

Today, we'd like to see the title of "Protection for Christians" in a spiritual battle in the book of Ephesians 6:10-24..

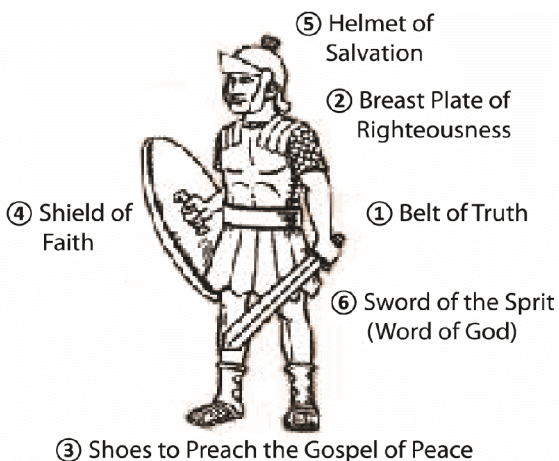
To Online Word's people on the earth, we'd like to suggest 3 Questions.

- Q1. In verse 11, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil," what is the whole armor of God?
- Q2. In verse 17, "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God," what does it mean? And how can we practice this verse in our daily life?
- Q3. In verse 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—," why should we pray always in the Spirit? And how can we do?

(Background)

In the last time, in the epistle of Ephesians, we studied the unity of the body of Christ; our Christian walk; parents' proper relationship with our children; proper relationship between Husband & Wife; And employees and employers as to the Lord.

Now, it's well known the whole armor of God or the full armor of God. Paul depicted, in the physical realm, the example of the Roman soldier who put on his full armor, which everybody saw at that time of Roman Empire, and taught, in the spiritual realm, how every Christian should put on the full armor of God in a spiritual battle.



Source of the image: <https://www.tgm.org/aogWholeArmor.htm>

<p>¹⁰Finally, <u>my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.</u></p> <p>¹¹Put on <u>the whole armor of God</u>, that you may be able to <u>stand against the wiles of the devil.</u></p> <p>¹²For we do <u>not wrestle against flesh and blood</u>, but <u>against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.</u></p> <p>¹³Therefore <u>take up the whole armor of God</u>, that you may be able to <u>withstand</u> in the evil day, and having done all, <u>to stand.</u></p> <p>¹⁴Stand therefore, having <u>girded your waist with truth</u>, having put on the <u>breastplate of righteousness</u>,</p>	<p>10= my brethren (individual brother or sister in Christ, i.e. every Christian); be strong in the Lord (not in anything else – your wealth, career, or whatever merits), in the power of His might (not in the power of your might – we look to Him to strengthen us in our weakness ¹2 Cor 12:9-10)</p> <p>11=Q1 the whole armor (the Roman Soldier’s armor, see above – 6 weapons) of God; stand against the wiles of the devil (wiles – tricks or deceits; the head of devils is Satan the deceiver, accuser, or destroyer; e.g. false christs, false prophets, false apostles, antichrist ²Mark 13:22; 2 Cor 2:11; 2 Cor 11:3, 13; 1 John 4:3)</p> <p>12= not against flesh and blood (not against physical persons or physical things); against...the darkness... in the heavenly places (against the power of darkness; the power of Satan – Spiritual Battle! Not Physical Battle -- if you don’t recognize the real conflict is spiritual, Satan can draw you into the flesh, into a physical conflict, and can have the advantage over you – 3 “Rs” (1) Recognize an attack of Satan; (2) Repel the attack by the spiritual weapons; (3) Rejoice with the power of His spirit ³John 14:30; 1 John 5:4, 18)</p> <p>13= take up the whole armor of God... withstand (withstand the attack of Satan – stand firmly not yielding to Satan)</p> <p>14= ... girded your waist with truth (1. Belt of Truth – Jesus is the truth! ⁴John 14:6 Truth is a part of our defense against the deceits of Satan. And how important is truth today? Satan through his instruments has lied and said, there is not truth. But there is! Jesus is truth!); 2. Breastplate of Righteousness (Satan through his instruments constantly accuses us, and points out our flaws/failures to drive us away from the Lord. But we just flee into the righteousness of Christ, in whom we have faith. So through that faith we are accounted righteous by God; breastplate -- THORAX the Greek, the covering of the heart – righteousness)</p>
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¹ 2 Cor 12:9-10 And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

² Mark 13:22 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 2 Cor 2:11 lest Satan should take advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices: 2 Cor 11:3, 13

³ But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. ¹³ For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.: 1 John 4:3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

³ John 14:30 (Jesus said) I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.; 1 John 5:4, 18 ⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ¹⁸ We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

⁴ John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

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;

15= having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace (3. **Shoes to Preach the Gospel of Peace** – feet is a symbol to preach the gospel to others ⁵*Rom 10:15*; *Isaiah 52:7* – So the others who believe the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, have peace relationship with God, because of Jesus Christ's ransom for all of us)

16= 4. **Shield of Faith** (I've put my faith in Jesus Christ. And Satan cannot penetrate me by throwing all kinds of fiery darts, all kinds of accusations, at me, because my faith in the finished work on Jesus Christ keeps me secure from all of these fiery darts of the wicked one)

17=Q2 5. **Helmet of Salvation** (the assurance of salvation is a tremendous weapon against Satan – against Satan's consistent tempts that you are not really saved – I am saved upon my faith in Jesus Christ who was dead on cross with shed blood for me and rose again. ⁶*Mat 16:16-18*; *Heb 2:14*);
6. **Sword of the Spirit...word of God**(the word of God as the sword of the Spirit is both defensive and offensive – e.g. Jesus' defense with the word of God to Satan's temptations ⁷*Mat 4:4, 7, 10*; *Psalm 119:11*; *John 15:3*; e.g. Just use the word of God as an offense against heretics' dispute ⁸*Acts 9:29*; *Acts 16:16-18*)

⁵ *Rom 10:15* And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"; *Isaiah 52:7* How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

⁶ *Mat 16:16-18* Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it; *Heb 2:14* Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

⁷ *Mat 4:4, 7, 10* ⁴ 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.'" ⁷ Jesus said to him. "It is written again. 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" ¹⁰ 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.'" *Psalm 119:11* Your word I have hidden in my heart. That I might not sin against You.; *John 15:3* You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

⁸ *Acts 9:29* And he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him.; *Acts 16:16-18* Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." ¹⁸ And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

¹⁸praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

¹⁹and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,

²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

18=Q3 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit (praying always – because Satan is consistently tempting saints like roaring lion ⁹1 Peter 5:8; prayer is a tremendous weapon against Satan, e.g. to bind Satan to tempt, to open the eyes of blind people to see the truth ¹⁰Mat 18:18-19; supplication is fervent or consistent prayer – not vain repetitions but intelligent prayer ¹¹Mat 6:7; in the Spirit as the intercessor to make intercession for us ¹²Romans 8:26-27); with all perseverance (with all patience; wait patiently on the Lord to work. We often fail to persevere. E.g. Daniel's fasting & prayer – 21 days later an angel came and tell the coming the prince of Greece ¹³Daniel 10:13 – so, perseverance in prayer and supplication for all saints is essential for the spiritual battle; Pray for one another, bearing with one another in love ¹⁴James 5:16; Eph 4:2)

19 = for me... utterance may be given to me... open my mouth boldly to make know the mystery of the gospel (Pray for me to preach the gospel boldly to the other prisoners to know its mystery; we should pray for ministers to preach/ teach boldly, over any discrepancy – denomination, culture, undeveloped countries, or any partiality)

20= ambassador in chains (Paul as a prisoner for his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ); in it I may speak boldly (in the ambassador, Paul has a privilege to speak boldly); I ought to speak (also Paul has a spiritual burden to speak, owing Christ our Ransom love; We as His disciples somehow ride at the same boat as Paul's)

⁹1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

¹⁰ Mat 18:18-19 "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

¹¹ Mat 6:7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

¹² Romans 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

¹³ Daniel 10:13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

¹⁴ James 5:16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.; Eph 4:2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

<p>21 But that you also may know my affairs <i>and</i> how I am doing, <u>Tychicus</u>, a beloved brother and <u>faithful minister in the Lord</u>, will make all things known to you;</p> <p>22 whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and <i>that</i> he may <u>comfort your hearts</u>.</p> <p>23 <u>Peace</u> to the brethren, and <u>love with faith</u>, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>24 <u>Grace</u> <i>be</i> with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.</p>	<p>21 = Tychicus ... faithful minister in the Lord (fellow servant in the Lord; Asian; ministry to deliver Paul's letters ¹⁵Col 4:7; 2 Timothy 4:12; Titus 3:12; Acts 20:4)</p> <p>22= comfort your hearts</p> <p>23-24 =Peace... love with faith... Grace (benediction ¹⁶2 Cor 13:14)</p>
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¹⁵ Colossians 4:7, "Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me," 2 Timothy 4:12, "And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus." ; and Titus 3:12, "When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there;" Acts 20:4 "And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia—also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia."

¹⁶ 2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.