
    - c) If you think that your religion, or your own goodness is enough to protect you against the wrath of God, then you are in for a rude awakening when you wake up in hell! People need to get SAVED! Saved from sin, and hell (Luke 3:7)
    - d) The free Christian does not run off the field because they are free - but they engage the enemy (Satan, spiritual enemies, oppressions) and fight - they don't have to worry whether their armour will hold up (especially covering their mind)!
- b. Put on your helmet – wear it proudly!
- 1) Remember the day you got saved
  - 2) Never get over that day!
  - 3) Don't take another step in your life until you have this helmet in hand, and ready to go on your head!
  - 4) It has to be worn every day. Draw your confidence from the work that Jesus is doing in your life BECAUSE of your salvation. Take inventory everyday - start off in dependence upon Christ, and thank Jesus every day for saving you! Never get over being saved!
- c. Deflect all attacks against the rock solid facts of the Bible (2Cor 10:4,5) – do constant headers!
- d. Rest in the Helmet's protective armour (Isa 26:3)
- 1) Understand that our sins are not concealed or diminished, they have been taken away forever!
  - 2) Your mistakes are lost in Christ's perfection.
  - 3) No sin, no Satanic attack can rob you of your salvation
  - 4) Let your salvation discourage your enemy's attacks – he will have to work harder now that you have protection around your mind!

### III. Conclusion - So, when you get up every morning...

- A. Rehearse a truth, and hang your whole day on that truth!
- B. Thank God for Christ's righteousness, then decide to live-out that righteousness!
- C. Put on your Gospel Shoes and be ready to give an answer to every man!



### **The Christian's Helmet of Salvation**

- D. Take up, and hold high your Faith like a shield, in spite of whatever the devil throws at you!
- E. Put on the new mind of Christ, and decide to think as HE thought, and resist all temptations by deflecting them with the strength of your salvation!

## The Christian's Sword

### Wrestling With Another World – Part 8 Ephesians 6

Sept 15, 2013 PM  
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#### I. Introduction (Ephesians 6:10-18)

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  - 1. This armour enables the Christian to STAND (6:10-13), and not fall when under attack from any enemy - spiritual, or physical! Most “Christians” fall like rain under pressure and attack. We need so desperately to learn to stand!
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    - 3. The boots of the Gospel
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    - 5. The helmet of personal salvation (forgiveness)
    - 6. The Bible (sword) of the spirit - the word of God

#### II. Review of Previous Weapons

- A. **The Weapon of Truth** (Eph 6:14a). All our armour rests upon this
- B. **The Breastplate of Righteousness** (Ephesians 6:14b)
- C. **Gospel Shoes!** (Ephesians 6:15)
- D. **The Shield of Faith (Ephesians 6:16)**
- E. **The Helmet of Salvation (Ephesians 6:17) – Eternal Security**
- F. **Tonight, the last Weapon... The Sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17)**

### III. Message – The Sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17)

#### A. Our Offensive Weapon

1. The sword is the only weapon listed by Paul that we can use to HURT our enemy.
2. No army is complete if it only has *defensive* weapons.
3. Even if we have all the rest of the armour strapped on perfectly, without our sword, we aren't much more than heavily armoured moving targets for our enemy to shoot at. There is no way to advance when under attack, when all you are doing is holding back the enemy.
4. While the rest of the armour is undoubtedly vital, it is the sword and only the sword that allows US to attack, and conquer our enemies—to accomplish the goals of our commanding officer, The Lord Jesus Christ!
5. An army must be able not only to withstand an attack, but also to make the enemy pay for attacking in the first place!



#### B. Our ONLY Offensive Weapon

1. The Romans relied on attacking their enemy from a distance with javelins, catapults, arrows and darts, but God does not give us that option as Christian soldiers.
2. Paul only lists one weapon because we only need one weapon: There is no enemy the Word of God, coupled with His Spirit, cannot defeat. And so, armed only with our sword, we step out to fight our enemies head-on. The struggle is real. It is immediate, and it is in front of us. Our future in God's Kingdom is on the line, and we take up the battle so that we may hold fast to the future He has promised us.
3. God did not give us guns, or bombs to fight with. **Only a Sword.** Yet *that Sword* is more powerful against your enemies than any weapon of modern war!
  - a. A Sword is THE Most important piece of Roman armour.
  - b. Short, lightweight and well balanced.
  - c. Quick and deadly.
  - d. The two razor-sharpened edges of the broad blade could easily slice a roast dinner.
  - e. The ultra-sharpened tip was designed to easily penetrate and disembowel the enemy.
  - f. If a Roman soldier ever unsheathed his sword, he would use it. Never was for “show”
4. Every Christian is supposed to have this weapon in their hand (Psalm 149:5-9)
5. It is Christ's Weapon (Rev 1:16; 19:15)

#### C. The Power of the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12; John 6:63; Matthew 4:1-11)

1. Sharper than human forged swords - Sharper than a surgeon's scalpel
  - a. Pierces all our armour that we put up against it
  - b. Cuts to the heart (Acts 2:37; 5:33)
2. The very power of eternal life (John 5:24; 1Peter 1:23) is in this Book
3. The only power capable of hurting the devil (Matthew 4:1-11)

## The Christian's Sword

- a. Notice that Jesus Christ used the Bible to counter Satan's attacks (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10). We must also learn to live "*by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God*" (4:4).
- b. Not just any old quote
- c. But the things in this Book that answer to the blow of your enemy
  - 1) Doubts
  - 2) Lust
  - 3) Fears
  - 4) Suicide
  - 5) Addiction
4. The power to turn the world upside down (Acts 17:6)
5. This all-powerful sword of the living God is able to cut through every defence our enemy can raise—down to the very division of bone and marrow. When wielded by a servant of God, nothing can withstand its ability to cut straight to the core of a matter and uncover the truth. As soldiers in God's army, it is our responsibility and duty to use His Word to discern the truth and then follow it. When God's Word shows us something wrong in ourselves, we can use this spiritual weapon to "surgically" remove the offending thoughts and actions (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

### D. A Spiritual Sword - The Holy Spirit's Sword

1. The Word of God is so powerful because it is the sword of the SPIRIT!
2. It is what God uses to do everything
  - a. By His Word
  - b. It is a power of the Holy Spirit
3. It's not YOUR sword to beat people with
4. It's not a weapon for anyone to abuse
5. It is THE weapon God uses to change us, defeat our biggest enemy, and especially change the world!

### E. No Need to Sharpen the Sword, but you must let it CUT, AND sharpen YOU!

### F. How Does It Work? What the Word Does (Heb 4:12,13) If the Christian *only knew* what this Word does to the devil, and his forces!

1. The Word Divides
  - a. Cuts through Satan's snares, traps, and obstacles (ie, mountains and hurdles that Satan places in your path as you follow the Lord). Know, and believe God's promises when you face a trap, or an attack!
  - b. Pierces through enemy armour - cuts him to the heart (Acts 7:51-54)
  - c. Clearly separates those who are on the Lord's side, and those who aren't (Matt 10:34,35).
  - d. So few people know what is right or wrong today because almost no one knows the words of this Book!
2. The Word Discerns - Reveals. Like an X-ray, or infra-red vision at night, it identifies and JUDGES some things (John 12:48):
  - a. *The enemy's thoughts* - what Satan is thinking against us (2Cor 2:11)
    - 1) He does not think good toward anyone - no matter how good he seems to be taking care of them - The Bible reveals that He only uses them for his own design, and then discards them!
    - 2) Only the Bible gives you the ability to tell what is right and wrong (1 Kings 3:9) about any given situation!

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- b. *The enemy's intentions of the heart* - innermost secrets, plans, and motives! Their appearance may be for good, but you better have something that sets off warning bells if they are not true
  - c. All are out in the open - there is nothing new under the sun that God hasn't already dealt with in the Scriptures. God tells us what is going to happen, why, and even how it is going to happen!
3. **The Word Humbles**. A good Sword will do that. It will bring fear, and humbleness to the one facing it!
- a. It *confounds* the wise, and super-intelligent (1Cor 1:18-21; 1Pet 2:7,8)
  - b. It *convicts* the sinner - finds them guilty of sinning against God
  - c. This is a great place to be - humbled, and broken. It is here that a person can get saved - not when people are proud, arrogant, and numb! That is why this church is so important - so people could come and get struck with THIS Sword! Forget opinions, or guesswork - I want Thus saith the Lord!
4. **The Word Defeats** - Conquers
- a. Jesus Christ used the words of God against the attack of Satan in Matthew 4, and beat him soundly (Mt 4:1-11)! *It will work for you!!!*
  - b. Jesus Christ will return to this world one day soon, and will defeat His enemies with just the sword of the word of His mouth (Rev 19:11-16).
  - c. This is the key to our daily battle - to conquer the spiritual attacks of Satan with an effective spiritual sword that will not only repel the attack, but will hurt your attacker - decide to make Satan hurt as much as he wanted YOU to hurt!

### G. **But it has a SECOND Edge! Only THEN can it do the following...** (Isa 66:2-5; John 16:1-ff)

1. Notice, that the word of God is called the sword of WHO? So, the Holy Spirit ONLY uses the word of God to instruct us! Don't tell me you are instructed by the Holy Spirit, and yet not reading and studying your Bible! You are being instructed then by an *unholy spirit*!
2. **It Encourages** (16:1-3,33) - Comforts (Rom 15:4). Forget miraculous medals, and good-luck charms - remember the words of the Saviour!
  - a. When you are under *physical* attack (16:2,3)
  - b. When you are under *spiritual* attack (16:33): temptations, oppressions
3. **It Instructs** (16:4,13) - Prepares us for the battle
  - a. Identifies our real enemies (Eph 6:12). Paints them clearly on the field - makes them stand out clearly
  - b. Shows us how to use our weapons - giving us *live* examples of combat:
    - 1) Great faith of David against Goliath
    - 2) Preparation of the Gospel in Paul and Silas' life (in prison)
    - 3) Protection of the helmet of salvation in Shadrac, Meshak and Abednigo's life! Protected them into and through the fiery trial!
    - 4) And so on!
  - c. Guides us through the mine-fields of this life (Ps 119:105; 17:4)
4. **It Challenges us** (John 16:7-11):
  - a. The weapon you hold in your hand will cut you too! The challenge is to let it work on you first before you let it work on your enemy!
  - b. To hear rebuke - the word of God is not intended to just make us feel good about ourselves - it was designed to cut US too when we need it!

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- c. To live for God - God wants righteousness - not just our best shot!
  - d. To fear **only** God - There still is a hell! There still is a judgment! It still is appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment!
5. It Saves - Delivers! (2Tim 3:15; 1Pet 1:23) That's why we are so fanatical about THAT Book!
- a. This is the one weapon given to the Christian that enables us to defeat each temptation and attack. We are not supposed to only throw off our enemy's attack, but *to put them out of action* - or else they will keep coming back in greater numbers!
  - b. This sword keeps us out of trouble (*This Book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this Book*), AND, when we are in trouble, shows us the way out - It saves us from Satan's plans!

### H. But God's Word is no Good to You, Unless You "Take" it and Use it! Everyday!

1. Must be in three places
  - a. At your side – with you always! Don't forget it! A privilege, and a readiness to win a soul, and to give a BIBLICAL answer to people who mock and reject God
  - b. In your heart (Ps 119:9)
  - c. In your mouth (Joshua 1:8)
2. So, read it from cover to cover, over and over, inside and out (Isa 34:16)
3. Hear it – just listen to what God says (Ps 34:11)
4. Study it – write it out, and work out the problems and confusion you might encounter (2Tim 2:15)
5. Memorize a verse/week. Take the Bible with you in your heart and life
6. Meditate upon it – bring it up and think it through, and draw strength from it's truth
7. Obey It – act upon what God tells you to do (James 1:22)
8. Quote the word of God in times of attack and temptation
9. Present it as bread to the hungry soul! Preach it – declare it (Matt 28:19,20)

### IV. Conclusion - So, when you get up every morning...

- A. Rehearse a truth, and hang your whole day on that truth!
- B. Thank God for Christ's righteousness, then decide to live-out that righteousness!
- C. Put on your Gospel Shoes and be ready to give an answer to every man!
- D. Take up, and hold high your Faith like a shield, in spite of whatever the devil throws at you!
- E. Put on the new mind of Christ, and decide to think as HE thought, and resist all temptations by deflecting them with the strength of your salvation!
- F. Grab your Bible, and constantly familiarise yourself with it, then sheath it, and prepare for battle with IT – not your own wits, or understanding – just the Book!

