

WORLD VIDEO BIBLE SCHOOL

Fundamentals of the Faith

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LESSON #25 — DEFENSES AGAINST SATAN AND SIN

Our next point that we want to consider is: God hasn't left us defenseless here. He hasn't left us without defenses. Let's study a little bit about what He says that He has done to make it possible for us to win the victory in this battle against Satan and his forces.

Still in the book of Ephesians, this time, we want to look at Ephesians chapter 6, verse 10. God says, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might." So what is God saying to us here? He says, you be strong, not in your own strength, but in the strength of God, and in the power of His might. In other words, by ourselves, we cannot defeat Satan. But if we're in the Lord, and of course, we must obey the gospel to be in the Lord. But if we're in Him, then we can use the power, the might, that He has made available to us. What is that power? What is that might? Is it some miraculous gifts that exists today? No, that's not what Paul was talking about in this context.

How do we know that? Because we know that from studying the context, and we want to go to that context, and read from verse 11, through verse 17, of Ephesians 6. Ephesians 6, verses 11-17. "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. 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. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

Now, God here gives us His power, His might, His weapons for us to fight this spiritual battle. In verse 11, He tells us, you put on the whole armor of God. That's something that I must do. You must do. He's not going to do it for us. He's made it available to us. But you and I have to put it on. We have to take it and use it the way He intends us to. Why do we want to do that, God? In verse 11, that you may stand against the wiles of the devil. The word translated "wiles" means "deceitful plans and strategies." Satan is like a military officer. He makes plans, he makes strategies, and he uses deceit in his arsenal of tools and weapons. And so we have to put on the whole armor of God, if we're going to be able to stand against the devil's tricks and his strategies.

Verse 12, we've already studied. Verse 13, God says, "Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand." God doesn't want us to run from Satan. He wants us to stand fast, and stand tall, and be strong, and fight against our spiritual foe, our enemy. And use the whole armor of God that He's given us, to protect us.

And then he begins to elaborate, what are the parts of this whole armor that God has given to us? Verse 14, he says, "You surround your waist with truth." That is, speak the truth. Don't participate in lies and deceit, because that's the work of the devil, speak the truth. Also, we can see the connection between the truth and the word of God. Because in John 17:17, Jesus said, "Your word is truth," speaking to the Father. So we can see the connection between: we need to speak the truth, and we need to use the truth, which is the Word of God.

Then he says, "Having put on the breastplate of righteousness." That is living uprightly, living in accordance with the standard of right, the Word of God, and living a righteous, godly life before others. That's part of our armor, to protect us against Satan. We can also see a connection of the Word of God here, in that in Psalm 119, verse 172, God said all of his commandments are righteousness. So again, we can see the importance of His Word, as part of the whole armor that He's given us to protect ourselves.

In verse 15, He says you need to protect your feet, you need to have something protecting your feet. What is that? The gospel of peace, the good news, the glad tidings of salvation. The good news that makes it possible for us to have peace with God, through the blood of the cross of Jesus Christ. So we need to use the gospel, we need to spread that good news, and we need to dwell on it. Think about it. Rejoice in it. And this will help us to fight the battle against Satan.

In verse 16, he says, "The shield of faith." We know the importance of faith. Without faith we can't please God. We must have faith if we want to be saved from our sins. So faith is something that we use as a shield. And notice what it says: that we'll be able to quench the fiery darts of the evil one. Satan is always firing arrows, darts at us, trying to harm us, trying to hurt us. Not talking about physical things, but in his spiritual way of trying to tempt us, trying to drag us down, trying to pull us away from God's standard. And we need to use the shield of faith to block those attempts by Satan. We can see a connection with the Word of God here too, because God tells us that the faith is the gospel (Philippians 1, verse 27). So we need to use the word of God as our shield. We need to use our personal faith as our shield to fend off those darts that Satan will fire at us.

And then in verse 17, He says, "Take the helmet of salvation." "To protect your head," God has said, "I'm giving you salvation." We can be comforted and strengthened by the fact that we can know we can be saved, through God's love, His mercy, and His grace, and through our faithful and loving obedience to His blessed commandments. So we need to take the helmet of salvation. What is the connection there with the Word of God? Ephesians chapter 1, verse 13, the gospel is the gospel of our salvation. Romans 1:16, the gospel is God's power unto salvation. Again, we see the Word of God entering in here. We need to be reinforced and encouraged by the fact that we can be saved. And we need to use the gospel, the good news of salvation that God has given to us.

And then at the end of verse 17, he says, "The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." Here's our offensive weapon: the Sword that is used to pierce people's hearts and souls and minds. And we need to use that sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, to fight as part of the whole armor of God. You think about it, if you would please, Jesus, when He was tempted by Satan. You remember as it's recorded in Matthew, chapter 4, that Satan came to Him and tempted Him three times. And what did Jesus do to fight off that temptation? He quoted from

the Scripture. He said, "It is written," and then quoted accurately, what God said in His Word. Jesus used the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, as part of the whole armor of God, to fight against Satan. And you and I need to do the same.

So we need to take up the whole armor of God, and we need to put it on, and use it as God intends. The helmet of salvation, the shield of faith, the breastplate of righteousness, having our middle surrounded by the truth, having our feet covered by the preparation of the gospel of peace.

Then another passage that tells us about God hasn't left us defenseless here. This one is found in 1 John. 1 John, chapter 2, verse 14. 1 John 2, verse 14. "I've written to you fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I've written to you young men, because you are strong, and the Word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one." Do you see the connection that God makes there, between His Word and what those young men were? He said, "You are strong." He's talking about their spiritual strength. Why were they strong, God? He said, "The Word of God abides in you, lives in you, dwells in you, has taken up residence in your mind and in your heart." And notice what else God says as a result of their burying the Word in their hearts: "You have overcome the wicked one." They were being victorious in this battle, because they buried the Word of God in their mind. And if you and I want to win that victory, we need to do the same. And that's why we've encouraged you as we encourage ourselves, work on our memory versus. Put those words in our mind. Let them influence us and strengthen us and give us the protection we need against Satan.

And then in the book of James, in James chapter 4, verse 7, Listen to what God tells us. James 4, verse 7. "Therefore, submit to God, resist Satan, and he will flee from you." That's a wonderful and reassuring passage that provides us comfort. God says, first of all, "You submit to me. You yield your will to My will. You be willing to do what I command you." And then he says, "You resist Satan. Stand up against him. Don't give into his advances, his attempts to tempt us and lead us astray." And what does God promise? He will flee from you. He'll leave, he'll go to someone who is weaker, who does not want to fight against him as strongly as you do. That's a promise from God. We submit to Him, and we resist Satan. Satan will flee from us. Now we can be sure he'll be back, because He's persistent. Just like a lion who keeps coming back and trying to get the thing that it's looking for, Satan will be back. But we need to continue resisting him. And as we do, he will flee from us. So we know that God hasn't left us defenseless, then.