

Ephesians 6:10-24

**Introduction:** If you were a soldier out on the battlefield, and your army was under attack, what safety measures would you take to protect yourself? You'd want to be well protected: be covered head to toe with body armor. You would also want some kind of weapons to use in order to fight back and defeat your attackers. The same is true in the spiritual realm in the battle we find ourselves in. We need to:

- I. Take note of our spiritual enemies. 6:10-12
- II. Put on our spiritual armor. 6:13-17a
- III. Take the offensive using the Word of God and prayer. 6:17b-20
- IV. Closing Words 6:21-24

**We are under attack by spiritual enemies; we can only defeat them by relying upon spiritual weapons.**

- I. Take note of our spiritual enemies. 6:10-12
  - A. 6:12 As Christians, our enemies are the demonic forces that operate in the unseen world. One of the tricks they use is to get us all fired up in the flesh and not thinking spiritually at all. They like it when we “war against flesh and blood.” If they can get us fighting on a purely earthly level, we will most certainly lose.
  - B. **Illustration:** Indiana Jones v. Swordsman in Cairo
  - C. **Application:** Don't show up to do spiritual warfare with earthly weapons. It's far worse than bringing a sword to a gunfight.

*2 Cor 10:4-5 NKJV* <sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup>casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

**We are under attack by spiritual enemies; we can only defeat them by relying upon spiritual weapons.**

- II. Put on our spiritual armor. 6:13-17a
  - A. 6:13 The time to take up the armor is now – **that you may be able to withstand in the evil day.** When the enemy attacks he will not give you time to get ready at that moment. Again, the time to take up the armor is now.
  - B. 6:14 **righteousness** Paul is referring to the imputed righteousness of Christ.

*Php 3:7-9 NKJV* <sup>7</sup>But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. <sup>8</sup>Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

- A. 6:16 **fiery darts** or “flaming arrows” Flaming arrows do not have to be very accurate in order to cause a lot of trouble. These arrows would be covered with tar or pitch and the hope was that wherever they struck, they might catch something else on fire. Possibilities included a soldier’s clothing or equipment, the camp of the opposing army or people’s homes if a city was under attack.

**Explanation:** The enemy is often like that when causes trouble. If he can tempt a person with a particular kind of sin, or cause division within a family or a church, the hit may not be very precise, but a lot of people can suffer and a lot of damage can be done.

- B. **Shield of faith** Roman soldiers were equipped with large rectangular wooden shields, four feet high, the fronts of which were made of leather. Before battles in which flaming arrows might be fired, the leather would be wetted to quench any fiery darts launched against them. After Roman legionaries closed ranks, the front row holding shields forward and those behind them holding shields above them, they were virtually invulnerable to any attack from flaming arrows. (IVP Bible Background Commentary)

**Application:** When we stand fast in our faith, especially when we stand together, the enemy’s flaming arrows don’t have a chance. They hit our shields, fizzle and quickly fall to the ground. Faith quenches all the enemy’s flaming arrows.

**We are under attack by spiritual enemies; we can only defeat them by relying upon spiritual weapons.**

III. Take the offensive using the Word of God and prayer. 6:17b-20

- A. Most of our armor is defensive. It is there to protect us; it keeps us safe when the spiritual attacks come. And we can be certain that they will come. But soldiers need to be able to do more than stay safe when they are under attack; they need to fight back and ultimately win. We’ve been quoting this among our leadership in recent weeks.

*“In physical war, if a nation were continually under attack and on the defensive, we could prophesy ultimate defeat, surrender, or destruction .... Let us never forget that without an eventual offensive, defense only anticipates ultimate defeat.” (Jim Wilson, Principles of War, pp.50-51)*

- B. Two examples:

i. Daniel in **Daniel 10**

- a. The battle in the spiritual realm was raging as he prayed.

ii. Jesus in **Matthew 4:1-11**

- a. Jesus used the Word until the devil left Him alone.

- b. As God the Son, Jesus had the ability to do more to Satan than He did right here. Being totally human, He used resources that are available to all of us. In doing this He provided us with a wonderful example.

**We are under attack by spiritual enemies; we can only defeat them by relying upon spiritual weapons.**

IV. Closing Words

6:21-24

**Conclusions:**

- Remember that our warfare and our enemies are all spiritual.
  - Don't make the mistake of focusing on merely human enemies.
  - Don't make the mistake of relying on merely human means of doing battle.
- Consider when you are most prone to lose sight of the spiritual battle.
  - At work?
  - When you are physically tired?
- Remember the elements of your armor:
  - Belt: Truth
  - Breastplate: Righteousness = the righteousness of God
  - Shoes: The preparation of the gospel of peace
  - Shield: Faith
  - Helmet: Salvation
  - Sword of the Spirit: The Word of God
  - And Prayer Pay attention to all of the "alls" **Read 6:18-19**
- Do battle both offensively and defensively.
  - Defend against the enemies attacks
  - Be ready to share the gospel
  - Use the Word of God and prayer to go on the offensive and, finally, to win.
- Get ready to do battle now.
  - Notice how Paul asked for prayer, especially for his ministry.
  - We should make it a habit to ask for prayer from others.
  - We should make it a habit to pray for others.
  - We should especially pray for those involved in teaching and preaching ministries.

**We are under attack by spiritual enemies; we can only defeat them by relying upon spiritual weapons.**