

Spiritual Warfare



Ephesians 6:10-20

Ephesians 6:10-15 (ESV)

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil 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 firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

Ephesians 6:16-20 (ESV)

¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Errors in Understanding Spiritual Warfare



Two Parts

A. Field

B. Fight

Two Parts

A. Field

1. Resources
2. Adversary
3. Our Goal

B. Fight

1. Uniform
2. Weapons
3. Partners
4. Victory

Field - Resources

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1. His might

Field - Resources

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1. His might
2. His armor

Field - Adversary

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- First half Chapters 1-3 “Our Calling”/Who we are
- Second half Chapters 4-6 “Our Conduct”/What we do as a result.

Field – Adversary – Ephesians 1:3

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the **heavenly places**,

Field – Adversary – Ephesians 2:4-7

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the **heavenly places** in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Field – Adversary – Ephesians 3:8-12

⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the **rulers and authorities in the heavenly places**. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have **boldness and access** with confidence through our faith in him.

Field – Adversary

1. I'm blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places
2. I'm seated with Christ in the heavenly places
3. Through the church the wisdom of God is being made known to those same rulers and those same authorities in the heavenly places
4. We have boldness and access to the heavenly places

Field – Our Goal

¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand firm.**

Field – Our Goal - Ephesians 6:11,13,14 (NASB 1995)

¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to **stand firm** against the schemes of the devil.

¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to **stand firm**.

¹⁴ **Stand firm** therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

*Our Goal is to **Stand firm/stand your ground**

Field – Our Goal – Ephesians 4:13-14

¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Two Parts

A. Field

1. Resources
2. Adversary
3. Our Goal

B. Fight

1. Uniform
2. Weapons
3. Partners
4. Victory

Fight - Uniform

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

Fight – Uniform – Truth – Eph 4:15-16

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the **belt of truth...**

- ^{4:15} Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.
- Truth is an absolute standard by which reality is measured; truth is God's view on any subject

Fight – Uniform – Righteousness – Eph. 4:22-24

¹⁴ ...and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness...**

^{4:22} to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

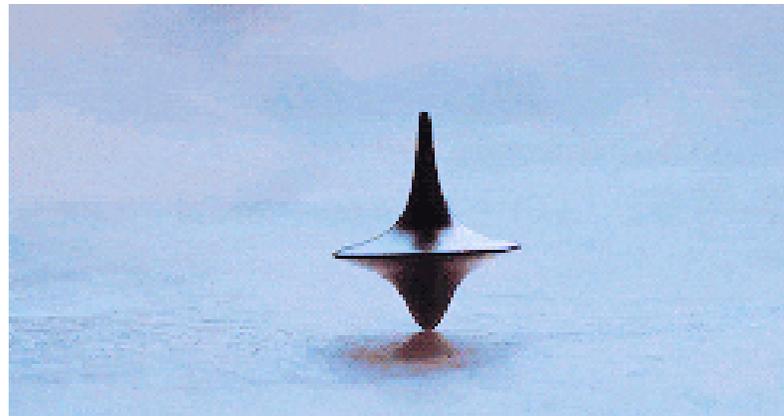
- Righteousness of Christ is tethered to the truth

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Fight – Uniform – Shoes of peace

¹⁵ and, as **shoes** for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the **gospel of peace**.

- The way you know you have biblical peace isn't because nothing is wrong; it's because everything is wrong but you know the truth
- Belt of truth => Christ is our truth
- Breastplate of righteousness => Christ is our righteousness
- Gospel of Peace => Gospel of Christ

Armor Piece	Ephesians 6 (ESV)	Isaiah (and other OT) References (ESV)
Belt of Truth	Ephesians 6:14 (ESV) – "Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth..."	Isaiah 11:5 (ESV) – "Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins."
Breastplate of Righteousness	Ephesians 6:14 (ESV) – "...and having put on the breastplate of righteousness..."	Isaiah 59:17a (ESV) – "He put on righteousness as a breastplate..."
Shoes of the Gospel of Peace	Ephesians 6:15 (ESV) – "...and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace."	Isaiah 52:7 (ESV) – "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace..."
Shield of Faith	Ephesians 6:16 (ESV) – "In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one..."	Genesis 15:1 (ESV) – "...Fear not, Abram, I am your shield..."; Psalm 91:4 (ESV) – "...his faithfulness is a shield and buckler."
Helmet of Salvation	Ephesians 6:17a (ESV) – "...and take the helmet of salvation..."	Isaiah 59:17b (ESV) – "...and a helmet of salvation on his head..."
Sword of the Spirit (Word of God)	Ephesians 6:17b (ESV) – "...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God..."	Isaiah 49:2 (ESV) – "...he made my mouth like a sharp sword..."; Isaiah 11:4 (ESV) – "...he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth..."

Fight - Weapons

¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

- Faith is demonstrated not by what we say we believe but by what we do
- “biblical faith is acting like it is so even when it's not so in order that it might be so simply because God said so”
- This is corporate; not individualism

Fight - Weapons

¹⁷ and take the **helmet of salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

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- Bring your thinking inline to God



Fight - Weapons

¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God,

2 Cor. 10:3-5

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

Fight - Weapons

¹⁸ **praying** at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

Fight - Partners

^{18b} To that end, keep alert with all perseverance,
making supplication for all the saints,

- chapter 6 is about how God defeats our adversary through us corporately as the church

Fight - Victory

¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

- The greatest activity of spiritual warfare that the world has ever known is not incantations against the devil it's not binding Satan. The greatest act of spiritual warfare is the proclamation of the gospel

Eph 2:1-3

2 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

BUT GOD...

BUT GOD...Eph 2:4-

⁴ **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

James 4 - Victory

4 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 4 - Victory

⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.