

Armor of God – Tactics and Strategies

Ephesians 6:10–20

¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ¹³Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: ¹⁸Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; ¹⁹And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” (KJV)

Purpose of this passage (3 questions)

- **What does Paul want us to do?**
 - **Be strong (v. 10)**
 - **in the Lord**
 - **In the power of His might**
- **How does he want us to do it?**
 - **Putting on the whole armor of God (v. 11)**
- **Why does he want us to do it?**
 - **To be able to stand against...the devil (v. 11)**
 - **The enemy is not human, but spiritual and he's stronger than us**

The whole armor of God

- **The panolpy (full armor) of a soldier**
- **πανοπλία *panoplia* – the complete equipment of a heavy-armed soldier (usually infantry)**
 - **Full armor for endurance in battle, providing protection for the whole person, a complete or perfect covering**
 - **Implies having all distinguishing characteristics and enjoying all authorized rights and privilege, not lacking in any essential equipment, training, or power**

Within the NT, this Greek word is only used in the Eph 6 passage.

3 categories of “panoplia”

- 1. Protective armor**
- 2. Weapons**
- 3. Tactics and Strategies**
 - 1. Command and communication**
 - 2. Reconnaissance**
 - 3. Intelligence**
 - 4. Morale**
 - 5. Attack**

- **The armor of God is not something the believers put on to fight on their own.**
- **The armor is Christ himself.**
- **Putting on the armor is equivalent to putting on Christ**
- **The power of Christ is sufficient to stand against all evil and temptation that a believer will encounter**

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” (NIV)

- **ARMOR AND WEAPONS** are the instruments of warfare. The three basic elements within the art of warfare are
 - Mobility
 - Firepower
 - Security

BUT...

- **Weapons and armor alone seldom determined the issue of battle, rather the outcome depends on**
 - **The skill with which strategy and tactics are deployed**
 - **The character and “spirit” of the commander in directing his troops**
 - **The precision with which the troops handle their weapons**
 - **The ability for the commander to connect to the troops and the troops to respond**

The invention of different weapons, fortifications, and tactics exerted a profound reciprocal influence on other inventions and strategies. Tactical innovation by one side prompted new counter-tactics by the other. Fortifications were enhanced based on the devices and maneuvers of attacking troops. Weapons and armor were modified to improve mobility and gain advantage over the methods of the enemy. Tactics and strategies execute the plans and employ the manner in which the battle is to be engaged.

- **Critical tactics and battle strategies**
 - **Command and communication**
 - **Vital contact with the commander for information, orders, location, situation, and status**
 - **Intelligence**
 - **Knowing the enemy’s tactics, plans, movement, location, strength**
 - **Reconnaissance**
 - **View of the enemy territory, attack avenues, battleground terrain, etc.**
 - **Forward listening and observation posts (outposts)**

- **Morale or Esprit de Corps**
 - **Encouragement, motivation, confidence**
 - **Teamwork**
- **Attack**
 - **The best defense is a great offense**

Deuteronomy 33:29

Israel, you are blessed! No one else is like you, because you are a people saved by the LORD. He is your shield and helper, your glorious sword. Your enemies will be afraid of you, and you will walk all over their holy places.” (NCV)

The promise of victory here is not because we have a “Sword” and know how to use it. The enemy is not afraid because of our might or even because we are blessed. Our triumph is not in our salvation. Our success is purely due to who our commander is...He is our victory, He is our help, our shield, our Sword. Our blessing is because of Him, our salvation comes by Him, the enemy fears because we are with Him.

- **Victory in battle depends completely on our relation and interaction with the commander.**
- **Critical spiritual warfare tactics & strategies**
 - **Praying always with all prayer**
 - **This is our connection with the commander**
 - **Praying is the communication**
 - **Prayer is content (confession, adoration, thanksgiving, petition, intercession**
 - **The interaction must be constant and consistent**

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Be unceasing in prayer [praying perseveringly];” (AMP)

Keep the lines of communication open with the Captain of our salvation

- **Supplication in the Spirit**
 - **This is our source of intelligence**

Romans 8:26–27

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” (NKJV)

Supplication is referring to specific requests and petitions, information that we may or may not know, but the Spirit understands and knows the encryption protocols.

- **Watching thereunto**
 - **This is our recon responsibilities**
 - **Vigilance, being on guard, “awake”**

Matthew 26:41

“Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (NASB)

1 Peter 5:8

Keep a cool head. Stay alert. The Devil is poised to pounce, and would like nothing better than to catch you napping. (MSG)

Notice that prayer is still the mode of operation. Watching is really all night prayer, it is the activity of being on guard even while sleeping...the sense is that flesh is not capable and flesh is not the target.

- **All perseverance and supplication for all saints**
 - **This is our motivation and drive**
 - **This is our connection to each other**
 - **Persistence and importunity**

Isaiah 54:17

But in that coming day no weapon turned against you will succeed. You will silence every voice raised up to accuse you. These benefits are enjoyed by the servants of the Lord; their vindication will come from me. I, the Lord, have spoken! (NLT)

Luke 11:5–8

Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: “Suppose you went to a friend’s house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, ‘A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.’ And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can’t help you.’ But I tell you this—though he won’t do it for friendship’s sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence. (NLT)

Our morale is a direct proportion of our persistence and insistence based on the reflection of our confidence and security in victory...God is not worried about the battle’s result, He looking for victory in us!

- **That I may open my mouth boldly**
 - **Attack: Go, do, act**
 - **Christians are call to be on the offence, not defense**
 - **Not a perimeter defense**
 - **Not a siege**
 - **Not a tactical withdrawal (retreat)**
 - **Aggressive advancement forward**

2 Corinthians 10:3–5

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the **destruction of fortresses**. We are **destroying speculations** and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are **taking every thought captive** to the obedience of Christ, (NASB)

- **Spiritual warfare attack strategies**

Matthew 16:18b

“upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (KJV)

- **Attacking, storming the gates of hell, assaulting the enemy**
 - **Not open field or rank and file, but divine/Biblical guerrilla tactics**
 - **Bold and progressive combat where hesitation is death...death of a vision, death of movement, death of the possibility of new life**
 - **Don't hesitate, procrastinate, delay, linger, or withdraw, always move forward, act with obedient haste, progress, advance, and accelerate in a brazen resolve.**
 - **Disarming the enemy, delivering hell's prisoner, eliminating the effect of death by engaging in active soul-winning**
 - **Re-authorize the church (real Christians) to exercise the supreme influence and power of God, re-establish the dominance of the gospel of Christ**
 - **Targets of opportunity in a target-rich environment**
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- **We never do anything well till we cease to think about the manner of doing it. —WILLIAM HAZLITT, *Sketches and Essays***
 - **The reward of a thing well done is to have done it. —RALPH WALDO EMERSON, *Essays***
 - **The world can only be grasped by action, not by contemplation. —JACOB BRONOWSKI, *The Ascent of Man***

The significance of spiritual warfare is our relationship with Christ!

Romans 13:12–14

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. (KJV)