

Candlelight Christian Fellowship

Worksheet
Ephesians 6

Ephesians 6:10–20 (NKJV) (Spiritual Warfare—Part 5)

“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.”

The Helmet of Salvation

Of all the pieces of Spiritual armor, the first and most important is salvation. This salvation is assumed by the context; otherwise, all the other pieces of armor would be of little or no use in a spiritual warfare environment.

One might argue that truth can be a useful tool in the hands of an unbeliever—and that may be true; however, true righteousness apart from salvation is impossible; peace while believed to be possible is simply a false “calm” perceived through creature comfort; there is no useful faith apart from *the* faith; the word of God being quick and powerful must be wielded by the Spirit in and through the life of the believer; and, finally, prayer in and of itself has no innate power of its own. Salvation is the prerequisite to all the other weapons of spiritual warfare.

Safety in Christ

Believers are saved and kept by the power of God. This salvation (as discussed earlier in chapters one and two) is the result of God’s sovereign work of grace. Believers (the saved) are those men and women who have trusted God for salvation—having exercised faith in *the* faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 3). Therefore, we can see that Paul is re-emphasizing that salvation (“*the* salvation” in Greek) is essentially the foremost protection any man or woman is allowed. Even those who are deficient in understanding all the elements of truth contained in the word of God, or are living below the righteous standards defined in Scripture, will be ultimately protected in and by the Lord. (There is only so much the enemy can do to the ones who are the recipients of salvation.) God is our protector. Those who are His own will be preserved and safely delivered by His power. Every believer

will arrive into the presence and Kingdom of our Lord without the potential of failure. God keeps His own! For this reason, Jesus said, *“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand”* (John 10:28).

Understanding the eternal salvation we have been given should distance us from the belief that all of life is wrapped up in this temporal world. It provides us confidence in the fact that this world and its sufferings are limited to our pre-resurrection existence. The salvation we have been given promises life everlasting in the presence of God—where there will be no sickness, no dying, no trial, and no temptation. The salvation we have been promised includes a place and time where we will be free of the Devil’s presence and free from the need to contend with or resist the Devil.

As believers engaged in Spiritual warfare, we are equipped with a “cannot fail,” “cannot lose” perspective. We may suffer temporary setbacks as we engage in the Spiritual war, but in the end, we win. We are guaranteed safe delivery and ultimate victory. Paul made this clear when he said, *“In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory”* (Ephesians 1:11–14). The salvation we have been given is armor indeed!

Have you been born again? Have you trusted Christ for salvation? Do you embrace *the* faith once delivered to the saints? Is your faith firmly placed in the Lord—not in works, not in personal goodness? If not, now is the time to put on the helmet of salvation! Simply trust the Lord and give your life, future, and hope to Him. Confess to Him that you are a sinner and require forgiveness of your sin. Jesus said, *“...the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out”* (John 6:37b).

The Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God

Within the Bible we read that *“the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”* (Hebrews 4:12). In the Psalms we read, *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”* (119:105). In Paul’s second letter to Timothy we read that, *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work”* (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

God has made known to us that His word is not an optional part of the Christian armor. It is the essential lamp that illuminates, the sword that brings discernment, and is the God-breathed standard by which we must develop doctrine, bring reproof, correct error, provide instruction in righteousness, and equip every Christian man and woman of God. The word of God is complete, and is the essential equipment we need in order to navigate this world, fend off the enemy, provide the truth that brings peace, and above all provides what is needed to know the plan of salvation. It is the perfect description

of the One who saves. The word of God is so important that God Himself inspired the Psalmist to say, *“You have magnified Your word above all Your name”* (Psalm 138:2b).

His Word is Truth

As we engage in Spiritual warfare, we must engage with truth; His word is truth. In the Psalms we read, *“The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever”* (119:160). Earlier we learned that truth is an exact representation of the original. It represents without infidelity precisely what is authentic. We learned that Jesus, in what is known as His High Priestly prayer, prayed, *“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth”* (John 17:17). Therefore we understand that any misrepresentation or inaccuracy of the truth is the cause of trouble.

We know that 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).

The Eternal and the Temporal

The believer’s overcoming power comes as the result of grace through faith. The believer’s ultimate and *eternal* victory is found in Jesus Christ alone by the salvation He provides. No believer would have the doctrine required for *the* faith or confidence to *exercise* the faith provided by grace were it not clearly revealed to us in the Bible.

However, the day-to-day *temporal* spiritual battles every believer engages in must be handled in and by proper use of the word of God. Paul’s description of the word as a sword shows that it is given to us as a defensive tool and as an offensive weapon. With the word of God, we *defend* against lies, accusations, doubts, and fears; but also with the word of God we *go forth* into the darkness to illuminate and dispel its gloomy and evil effects. We take the word of God into this world to provide the eternal message of hope no man can live without; and by the word of God, we equip those who embrace it with the truths necessary for day-to-day victory. The word of God is essential—not only for the eternal life provided in *the* faith but also for the day-to-day temporal lives we now live.

Illustrated Practice

In practical illustration of how to use the word of God in spiritual battle, we have the example of Jesus Himself. We read of the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness and see that when Jesus endured those temptations He engaged by taking up *“the sword.”*

In John 4 we read, *“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, ‘If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.’ But He answered and said, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” ’ Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: “He shall give His angels charge over you,” and, “In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you*

dash your foot against a stone.” ’ Jesus said to him, “It is written again, “You shall not tempt the LORD your God.” ’ Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, ‘All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve” ’ ” (1–10).

Jesus wielded the sword and effectively resisted the Devil.

Handling the Word with Experience

When Jesus was confronted by the Devil, He handled the word of God with excellence. Jesus knew what the word said, and also understood its message and meaning. This was critical to the battle. Even the Devil himself quoted Scripture when tempting Jesus. However, Jesus understood the word of God in its proper context and was therefore able to properly and victoriously use it to overcome the enemy.

Satan will (at times) do the same with us. He may manipulate and twist Scripture when attacking us. We must understand and be able to properly apply the word of God when engaged in battle. For this reason (among others) we are given the injunction, *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15).

The Teaching of Scripture and the Need for Sound Doctrine

Sound doctrine and biblical teaching is losing favor in the world today. Many believers are focused on exciting gatherings, cool music, and entertaining sermons. However, inasmuch as those things can be enjoyable, it is the soundness of doctrine and solid biblical teaching that the New Testament places as priority. Paul said, *“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables”* (2 Timothy 4:2–4).

A man or woman with an insufficient grasp of Scripture will fail to victoriously contend with the Devil.

Spiritual Immaturity

The author to the Hebrews wrote, *“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil”* (Hebrews 5:12–14). Sadly these comments could be made to the majority of Christians today. May the Lord grant unto us a deepening hunger for the word of God!

The Living Word – Christ in You (A Final Thought)

John's gospel begins by stating, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth"* (John 1:1–5a, and 14).

These words declare that Jesus is the living Word of God. Earlier we learned that *"the whole family in heaven and earth is named [in Him]"* (Ephesians 3:15). We know that Paul prayed that God *"would grant [to us], according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in [our] hearts through faith; that [we], being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that [we] may be filled with all the fullness of God"* (Ephesians 3:16–19). Therefore we know that the Living Word dwells in us. Jesus dwells in our hearts through faith! Therefore, the Word of God is not simply a sword to be wielded from without, but is actually the life of God Himself living within us, to guide, to equip, and to protect.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world" (1 Peter 5:8–9).

Notes:

Questions:

True or False: Of all the pieces of Spiritual armor, the first and most important is salvation.

True or False: Understanding the eternal salvation we have been given should distance us from the belief that all of life is wrapped up in this temporal world.

True or False: As believers engaged in Spiritual warfare, we may suffer temporary setbacks as we engage in battle; but in the end, we ultimately win.

True or False: The Word is not an optional part of the Christian armor.

True or False: Soundness of doctrine and solid biblical teaching is not a New Testament priority.

True or False: The Word of God is not simply a sword to be wielded from without, but is actually the life of God Himself living within us, to guide, to equip, and to protect.