

## WALK: Taking Steps Toward Maturity in Christ

"The Whole Armor of God" (Ephesians 6:10-24)  
Community Group Curriculum for the week of May 31, 2015

### Big Picture

Without warning the battle cry is sounded, the enemy is named, and the struggle against evil begins. This is a battle that can't be seen and its casualties can be explained away. The church has a tendency to either ignore this or to fight it with its own armor and strategies, which leads to defeat. Instead, we must arise, put on the full armor of God and be strong in His might. And this final section of Ephesians tells us exactly how to do that!

### Let's Dig In!

1. Read Ephesians 6:10-17. Paul starts this passage with two exhortations. What are they? What specifically does Paul tell us to **do**? List the action words/phrases in these verses:

v. 10

v. 14

v. 11

v.15

v. 13

v.16

These are all straightforward directives. No hesitation, just action. We are called to be, to put on, to take up, to resist, to stand firm, to gird, to shod, and to extinguish. Now go back and list the article or piece of armor associated with each action. Reread verse 12. Who does Paul say that our enemy is and is not?

2. Paul uses the metaphor of a Roman soldier's armor to describe the weapons with which believers fight their spiritual war. He lists six pieces of armor. We have to choose to **put on** the armor, **take up** the weapons, and **go to war** with the powers of evil. Give a brief description of what each piece of armor will do for you specifically:

Gird loins with belt of truth -

Put on the breastplate of righteousness -

Shod feet with the gospel of peace -

Take up the shield of faith -

Take the helmet of salvation -

And the sword of the Spirit -

Which weapons are offensive and which are defensive? Are any used both offensively and defensively?

3. Ephesians 6:11-16 tell us what Satan is trying to do to us. Reread these verses and list who our enemy is and the ways he tries to trip us up.

v. 11

v. 12

v. 16

Looking back at verse 11, what "schemes" has Satan used against you lately?

Looking back at verse 12, how do we prepare for battle against an unseen enemy?

Why does Paul ask us to put on "faith" to battle the flaming darts?

4. Paul shifts from the outward weaponry to prayer. Prayer is a valuable tool for Christians in combatting Satan's evil schemes. Read Ephesians 6:18 and list the "all" statements:

Why would Paul use these repetitive "all" statements?

5. Read Acts 6:4, Romans 1:9-10, Ephesians 1:16, Philippians 4:6, Colossians 1:9; 4:3, 1 Thessalonians 3:10, 2 Timothy 1:3. What added insight do we gain about prayer?
6. Now read Mark 1:35, Luke 6:12 and Matthew 26:36-44. What was Christ's attitude toward prayer?
7. What role does the Holy Spirit play in our prayer life (Romans 8:26-27)? Why do you think Paul ends his description of the armor of God with this call to prayer? What does it mean to pray **boldly**? Do you pray boldly? If not, what can you do this week to change that?

## Pray

Thank God for providing this armor for the battles you encounter. Spend time reflecting on the battle and the armor. Ask God to give you wisdom and strength for the battle and to help you put on the whole armor of God. Finally, ask God to strengthen you through the Holy Spirit to "walk" in maturity in Christ.

## Final Thoughts

1. As Christians, we face three enemies: the world, the flesh, and the Devil. The world is the system around us that is opposed to God, that caters to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:15-17). The flesh is the old nature that we inherited from Adam; a nature that is opposed to God and can do nothing spiritual to please God.
2. The important point is that our battle is not against human beings. It is against spiritual powers. We are, frankly, wasting our time fighting people when we ought to be fighting the Devil, who seeks to control people and make them oppose the work of God.
3. In one sense the "whole armor of God" is a picture of Jesus Christ. Christ is the Truth (John 14:6), He is our righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21) and our peace (Ephesians 2:14).
4. Prayer is the energy that enables the Christian soldier to wear the armor and wield the sword. We cannot fight the battle in our own power, no matter how strong or talented we may think we are.