

## *How do we prepare for a spiritual fight?*



**BELT  
OF  
TRUTH**



**BREAST PLATE  
OF  
RIGHTEOUSNESS**



**SHOES  
OF  
PEACE**



**SHIELD  
OF  
FAITH**



**HELMET  
OF  
SALVATION**



**SWORD  
OF  
SPIRIT**

Paul explicitly links his imagery in his letters to the divine armor of the messianic king in Isaiah. The point is that God's weapons have now been transferred to the new humanity, who are united in and with the Messiah. So whether it be defensive or offensive, they will need to put on the character of the Messiah and be prepared to fight.

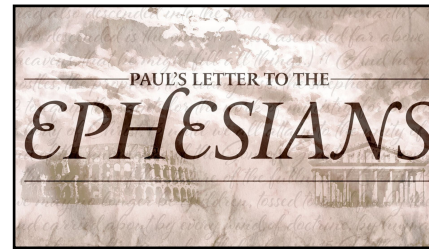
Bible Project Classroom Ephesians

### *Other Armor of God references:*

1 Thessalonians 5:8, Romans 13:12-14, Isaiah 11, Isaiah 49:2, Isaiah 52:7, Isaiah 59:15-17

#### Community Group Questions:

1. What is the most important takeaway in this story for you?
2. Why do you think unity in the church is so important to Paul?
3. Do you think "standing firm" is a defensive or offensive position?
4. Why do you think it's important to put on the FULL armor of God?



**Stand Firm  
You Have the Armor of God**

**Ephesians 6:10-24**

Corbett Robertson - Sierra Community Church

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<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

<sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

<sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. <sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

<sup>21</sup> Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing. <sup>22</sup> I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage you. <sup>23</sup> Peace to the brothers, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love. (NIV)

### *What are we fighting for?*

Make every effort to **keep the unity** of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3

When believers are united under the authority and headship of Christ, it becomes a beautiful place the image of God is manifest here on earth as it is in heaven. When we love each other as Christ loved us, and when we give sacrificially, as Christ did for us, God is glorified in us and the enemy can't stand that.

*Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith.*

1 Peter 5:8-9

Notes:

### *Who are we fighting against?*

"Paul wants his communities to know that their real enemy is never another human but the larger social, economic, political, and religious forces that govern and shape human existence. Paul, along with all Jews shaped by the biblical traditions, view these forces as manifestations of spiritual rulers, authorities, etc, who are opposed to the cosmic reign of the Messiah."

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*<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.* Ephesians 6:12

We are to fight against the forces that shape how we think, feel, and treat each other in opposition to the teachings of Jesus. Sometimes these "powers" are found in the culture shaping influences opposed to Jesus in our world. According to Paul, the powers we fight against also come from spiritual forces that encourage evil in our world.

*Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.* 1 John 4:1

*Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness.* 2 Corinthians 11:14-15