ETTING TO KNOW HIM

Part 6 – The God Who Gives Us His Armor (main Gi

BELT OF TRUNC

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ON THE FULL ARMOR

BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

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Ephesians 6:10 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

Ephesians 6:12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

Ephesians 6:14 Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness.

Ephesians 6:15 For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.

Ephesians 6:16 In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.

Ephesians 6:17 Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Ephesians 6:18

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

Ephesians 6:19 And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can **boldly explain God's mysterious** plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike.

Ephesians 6:20 I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.

GETTING TO KNOW HIM

Part 6 – The Armor of God

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Ephesians 6:0-20

Literary Structure of Passage Command: Be Strong in the Lord and in His mighty power (v.10) **How?:** Put on the full armor of God (v.11a) Why: So you can stand firm against

all the strategies of the devil (v.11b)

Literary Structure of Passage Explanation of the why: Because you are not fighting against fleshand-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places (v.12)

Literary Structure of Passage Repetition and Clarification of the Means of Achieving the Goal: Put on every piece of God's armor (v.13a) **Repetition of the Purpose: so you** will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. (v.13b)

Literary Structure of Passage Explanation of what will be achieved (the benefit): Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. (v.13c)

Call to action: Stand your ground! (v.13c)

Literary Structure of Passage Explanation of *How* you are to stand:

- with the belt of truth buckled around your waist (v.14)
- by putting on the body armor of righteousness (v.14)

Literary Structure of Passage Explanation of *How* you are to stand:

- by fitting your feet with the peace that comes from the Good News (v.15)
- by taking up the shield of faith (v.16)

Literary Structure of Passage Called to be Equipped:

- Put on the helmet of salvation (v.17)
- Take up the sword of the Spirit (v.17)

Literary Structure of Passage Instructions on how to properly use the equipment :

- Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion (v.18)
- Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. (v.18)

Principle #1

Every single believer in Christ has been called and has been drafted into the Lord's Army. But too many Christian soldiers are living as draft dodgers.

Whether we want to admit it or not, we live in a war zone. **Meaningful battles are being** fought everyday. The war has already been decided and won by Jesus. But the final number of casualties is still to be determined.

Principle #2

Most of us are used to putting on our own heavy and still vulnerable armor, instead of putting on God's perfect, light, and impenetrable armor.

Ephesians 6:10 A final word: <u>Be strong in the</u> Lord and in his mighty



Ephesians 6:11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

Ephesians 6:13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.



Principle #3 Being strong in the Lord isn't automatic. It comes from seeking and investing in a more intimate relationship with God.

Principle #4 Being alert and ready for the spiritual battle ahead isn't automatic. It comes from an intimate relationship with the Lord and from practicing discipline.

Even the most well meaning and dedicated Christian soldier can drift into sin if they are not alert or ready. No one ever drifts into obedience or righteousness.

Principle #5 Following Christ isn't about living vour best possible life. It's about being ready and willing to do God's will, despite the personal sacrifice and despite the personal cost to you.

Ephesians 6:19 And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can **boldly explain God's mysterious** plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike.

Ephesians 6:20 I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.

As Christians, we are required to choose to live for God or against Him. There is no in between. Our choices will either reflect God's character, or they will reflect the character of sin.

Principle #6 As Christian soldiers, we are called to be powerful in battle, but the way we do battle is the greatest witness of our faith. If we battle sin in un-Christ-like ways, what have we become?

Ephesians 6:18

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

Principle #7 Praying in the Sprit is comprehensive. It involves a variety of postures: from praise to grief and sorrow, from joy to suffering, from confession to obedience, and from contemplation to intercession.

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