

Prepared for Battle



Gary Wilkerson August 12, 2019

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against ... the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places ... Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication” (Ephesians 6:10-12, 18).

In the first five chapters of his letter to the church at Ephesus, Paul recognized the wonderful things the Holy Spirit had accomplished and rejoiced at the spiritual growth that had taken place in their lives. In this concluding chapter, he issues a word of caution to them about the opposition coming their way — and their need to be prepared.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul very carefully instructed the Ephesians in spiritual warfare. First, he warned them that the powers of darkness would come against them to rob them of their inheritance — and he repeated the word *against* several times. It was not *if* the enemy would come against them, but *when* and *how often* and *how hard*. So, he told them to be strong in the Lord and depend on him because trying to fight in one’s own strength is never sufficient.

In Ephesians 6:14-17, Paul describes the whole armor of God that would fully equip them:

- The belt of truth
- The breastplate of righteousness
- God’s shoes for your feet
- The shield of faith
- The helmet of salvation
- The sword of the Spirit

You need to understand that you are fighting against spiritual forces of evil. You are a citizen of heaven, a Christian who believes in the truth, and will fight for the truth. To live the life of an overcomer, put on “the whole armor of God” and prepare for conflict. Study God’s Word, pray in the Spirit, and you will be able to stand as the victor after the battle, giving all glory to the Most High God.

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