

BE BATTLE READY!

On June 14, 1775, the United States officially established its Armed Forces, starting with the Army. The Navy followed on October 13, 1775; the Marines were launched on November 10, 1775; the Coast Guard was created on August 4, 1790; the Air Force was formed on September 18, 1947; and the Space Force was founded on December 20, 2019. A key concept in each of these respected branches is known as "Military



Readiness." This term refers to the state of a unit or individual soldier who is prepared to on execute their assignment. Therefore, to be ready in the military means that you are "*Battle Ready!*" See, today movies, shows, the news and especially politics sometimes waters down the seriousness and necessity of the Armed Forces needing to be ready for combat. However, the difference between winning and losing comes down to being Battle Ready! Thus, to be Battle Ready you typically need the right training, man power, and equipment.

However, the focus of being "Battle Ready" is not limited to the military. As believers, we will undergo personal challenges and spiritual warfare. To combat these clear and present dangers we need be prepared and follow closely to the instructions that God provides about the being Battle Ready.

Ephesians 6:12 says, "For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens."

The devil is the orchestrator of all things evil, and he is primarily whom we battle against in this life. Consequently, we face struggles with problems, conflicts with our past, endure pain, deal with pressure, interact with people, and wrestle with our pride.

With this understanding, we need to equip ourselves by putting on what the Bible refers to as the Armor of God. Ephesians 6:13-17 says, "*Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness...*

*...that comes from the gospel of peace. **16** In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."*

By God giving us this armor God was reminding us that we are not alone when the arrows of adversity and affliction are flying our way.

Keep in mind, there is no battle too big or small for the Lord. Prayerfully seek His covering and refuge. Apply the full armor of God for your fight. Whether that battle is medical, relational, mental, financial, or spiritual, call on the Lord your God. When you do, you will be battle-ready!

Psalm 140:7 says, "*O Sovereign Lord, the strong one who rescued me, you protected me on the day of battle.*"