

Candlelight Christian Fellowship

Worksheet Ephesians 6 (NKJV)

Ephesians 6:10–20 (Spiritual Warfare—Part 2)

“10 Finally, my brethren, be strong 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 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. 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—19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Armor-Use It!

It is not possible to be a regenerated believer and be without spiritual armor. However, the use of the spiritual armor (at least in part) is the responsibility of each individual. Some will suggest that the armor provided each of us in the Lord is the work of God in each and every believer. They are correct! However, as we learn and grow, there are attributes and privileges given that the believer must take up. For example, a believer may suffer doubt and therefore allow *“the shield of faith”* to be set aside. The believer has the shield. It is provided in the Lord. However, if we begin to believe the lies of the enemy and lay aside our faith in the Lord’s sovereign care, we may suffer the temporal consequences of fear, doubt, lack of peace, and lack of rest. Many do! If we fail to wield *“the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,”* we may become vulnerable to those attacks and miss out on the offensive and defensive protection the sword will provide. Therefore, knowing the word of God and standing in the truth provides a level of protection otherwise forfeited.

Standing in the Lord and in His Armor

No believer can stand on his or her own. We stand in and by the power of God. A person who trusts in self, lies, human energy, willpower, etc. will see that they are no match for the enemy. We must *“Be sober, be vigilant; because [our] adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking*

whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith..." (1 Peter 5:8–9) Therefore, as believers equipped by the power of God, we are privileged with the tools and attributes needed to overcome the enemy.

There is no question about the fact that all believers will ultimately overcome all the *"fiery darts of the wicked one."* However, in this temporal world (the condition we are in today), we are subject to temporal set-backs—through which God allows us to grow. At times these are the very things God uses to shape and mold us as we are turned on "the eternal Potter's wheel." James said, *"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."* (James 1:2–4) The trials, temptations, and spiritual battles we go through are used by the Lord to shape and mold us through His sovereign grace and care.

Truth

Pilate asked a powerful and often unanswered question: *"What is truth?"* Truth is an exact representation of the original. It represents without infidelity precisely what is authentic. Jesus Himself was the exact representation of the Godhead in bodily form and is noted as the Word. He is Truth! (See Colossians 2:8-10 and John 1:1-5, 14) Jesus, in what is known as His High Priestly prayer, prayed, *"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."* (John 17:17) Therefore, Paul's exhortation to *"stand...having girded your waist with truth"* (vs. 14) is nothing less than being in and standing in Jesus. It is having an accurate picture of who He is, all He does, how He acts, etc. Any misrepresentation or inaccuracy of Him is a failure and is the cause of many troubles. For this reason alone one should attend to sound doctrine and contend for the faith once delivered to the saints. (Jude 3)

Satan traffics in lies. He is the author of bad doctrine, perversions of truth, and false beliefs. Jesus said that the Devil *"...was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."* (John 8:44)

One of the continuing and difficult obstacles a believer will face in the area of spiritual warfare is the battle for a sound mind—the ability to overcome thinking that has been implanted through the lies of the enemy, whether it is in the form of bad doctrine in Theology (the study of God), Eschatology (the study of end time events), Angel or Demonology (the study of angels and demons), Soteriology (the study of salvation), etc. It may also come in the form of lies and curses we have heard and believe—about others or ourselves. These lies can provide manifold problems!

For example, those who believe they are in some way or another under the control of the Devil or a demon give place to the enemy by default. Christians are not (ARE NOT) subject to the control of the Devil or any demon. John said, *"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."* (1 John 4:4) However, a believer who believes he is under the control of a demon gives place to the manipulation of evil spirits and thus allows the

enemy a level of control. For this very reason Paul said we are to give no place to the Devil. (See Ephesians 4:27)

Christians cannot be demon possessed. We have been bought with a price and are the possession of Jesus. (1 Corinthians 6:20) We are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and you are not your own. (1 Corinthians 6:19) We have been set free from the power of the enemy and are therefore free of His control. However, when a Christian believes he or she has no control, and/or is incapable of overcoming the influences of the Devil, he or she believes a lie and will feel or act in a way unfitting.

God calls every believer to a sound mind: *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”* (2 Timothy 1:7) Believers who are sound in mind are girded with the truth! They will be free of insecurities, fears, and the manipulations of the enemy. Paul said, *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments [logismos] and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”* (2 Corinthians 10:3–5) As we grow in the grace and in the knowledge of the Lord, we grow in soundness of mind and in the freedom God has intended for us.

The greatest *tool* available to every believer is the word of God. We are called to study the Scripture and in doing so will be renewed in the “spirit of our minds.” (See Ephesians 4:20-24) However, simply reading the Bible is not a stand-alone formula for the renewing of the mind. The Lord Himself is the one who, through the word and by the power of the Holy Spirit, renews and cleanses our mind. He is the one who cleanses us and washes us by the water of the word. (See Ephesians 5:26) *“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”* (1 Peter 1:13) The Psalmist wrote, *“He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.”* (Psalm 107:20)

Gird yourself in Jesus. He is *“the way, the truth, and the Life.”* (John 14:6) Gird your waist with truth! His word is truth!

Notes:

Questions:

- 1) **True or False:** All believers have been given spiritual armor.
- 2) **True or False:** The use of the believer's spiritual armor is in part the responsibility of the believer.
- 3) **True or False:** If a believer believes the lie of the enemy, he or she may suffer from fear, doubt, lack of peace, and lack of rest.
- 4) **True or False:** Knowing the word of God and standing in the truth provides a level of protection that may be otherwise forfeited.
- 5) **True or False:** The enemy is a toothless lion.
- 6) **True or False:** Believers may suffer temporary setbacks but will ultimately overcome—in the Lord.
- 7) **True or False:** Setbacks can be great learning experiences.
- 8) **True or False:** No one can really know the truth.
- 9) **True or False:** Truth is an exact representation of the original. It represents without infidelity precisely what is authentic.
- 10) **True or False:** Jesus Himself was the exact representation of the Godhead in bodily form and is noted as the Word. He is Truth!
- 11) **True or False:** Satan traffics in lies.
- 12) **True or False:** A believer who believes he is under the control of a demon gives place to the manipulation of evil spirits and thus allows the enemy a level of control.
- 13) **True or False:** Christians can be demon possessed, but we can cast them out.
- 14) **True or False:** Believers can be free of insecurities, fears, and the manipulations of the enemy. However, this freedom may not be fully recognized until we see the Lord face to face.
- 15) **True or False:** The study of Scripture is not that important. God will implant His word in me.