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10 Finally, my brêthrên, be strông in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrêstle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NKJV)

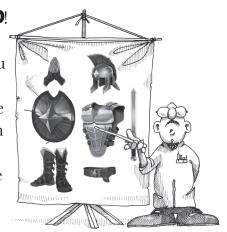


THE BATTLE

BIBLE STUDY

WELCOME to the first study of the ARMOR OF GOD!

This is going to be an amazing time as we look at what GOD has given to us, so that we can be STRONG in this life we are living. Do you ever feel weak? Most people do, but GOD wants us to be strong. We will learn that there is a STRENGTH for us from GOD, so that we can be STRONG in living our lives. This is important and exciting information to know. Hopefully, you will listen very closely to each of the studies about the ARMOR OF GOD that we will be talking about. We all have to make choices in life and as we talk about the ARMOR OF GOD, there will be choices that we all will need to make. Listen closely to what is being said.



Let's get started by reading *Ephesians 6:10-13*.

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

Verse 10 tells us that we are to be STRONG in the Lord and in the power of His might. His power and His STRENGTH make us STRONG in the Lord! THAT'S HOW WE CAN STAND in the Lord and how we can stand against the lies and tricks of the devil! The Bible tells us how each part of the ARMOR OF GOD will help us to STAND STRONG IN OUR GOD!

MIGHT noun

- a : the power, authority, or resources wielded
- b: (1) bodily strength
 - (2) the power, energy, or intensity of which one is capable



THERE IS on A BATTLE

First, we need to understand that there is a **BATTLE** going on in life, a **BATTLE** that cannot be seen, because it is an INVISIBLE, unseen **BATTLE**.

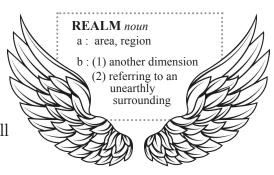
It is a spiritual **BATTLE**.

This **BATTLE** is not a physical **BATTLE**, with people fighting against other people or fighting against a physical army... we can't see this **BATTLE** or touch it.

In this spiritual **BATTLE** that we are talking about, **Satan** is fighting against what **GOD** wants for our life. And we are told to put on the whole **ARMOR OF GOD**, so that we can stand **STRONG** in the Lord in this spiritual **BATTLE!**



What we experience here on this earth is in the "natural" REALM. We use our ears, our eyes, our hands, our voices, and our minds, to understand and experience things in the natural REALM. But, at the same time that the natural is happening, there are very real things happening in the "spiritual" REALM, which are INVISIBLE to us. We could also call this REALM "THE SUPERNATURAL" because it's beyond what we can see and know in the natural REALM.



There is an INVISIBLE, unseen world that is as active and as real as the world that we can see and touch. We deal with, and are around, this INVISIBLE spiritual world all the time; we just don't realize how much! The spiritual REALM is real! And there is a real BATTLE happening that we don't see, because it is INVISIBLE to us.

Look up and read 2 Kings 6:15-17 to find out what happened in this story.

Isn't that amazing! There was a lot going on, but it was INVISIBLE until GOD revealed it!

¹⁰ "Finally, my brêthrên, be strông in the Lord and in the _____ of ___ might."

THERE IS <u>no</u> strength for this spiritual battle without god. God is our strength.

L@k up and read John 15:5

L k up and read 2 Corinthians 3:5

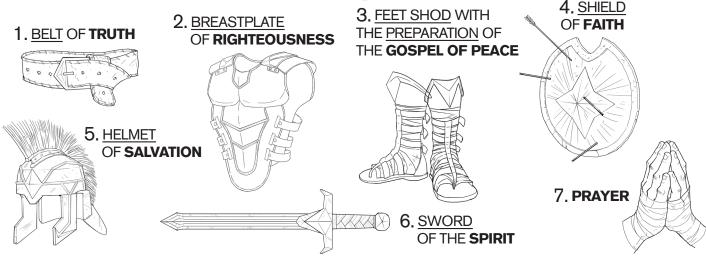


Verse 11 tells us to "put on the whole armor of God."

We need to USE GOD'S weapons of offense and defense! In this spiritual, unseen BATTLE, we need to stand and use all the weapons that GOD has given to us.

Ephesians 6:14-18 tells us what the weapons are:

FILL IN THE BLANKS



We will talk about all of the different pieces of **ARMOR** and **WEAPONS** and what each of them are in the next 4 studies.

The **BIBLE** says that we need to stand and be ready for the **BATTLE**.

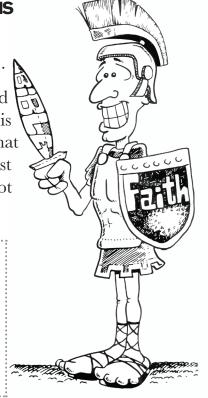
Verse 12 tells us that we do not wrestle (struggle, fight) against flesh and blood (things that we can see, like people). This is not a natural **BATTLE**, this is a BATTLE in the INVISIBLE world, in the spiritual REALM. We're told that we will wrestle and struggle, but this isn't talking about fighting against people. We aren't playing a game, we're fighting in a BATTLE...just not against people. Who are we fighting against?

> Now, let's look at what the "wiles of the devil" means.

"Wiles" means plans, tricks, or schemes of the **devil**, or the methods that the devil uses. So, we need to know the best way to fight against our enemy. And we know that **Satan** is **GOD'S** enemy and our enemy.

WILES noun [plural]

- a: trick, scheme, plan, ensnare, deceive, tempt
- b: 1. devious or cunning stratagems employed in manipulating or persuading someone to do what one wants.
 - 2. ways of tricking people into doing what you want:

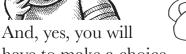


WHAT ARE WE FIGHTING AGAINST IN THIS BATTLE?

The question is, what is this **BATTLE** about? The **devil** has a plan! And because of this plan, everyone will have to make a choice.



have to make a choice.





The FIRST thing that **Satan** is **BATTLING** for is the souls of people. Because people are eternal beings, and this earth is not all that there is, we will keep on living after this earth.

Satan is fighting for our souls, but **GOD** is also fighting for our souls.

So, because you have a soul and will live forever, you should pay a lot of attention to what we will be talking about in this study.

Now let's L k up and read 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

VEILED adjective a: hidden, cover, mask, cloak, conceal, disguise, or obscure

What is the Gospel?

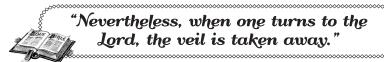
The **gospel** is the message that **GOD** loves every person and that **GOD** sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins. If any person puts their faith (trust) in **JESUS CHRIST**, they will have their sins forgiven and can have a relationship with **GOD** and have eternal life. This is the gospel message. The **BIBLE** says here that if the gospel message is veiled (or hidden) from a person, it is because the god of this age (**Satan**) has blinded their eyes, so that they don't understand or accept **JESUS**.

Satan is blinding their eyes, so they haven't put their faith and trust in **JESUS** CHRIST for salvation. There's a spiritual blinding going on. The strategy (plan) of **Satan** is to blind people so that they don't understand the gospel or that they need **JESUS**.



HAS HE BEEN ABLE TO BLIND YOU?

This is about a choice. The choice is this: will you let the devil blind you, or will you let GOD help you understand the truth? 2 Corinthians 3:16 says,



Have you turned to the **LORD**?

WHAT DOES SATAN USE TO BLIND PEOPLE'S EYES?

Satan is a deceiver, a liar. He has plans to trick you and lie to you. What is it that **Satan** uses to deceive, or to trick people, or to lie to people?

Satan lies by putting thoughts in your mind and other's minds like...



"You don't really need Jesus."

"You don't really need Jesus.

HAS HE TOLD YOU THAT? Every person needs Jesus as their Savior. HAS HE TOLD YOU THAT YOU DON'T?



"You can be saved and get to heaven by just being a good person and by doing good things?" Would God, who is a loving God, have allowed His Son to die on the cross if there was ANY other way for a person to be saved? The answer is no. It is a lie that we can be good enough to go to heaven. Everyone needs what Jesus did on the cross to be able to have their sins forgiven, to go to heaven, and to have eternal life.



"If you are friends with a person who loves and follows the Lord, that will allow you to go to heaven."



"If your parents love God and follow Jesus, then that makes you a Christian too."



"If you go to church, that makes you a Christian."

That's like saying that standing in a garage makes you a car.





"If you have a Bible at home, that makes you a Christian."



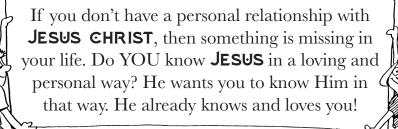
"If you listen to Christian music, that makes you a Christian."





Another way that **Satan** deceives and tricks people is to cause them to think, "I know I need Jesus, and I know I'm not good enough to go to heaven, but I don't need Jesus right now."

Can you think of any other lies that **Satan** uses to make people think that they don't need **JESUS**?





THERE IS A BATTLE – we don't wrestle against flesh and blood. This BATTLE is taking place even now at this moment, as we read this. And it's a battle for your soul. If you have not surrendered (given completely) your life to JESUS CHRIST, and if you don't know for sure that your sins are forgiven and that you're going to heaven,

THEN THIS BATTLE IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW FOR YOUR ETERNITY, FOR YOUR SOUL.

L(i) k up and read **John 10:27-30**

This helps us to understand that when we put our faith (trust) in JESUS CHRIST for salvation, our sins are forgiven. When this happens, we are filled with His Spirit, we are born again, we are given eternal life, we are placed in JESUS' hands and then in the Father's hands. And JESUS says NO ONE will be able to take us away from Him. There will always be a battle and the enemy will always fight against us, whether we belong to JESUS or we don't belong to JESUS. But when you belong to JESUS, you now have GOD Himself with you. There will still be battles and there will still be attacks from the enemy, but now you have GOD Himself with you, and you will be able to depend upon GOD. He will help you through this life, instead of you being

alone and having to figure out this life by yourself. When **GOD** is with you, you don't have to fight by yourself anymore.

So, the first thing that the **enemy** of our soul wants to do, is to blind us and keep us from coming to the **LORD**. He wants us to be separated from **GOD**, not only during our life on earth, but also for all eternity. **Satan** doesn't want us to experience the true life that **GOD** wants to give us of knowing and experiencing **GOD** now and in heaven. So, there is a **BATTLE** for our soul. Let's look at the second thing **Satan** wants to do to us.

The second thing, which is found in **John 10:10**, is that **Satan**, the **enemy** of our soul, the thief, wants to **STEAL**, **KILL**, and **DESTROY** us. ____ That is what **Satan** wants to do with every person on earth.

Satan wants to make those who believe in and follow **JESUS** to be made **INEFFECTIVE**.

INEFFECTIVE adjective

a : not effective; useless; not having the desired effect; not producing an intended effect; INCAPABLE



Satan wants to make the life of a Christian so compromised that <u>no light</u> can come out of their life and affect others for **CHRIST**.

That is what **Satan** wants to do with every person on earth. He desires to make us useless

Let's now read what **JESUS** says in the last part of **John 10:10**.

for **CHRIST**.

FILL IN THE BLANK "I have come that they may have ____, and that they may have it more abundantly."

It's like JESUS is saying that He wants us to give our life to Him, not only that He might save us so that we can go to HEAVEN, but also that we might have the life He wants us to have here and now. JESUS wants to give us an ABUNDANT LIFE, a life of true joy and peace, and of meaning and purpose. He wants our lives to be full of things that truly matter. He wants to bless us, He wants to grow us, He wants to reveal Himself to us, and through us to others around us.

GOD wants you to experience His STRENGTH as you walk through your life. GOD wants you to live the life He designed for you to live and to be STRONG in His MIGHT.

So again, there are **CHOICES** we need to make and we need to do that right now.

THE QUESTION IS THIS: Do YOU want to ask GOD to be your GOD, and are YOU willing to ask JESUS CHRIST into your life? Thinking about your soul and your eternity is extremely important.

Do you want to experience the **STRENGTH** that comes from **GOD**, so that you can live the life **GOD** designed

for you, that **ABUNDANT LIFE** He promises to His children?



The **gospel** is the message that **GOD loves** every person. **GOD** sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins, and that if any person puts their faith (trust) in **JESUS CHRIST**, they will have their sins forgiven and can enter into a relationship with **JESUS CHRIST** and receive eternal life, true life that lasts forever. This is the **gospel** message and this is good news.

It's very possible that some of you still need to say "yes" to **JESUS** and you need to allow Him to forgive you of your sins. You still need to place your trust in what **JESUS** has done for you. You can do that now. Remember, there is a battle for your soul and **JESUS** is ready to save your soul. So, do you want to pray and ask **GOD** for this, for eternal life with Him, and for His strength to be with you? This is a decision only you can make for yourself. Do you want to follow Jesus?

You can receive the gift of forgiveness and eternal life by placing your faith in **JESUS**.

Everyone, bow your head and close your eyes. If you want to become a follower of **JESUS**, **PRAY**

THIS PRAYER TO GOD:

"Father in heaven, I thank"
You for what Jesus Christ
did for me by dying on
the cross for my sins. I am
now trusting Jesus for the
forgiveness of my sins, and
I thank You that I can now
have a personal relationship
with You. Thank You that I
now know that when I die,
I will go to heaven and be
with You forever. Please give
me strength to love You and
to live my life following You.

Amen."

how wonderful and awesome! If you placed your trust in Jesus, then you just put on one of the pieces of the **ARMOR OF GOD**. That's amazing! We will talk more about that later in these studies.

For those of you who placed your faith in Jesus, you are now a child of GOD. He will be with you and will help you your whole life.

GOD has promised you ETERNAL LIFE with Him. And when the time comes and your life on earth is over, you will go to HEAVEN to be with the Father. Something else that is really important is that GOD will now be your STRENGTH as you live out your life.

In our next studies, we will be talking about what GOD has told us about living our life out now, in HIS STRENGTH. We will consider what GOD has done for us. We will be talking more about how to put on the ARMOR OF GOD.

REMEMBER, here are the weapons for this battle:

• BELT OF TRUTH

BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

• FEET SHOD WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

· SHIELD OF FAITH

· HELMET OF SALUATION

· SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

PRAYER

REMEMBER, Satan has come to steal, kill, and destroy, but JESUS promises ABUNDANT LIFE. It is so important for us to know about this spiritual, unseen battle and the armor that GOD gives us, so that the enemy of our soul <u>CANNOT</u> get us to believe his lies.

Let's finish up this study by praying.



Try to connect the dots by drawing the fewest number of lines possible. Only straight lines are allowed and you may not lift your pencil off the paper.



ACTIVITY PAGE

PAGE 2

THE ARMOR OF GOD

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FIND EACH WORD BELOW IN THE WORDSEARCH ABOVE

• EPHESIANS • ARMOR • OF • GOD • BELT • OF • TRUTH • BREASTPLATE • OF • RIGHTEOUSNESS • FEET • SHOD • WITH • THE • GOSPEL • OF • PEACE • SHIELD • OF • FAITH • HELMET • OF • SALVATION • SWORD • OF • THE • SPIRIT • PRAYER