

GOD'S PLAN



WHY THE CHURCH?

SCAN THE QR
CODE FOR THE
FULL SERMON



WEEK 8

BE READY FOR BATTLE

Ephesians 6:10-18

In this powerful exploration of spiritual warfare, we discover that the Christian life is not a playground but a battleground, and we need to be equipped for the fight. Drawing from Ephesians 6:10-18, we're reminded that our struggles aren't against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces in heavenly places. This perspective shift is crucial because it changes how we interpret the challenges in our world and our personal lives. The armor of God isn't just a metaphor, it's our daily equipment for spiritual survival and victory. We learn about six essential pieces: the belt of truth that holds everything together, the breastplate of righteousness that protects our hearts based on what Christ accomplished, and the shoes of the gospel that keep us stable no matter what pushes against us. Then we have the shield of faith to extinguish the enemy's lies, the helmet of salvation to protect our minds and remind us of our identity, and the sword of the Spirit, which is God's Word, our only offensive weapon. What makes this especially practical is the reminder that we put on this armor through prayer, running every situation through each piece of equipment. When wars break out, when leaders fail, when personal struggles overwhelm us, our first response should be to get vertical, asking God what He's doing spiritually and how we can participate in His redemptive work rather than just reacting to earthly circumstances.

DAY 1: The Heavenly Battle

Reading:

Ephesians 6:10-12

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Daniel 10:10-14

10 Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 11 He said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. 12 Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. 14 Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future."

Devotional:

Our struggles extend beyond what we can see. Daniel's prayer was heard immediately, yet the answer was delayed by spiritual warfare for 21 days. This reveals a crucial truth: when prayers seem unanswered, a battle may be raging in heavenly places. The "prince of Persia" withstood Gabriel until Michael intervened. Your circumstances are not merely physical or relational—they are spiritual. When wars erupt, leaders fail, or personal trials intensify, ask: "God, what are You doing spiritually?" The shaking often precedes salvation. Instead of fixating on earthly turmoil, pray vertically. Intercede for souls. Recognize that you are not fighting flesh and blood, but participating in an ancient cosmic conflict where prayer moves heaven's armies.

DAY 2: The Foundation—Truth, Righteousness, and Gospel**Reading:*****Ephesians 6:13-15***

13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Devotional:

A soldier's belt holds everything together; God's truth does the same for believers. Align your mind, will, and emotions to Scripture—not merely knowing facts, but living by them. The breastplate of righteousness protects your heart, secured by Christ's finished work on the cross and His resurrection. The enemy whispers: "Are you really saved? Did Jesus do enough?" First John 1:9 answers: He is faithful to forgive all unrighteousness—past, present, and future. The gospel shoes provide stability when life pushes against you. Jesus was nailed so your soul could have grip. These three pieces—truth, righteousness, and gospel peace—are your daily uniform. They guard against anxiety and establish unshakeable confidence that if God did the hardest thing (saving your soul), He can be trusted with everything else.

DAY 3: The Shield of Faith**Reading:*****1 John 5:4***

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

Hebrews 11:1, 6

1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Devotional:

Faith is not a small buckler but a massive shield covering your entire body. It extinguishes every flaming arrow the enemy fires—arrows of doubt, fear, accusation, and deception. Faith grants access to what God has done and what He has promised. Here is the tension: we crave explanations, but we live by promise. God does not owe us detailed reasons for every trial; He offers covenant promises instead. "Whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." When circumstances contradict God's character, when prayers seem unheard, when darkness presses in, lift the shield. Declare His promises aloud. Faith is not denial of reality; it is confidence in a greater Reality. Your faith activates heaven's power in earthly battles.

DAY 4: The Helmet and the Sword**Reading:*****Matthew 4:1-11***

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command His angels concerning You';

and

'On their hands they will bear You up,
So that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.'"

7 Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; 9 and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'" 11 Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.

Romans 12:2

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Devotional:

The helmet of salvation protects your mind, where battles are won or lost. Like an NFL helmet with a green dot, it represents direct communication with your Coach. God reminds you who you are, what He has accomplished, and what play to run next. The mind is the enemy's primary target—if he controls your thoughts, he controls your life. Renew your mind daily with truth. The sword of the Spirit is Scripture, your only offensive weapon. Notice: you cannot spell "sword" without "word." When Jesus faced Satan's temptation after 40 days of fasting, He responded three times: "It is written." The devil also quoted Scripture, but Jesus corrected his misapplication. Know the Word deeply, not just casually. Memorize it. Wield it precisely. This sword both defends and advances God's kingdom.

DAY 5: Dressed in Prayer

Reading:

Ephesians 6:18

18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

Luke 18:1

1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,

Devotional:

How do you put on spiritual armor? Through prayer. "With all prayer and petition, pray at all times in the spirit." Prayer is not a religious ritual but the mechanism that activates each piece of armor. Run every situation through God's truth: "Lord, what is true here?" Stand on your righteousness in Christ: "I am secure because of the cross and empty tomb." Claim the gospel's stability: "You fulfilled my deepest need; I trust You with this." Exercise faith: "I hold Your promises, not explanations." Remember salvation's eternal perspective: "This is temporary; heaven is permanent." Wield the Word: "What does Scripture say about this?" Prayer dresses you for battle and activates heaven's response to earthly struggles. Pray persistently—Gabriel fought 21 days. Your breakthrough may require sustained spiritual warfare. Be alert, persevere, and intercede for all the saints.