



## FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

### Lesson 4 | The Gospel Armor

We are in a war, and we have looked at the enemies we face in this war. But the Bible also gives us instructions about how to prepare for this war. The importance of spiritually suiting up is just as critical as the need for a soldier to get dressed when he goes to war.

#### The Need for the Armor (Ephesians 6:10-13)

Paul begins by laying out the need for the armor God provides. He wants us to feel the heat of the flaming arrows flying by our ears so that we know how important it is for us to suit up.

##### The Need to be \_\_\_\_\_

The opening charge of Paul is to “be strong in the Lord.” This begins with call to be strong, meaning that all must be ready to fight. But it is not enough to be strong, because we don’t have the strength we need. Instead, the Bible calls on us to be strong... in the Lord!

##### The Need to \_\_\_\_\_

Christians are called to take a defensive stance. The forces of evil are coming at the Christian like a tidal wave, and the Christian is called to keep standing even after facing wave after wave of attack. These attacks could come at any time, and they will come relentlessly.

#### The Pieces of Armor (Ephesians 6:14-17)

##### The Belt of \_\_\_\_\_

In ancient warfare the belt was a large piece of equipment that kept the rest of the armor connected. Paul here compares this to the truth, or the truthfulness and integrity of a believer. We need to be people of truth, because that will help protect us from the father of lies.



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### **The Breastplate of \_\_\_\_\_**

The breastplate was a crucial piece of armor that protected some of the most sensitive parts of a person from attack. Here Paul says that a believer's practical righteousness – that is, living out the righteousness that they have received freely from Christ – helps to protect a believer from sin.

### **Shoes of the Gospel of \_\_\_\_\_**

Much like modern times, shoes in ancient warfare provided the soldier with a firm footing from which to attack. In a similar way, Christians must have a sure footing in the gospel of peace, that is, the gospel which brings us peace. Through the peace that the forgiveness the gospel brings we can be ready for the attacks of Satan.

### **The Shield of \_\_\_\_\_**

God wants us to use the shield of faith block against the fiery darts of the wicked. Satan will launch lies, temptations, doubts, and all kinds of other attacks our way to try and get us to doubt God and do what makes sense to us. The response is to take up the shield of faith – to believe who God is and what He has said.

### **The Helmet of \_\_\_\_\_**

The first four pieces of the armor – the belt, the breastplate, the shoes, and the shield – all deal with our responsibility in our sanctification. With God's help we are called on to be people of integrity, righteousness, peace, and faith. The helmet of salvation, on the other hand, focuses on God's part. Just as a helmet protects a person's head, so realizing that we have been saved by God gives us confidence in our battles with Satan.

### **The Sword of the \_\_\_\_\_**

The only offensive weapon we are given is the sword – which is the Bible. Only through the Word of God are we able to respond to the attacks of Satan and push back against his lies.

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