

EPHESIANS

Prepare for Battle

Ephesians 6:13-15



YOU
ARE
HERE

Corrie Ten Boom

**“The first
step on the
way to victory
is to recognize
the enemy.”**



If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle.

Sun Tzu

William Shakespeare, *Henry V*



“In peace there's nothing so becomes a man as modest stillness and humility; but when the blast of war blows in our ears, then imitate the action of the tiger; stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood, disguise fair nature with hard-favor'd rage.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 8b

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1 There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven...

8b A time for war and a time for peace.

Paul says, for the Christian, the time for war is upon us.

The question is: Will We Fight?



Our Enemy Does Not Rest

The Battle Rages (6:10-13) EPHESIANS

What? “Put on the full armor of God...take up the full armor of God”

Who? “the rulers, against the powers,
against the world forces of this darkness,
against the spiritual forces of wickedness”

Why? “so that you will be able to stand firm
against the schemes of the devil...so that
you will be able to resist in the evil day, and
having done everything, to stand firm.”

We Are The Battlefield EPHESIANS

Where does this battle take place?
“in the heavenly places”

The Lord has “blessed us with every spiritual blessing *in the heavenly places* in Christ” (1:3)

Christ, our Lord, is “seated...at His right hand *in the heavenly places*” (1:20)

And He has “raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him *in the heavenly places* in Christ Jesus” (2:6)



Know Thy Enemy

What is
Satan's
ultimate
target?

“Our relation to the Divine Being is assailed by the devil. Such is his hostility to God, that his highest aim is to secure our disobedience, disloyalty, and rebellion, in order that Jehovah may be dishonoured and defied, and that we may be spiritually destroyed.”

Exhibit A: Job



Ultimately...

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Satan's power over Christians is already broken and the great war is won through Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, which forever conquered the power of sin and death.

However, in this earthly life, battles of temptation go on regularly, and the Lord's power, strength, Spirit, and truth are required for victory.

Context Is Key!



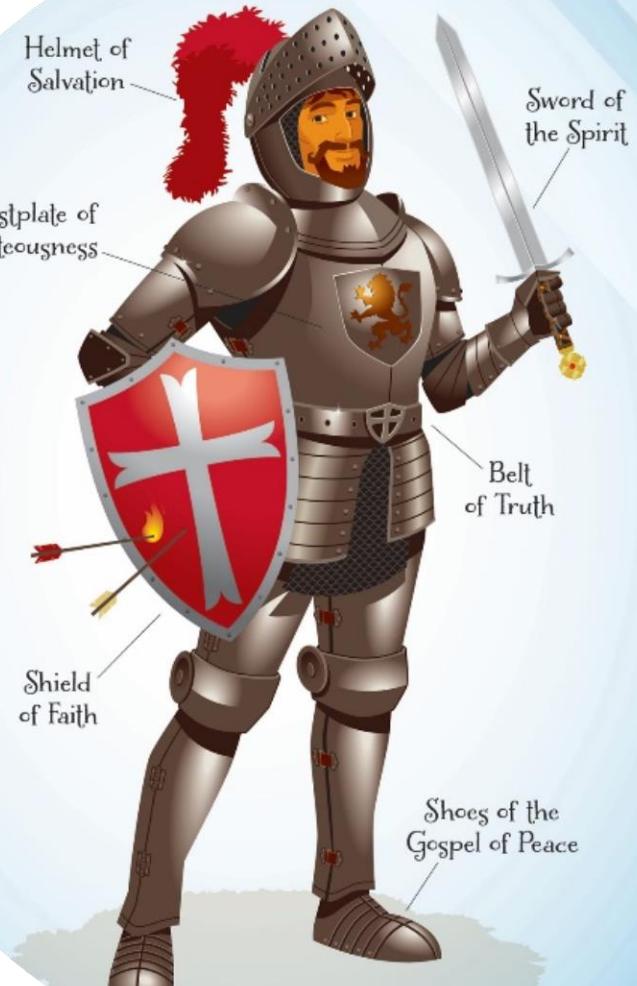
- 6:10 – “be strong”
- 6:11 – “stand firm”
- 6:13 – “stand firm”
- 6:14 – “stand firm”

This is a defensive battle,
and we are in this
together.

The Armor of God?



Be strong in the Lord!





TAKE UP THE
SHIELD OF FAITH,
WITH WHICH
YOU WILL BE
ABLE TO QUENCH
ALL THE FIERY DARTS
OF THE EVIL ONE

Where is Paul Getting This Imagery?



Paul Knew “Soldiers” EPHESIANS

- “Soldiers” are mentioned 12 times in Acts, and in 8 of them they are guarding, arresting, or transporting Paul.
- Paul uses soldier imagery in 1 Corinthians 9:7.
- In 2 Timothy 2:3, Paul admonishes Timothy, “Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus”; in 2:4, he describes a soldier committed to pleasing the one who enlisted him.
- In Philemon 1:2, Archippus, a brother in Christ is called a “fellow soldier”

Philippians 1:12-13

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12 Now I want you to know,
brethren, that my circumstances
have turned out for the greater
progress of the gospel, 13 so that
my imprisonment in the cause of
Christ has become well known
throughout the whole praetorian
guard and to everyone else

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Of the Messiah

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- **Isaiah 11:5** – “Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist.”
- **Isaiah 59:17** – “He put on righteousness like a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; And He put on garments of vengeance for clothing And wrapped Himself with zeal as a mantle.”

“Stand firm therefore,” EPHESIANS

1. having girded your loins with truth
2. having put on the breastplate of righteousness
3. having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace
4. taking up the shield of faith
5. take the helmet of salvation
6. [take] the sword of the Spirit

**No soldier
would go
into battle
without
ALL of
these
implements.**



- 1. Belt of Truth**
- 2. Breastplate of Righteousness**
- 3. Sandals of the Gospel**
- 4. Shield of Faith**
- 5. Helmet of Salvation**
- 6. Sword of the Spirit**

Gifts or Tasks?

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That is, do we belt on God's truth or
the practice of truth?

Both.

The takeaway here is that each piece of armor has to do with God's covenant and each one points to a reality about God that determines human action.

This Morning:

EPHESIANS

- 1.Belt of Truth
- 2.Breastplate of Righteousness
- 3.Sandals of the Gospel
- 4.Shield of Faith
- 5.Helmet of Salvation
- 6.Sword of the Spirit

1. Belt of Truth

EPHESIANS

6:14a – “having girded your loins with truth”
(from Isaiah 11:5)

This is an entirely foreign concept to us as modern day readers.

Since ancient combat was largely hand-to-hand, a loose tunic was a possible hindrance and danger.

How to Gird Up Your Loins



1. The tunic wouldn't allow you to do heavy labor or fight in battle, necessitating the "girding" of one's loins.



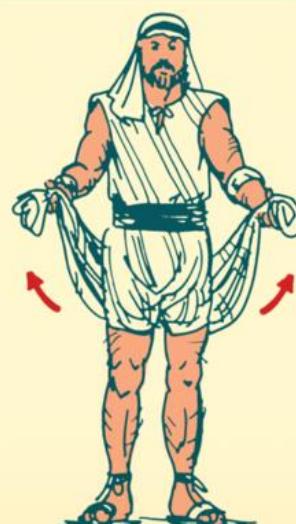
2. First, hoist the tunic up so that all the fabric is above your knees. This will give you mobility.



3. Gather all the extra material in front of you, so that the back of the tunic is snug against your backside.



4. Once the excess fabric is gathered in front, pull it underneath and between your legs to your rear. This feels much like a diaper.



5. Gather half of the material in each hand, bringing it back around to the front.



6. Finally, tie your two handfuls of material together, and you're all set for both battle and some hard labor. Go forth, be ye men, and gird up your loins!

In the OT: Exodus 12:11 EPHESIANS

“Now you shall eat it in this manner: **with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand;** and you shall eat it in haste—it is the Lord’s Passover.”

What is this communicating?

In the NT: Luke 12:35-36 EPHESIANS

35 “Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit. 36 Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks.

1 Peter 1:13 (KJV)

EPHESIANS

13 Wherefore **gird up the loins** of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ

The NASB renders it “**prepare your minds for action.**”

“Truth” in Ephesians EPHESIANS

1. In Reference to the Gospel

- 1:13 – “the message of *truth*, the gospel of your salvation”
- 4:21 – “*truth* is in Jesus”

2. In Reference to Godly Conduct

- 4:15 – “speaking the *truth* in love”
- 4:24 – “put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the *truth*”
- 4:25 – “speak *truth* each one of you with his neighbor”
- 5:9 – “the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and *truth*”

The Armor of God

EPHESIANS

1. Belt of Truth = Readiness & Commitment
2. Breastplate of Righteousness
3. Sandals of the Gospel
4. Shield of Faith
5. Helmet of Salvation
6. Sword of the Spirit

2. Breastplate of Righteousness (6:14b)

- From Isaiah 59:17

- **Purpose of the breastplate:**

Protect one from the neck to the upper thighs and covered two vital areas:

- 1. Chest area (heart)**
- 2. Abdomen (bowels)**



1. Heart

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- Biblically speaking, your heart is your innermost being; it is what reflects your nature and whether you are in Christ.
 - Proverbs 4:23 – “Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.”
 - 1 Peter 3:15 – “but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you...”



Ezekiel 36:26

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26 Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

2. Bowels

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- The bowels were regarded as the seat of the more violent passions, such as anger and love; but by the Hebrews as the seat of the tenderer affections, esp. kindness, benevolence, compassion.
 - Philippians 1:8 (KJV) – “For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.”
 - Ephesians 4:32 – “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

Question:

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**Do You
Protect Your
Passions?**

Paul is Telling Us:

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To protect our hearts, our thoughts, our emotions and our passions with holiness, uprightness, integrity of character, and holy living.

Why?

1 Peter 2:11-12

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“Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

The Armor of God

EPHESIANS

1. Belt of Truth = Readiness & Commitment
2. Breastplate of Righteousness = Guard Your Heart and Passions
3. Sandals of the Gospel
4. Shield of Faith
5. Helmet of Salvation
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3. Sandals of the Gospel EPHESIANS

6:15 – “shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace”

How have you heard this verse interpreted?

Many Point to Isaiah 52:7



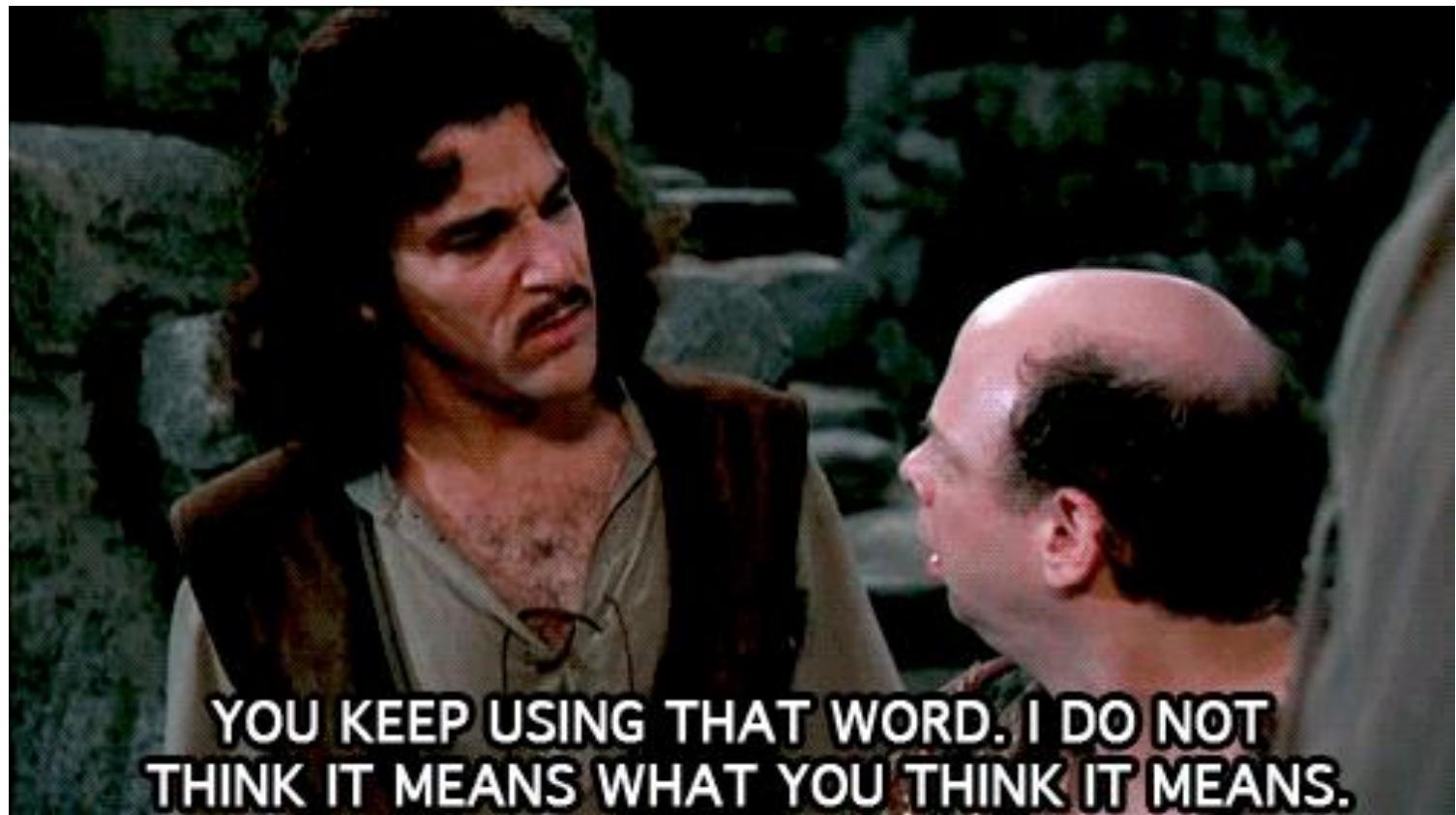
Isaiah 52:7

“How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

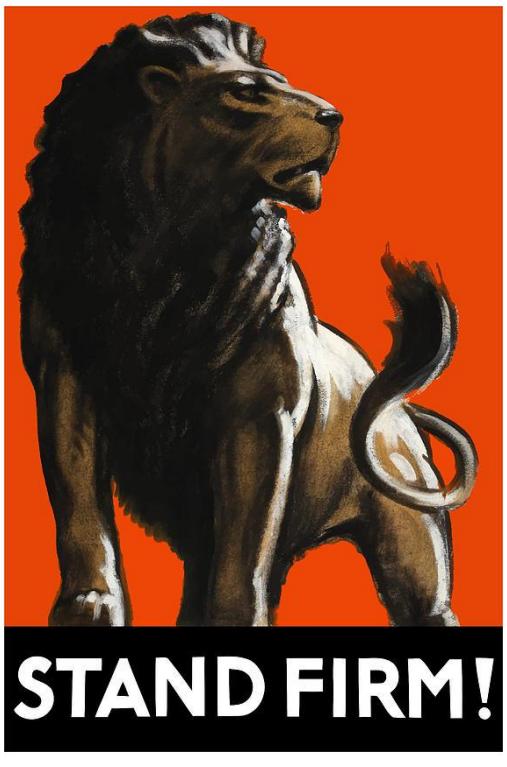
A Few Commentators: EPHESIANS

- “The sign of Christians is that they are eager to be on the way to share the gospel with others who have not heard it.”
- “The strong military sandals spoke of that readiness to march in the cause of that gospel”
- “So the Christian must put on the shoes of the gospel—ready to go anywhere with the good news”

I'm Not Sure That I Agree...



Once Again: Context!



- 6:10 – “be strong”
- 6:11 – “stand firm”
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So, what exactly does it mean
to have our feet “shod
with...the gospel?”



Gotta Be The Shoes!

Roman soldiers wore shoes called *caligae* – a type of “shoe thickly studded with sharp nails”
(Josephus)

What was the purpose of these shoes?

They Offered...

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1. Protection – thick soles
2. Stability – the metal studs or cleats
gave sure footing

So, Paul is saying that we must have a firm footing—solidly set—assurance that we are standing firm in our relationship with Christ.



1 Corinthians 10:12

“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.”

How Well

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Do You
Know The
Gospel?

Colossians 2:6-7

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6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, **7** having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

The Armor of God

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1. Belt of Truth = Readiness & Commitment
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