

Ephesians 6:10-20

Part 3: STANDING

YES, NO & MAYBE

1. I go through much less drama in my life than the people sitting around me here.
2. I am spiritually intuitive, and I can see what the devil is trying to do to the people around me.
3. God wants us to spiritually be on the offense more than the defense.
4. The armor of God is not for protection, it is a weapon.
5. God's mysterious plan for mankind is still not fully known.

DIG DEEPER

The Whole Armor of God

➤ **READ Ephesians 6:10-20** (NLT)

10 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.**

13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. **14 Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. 15 For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. 16 In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. 17 Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**

18 Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

19 And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. 20 I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.

Put on all of God's armor...

» (vs. 11) **All the weapons:** "Put on" is enduō (ἐνδύω), "to envelope in, to hide in, to clothe with." "Whole armor" is panoplia (πανοπλία), made up of pas (πάς), "whole," and hoplon (ὄπλον), "weapon"; literally "all the weapons."

« This verse instructs us to put on God's armor, but what have you been told that we're "putting on," defensive shielding or offensive weapons? How have you understood this in the past?

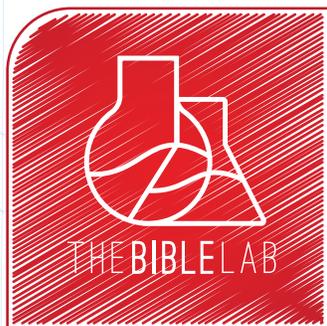
For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies...

» (vs. 12) **fighting/wrestling:** "fighting" is the word "wrestle," (palē (παλη)), a Greek athletic term. When we consider that the loser in a Greek wrestling contest had his eyes gouged out with resulting blindness for the rest of his days, we can form some conception of the Ephesian Greek's reaction to Paul's illustration.

« What "strategies" do you see the devil and his forces using today?

belt of truth...

» (vs. 14) **the belt:** "Putting on" is perizōnnuō (περιζώννυω), "to gird around, to fasten garments with a girdle or belt." The soldier's belt was no mere adornment, but an essential part of his equipment. It was of special use in keeping other parts in place, and in securing the proper soldierly attitude and freedom of movement."



DIG DEEPER...CONTINUED

« What do you think God means by “truth” being like an armor belt for us? And why do you think that truth is so important for us, especially today at The Bible Lab?

body armor of God’s righteousness...

» (vs. 14) **body armor/breastplate of righteousness:** (τον θωρακα της δικαιοσυνης [ton thōraka tēs dikaiosunēs]).

« Body armor is there to protect your heart and your vital organs from a death blow. How does righteousness protect you from spiritual assassination?

For shoes, put on the peace...

» (vs. 15) **soldier shoes:** The Roman soldier wore sandals which were bound by throngs over the instep and around the ankle, and the soles were thickly studded with nails. This would give him a firm footing in case of attack. The word “preparation” is hetoimazō (ἑτοιμαζω), which was used in classical Greek in the sense of establishment or firm foundation. Thus, the Christian soldier should see to it that his feet are equipped with the sandals which will give him a firm footing.

« What is it about the “Good News” that gives you a firm footing in cases of attack?

the shield of faith...

» (vs. 16) **the shield:** The word “shield” used here (thureon (θυρεον)) designated the shield of the heavy infantry, a large, oblong one, four by two and one half feet, sometimes curved on the inner side. Greek mothers would tell their soldier sons’ before leaving for battle, “The shield, or the shield.” By this, they meant, “Come home either carrying your shield, or carried upon it like a litter.”

« This language is less about being on the defensive than being on the attack. How much does God want us to be on the attack against the strategies of the devil, and who are we fighting?

salvation as your helmet...

» (vs. 17) **helmet of salvation:** (την περικεφαλαιαν του σωτηριου [tēn perikephalaian tou sōtēriou]). Take up the helmet! In Isaiah 59, God is the one who puts on the helmet of salvation. This background means that one will want to be careful not to interpret the phrase of Ephesians 6:17 as the protection God offers the saints by assuring them of their own salvation. In the context of putting on the armor, however, the image of grasping the helmet of salvation is meant to place on the church the task of bringing liberation to those in bondage by imitating the God of Isaiah 59.

sword of the Spirit...

» (vs. 17) **God’s ownership:** In Ephesians the term word of God has not yet come into use as a synonym for Scripture. Instead, it refers to the whole variety of divine revelation and intervention.

God’s mysterious plan...

» (vs. 19) **both Jews & Gentiles:** The Romans looked on the Christians as a sect of the Jews, and the Jews considered them as a heretical group. In his trial Paul needed to make clear that Christians are neither a Jewish sect nor a heretical group but a new entity, the church, the body of Christ, composed of Jewish and Gentile believers.

« What does God’s Good News of inclusiveness tell you about His character?

MY PRAYER...

1. What pieces of God’s armor do I still need to put on?
2. What part of God mysterious plan do I still need to understand more fully?
3. What new aspect of God’s character does He want me to know?



www.TheBibleLab.com
© 2021 The Bible Lab

