Ephesians 6:10-20 The Armor of God

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 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.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. 19 Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should

Daniel 10:12-20

11 He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling. 12 Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. 13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

John 10:10 NIV - *10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

We're in a fight

- Hand to hand foot to foot struggle.
- A thorough knowledge of the enemy and a healthy respect for his prowess is necessary for victory.
- Be strong in the Lord's mighty power.

Who we're fight against

people

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

- The devil - The accuser, Satan the adversary, the tempter, the murderer. Described as a lion, a serpent, an angel of light, and the god of this age.
- Satan's helpers - An army of demonic creatures that assist Satan in his attacks against believers. Thought to be one third of the angels that fell with Satan when he rebelled against God. Rulers, authorities, powers of this dark world.

The schemes or devices

Calculated, strategic methods and deceptive tactics Satan uses to trap, divide, and weaken believers.

Key Tactics and Schemes

- Deception and Lies
- Distraction and Busyness
- Doubt and Discontentment
- Division and Unforgiveness
- Discouragement, Fear and Delays

KILL

STEAL

DESTROY

What to do to stand

- Stand in the Lord's mighty power.
- 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.

Shield of Faith (Leather shield soaked in water)

Blocks flaming arrows by faith

Trust in the power/promises of God.

Helmet of Salvation (Metal headgear)

Protects the mind

Present safety and future deliverance

Sword of The Spirit (Sword)

The Word of God - offensive and defensive

Prayer and Being Alert

Matthew 4:1-11

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted[a] by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' " 7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do 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 splendor. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." 10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Hebrews 4:12

12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Sword of The Spirit

- The sword is the offensive weapon
- The Roman solider wore a short sword used for close-in fighting.
- Hebrews 4:12 compares the Word of God to a sharp two-edged sword
- A real sword pierces the body, but the spiritual sword (the word of God) pierces the heart
- The sword of the spirited can give life not death
- Jesus give us an example in Matthew 4:1-11
- Context

Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. A.C.T.S

- ***Colossians 4:2 -*** *2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful*
- ***Philippians 4:6-7*** *- 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*
- ***James 5:16*** *- 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective*
- ***Romans 8:26*** *- 26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.*

- Praying in the Spirit is praying according to the Spirit's leading praying for things the Spirit leads us to pray for
- Praying in the power, the leading, and will of the Spirit
- The Spirit helps in prayer Romans 8:26
- Being alert and praying for all the Lord's people