

SERIES:
SUBJECT:
READING:

Introduction:

As we continue to study our spiritual battle we have come to the actual battle and the way it is planned by God and by Satan. Satan's plan is saturated with his cheating, lying, and deceitful methods.

Questioning the word of God disguising his demons and their helpers as the good guys. Last Sunday concluding that our personal abilities and our halfhearted focus on defeating him we began to look at Satan's strategy;

I. His weapons and battle plans are formidable but we with God's weapons and His battle plan are surely up for the task!

Eph 6:13-17 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (14) Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; (15) And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (16) Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. (17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

- a. Since we are fighting against enemies in the spirit world, we need special equipment both for offense and defense.
 - a. God has provided the "**whole armor**" for us, and we dare not omit any part.

- i. Satan looks for that unguarded area where he can get a foothold! Eph 4:27 **Neither give place to the devil.**
 - ii. Paul commanded his readers to put on the armor, take the weapons, and withstand Satan, all of which we do by faith.
 - iii. But we first must recognize we may be tempted to allow **some relationships, some personal practices, or even some supposedly secrete sin** to exist in our lives which are invitations for Satanic beachheads to be set up!
 - iv. They must be recognized and dealt with. Personal indulgences, uncontrolled anger, harboring an unforgiving spirit toward someone, ignoring something God has harassed you about for months or days; **anything Satan can us can be a destructive in your battle.**
- b. **Knowing that.** Christ has already conquered Satan, and that the spiritual armor and weapons are available, by faith we accept what God gives us and go out to meet the foe.
- i. The day is evil, and the enemy is evil, but **"if God be for us, who can be against us?"** (Rom. 8:31)
 - ii. We win!
 - iii. But to win we must prepare, practice, and Persevere!

We have this song in our hymnals that send a great message, it is titled ***I Want That Mountain***

***I saw the giant of Prayerlessness upon the mountain high;
He laughed so hard at my unbended knee.
No longer in the wilderness I'll stay, and so I cry;
I want that mountain, It belongs to me!***

***There was a giant of Laziness who said I wouldn't go,
And witness for the One who set me free.
I'll come from out the wilderness, I'll witness now I know;
I want that mountain, It belongs to me!***

***One faithless giant upon the crest of Hebron's lofty height,
Has vowed that he's the one to make me flee.
I'll climb from out the wilderness! and trust Jehovah's might!
I want that mountain, It belongs to me!***

***Let ev'ry giant of distress and unbelief and sin,
Get ready now to vacate, for you see;
I've come from out the wilderness! I know I'm going to win!
I want that mountain, It belongs to me!***

Chorus

***I want that mountain! I want that mountain!
Where the milk and honey flow,
Where the grapes of Eshcol grow,
I want that mountain! I want that mountain!
The mountain that my Lord has given me.***

The Equipment:

1. Since we are fighting against enemies in the spirit world, we need special equipment both for offense and defense.
 - a. God has provided the "whole armor" for us, and we dare not omit any part.

- b. Paul commanded his readers to put on the armor, take the weapons, and withstand Satan, all of which we do by faith.
- c. By faith believing Christ has already conquered Satan, and that the spiritual armor and weapons are available to us by faith!

2. *The girdle of truth* ([v. 14a](#)). Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth,

- a. Satan is a liar (**John 8:44 (KJV)**
⁴⁴ Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.),
 - i. But the believer whose life led and lived by truthfulness will defeat him.
 - ii. The girdle holds the other parts of the armor together, in place, and empowered by the truth!
 - iii. Truth is the integrating force in the life of the victorious Christian.
 - iv. A man of integrity, with a clear conscience, can face the enemy without fear.
- b. The girdle also held the sword and truth is called the sword on the spirit;
 - i. Once a lie gets into the life of a believer, everything begins to fall apart!

1. For over a year, King David lied about his sin with Bathsheba, and nothing went right.
 2. It was not until the prophet Nathan pointed out the truth David knew about and tried to hide that David's life began to be restored!
 - ii. Unless we practice the truth, we cannot use the Word of truth.
 - iii. Truth reveals lies and destroys them.
3. *The breastplate of righteousness (v. 14b.) having on the breastplate of righteousness;*
- a. This piece of armor, made of metal plates or chains, covered the body from the neck to the waist, both front and back.
 - b. It symbolizes the believer's righteousness in Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:21 (KJV)**
²¹ For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.) as well as his righteous life in Christ (**Ephesians 4:24 (KJV)**
²⁴ And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.).
 - c. Satan is the accuser, but he cannot accuse the believer who is living a godly life in the power of the Spirit.
 - d. The life we live either fortifies us against Satan's attacks or makes it easier for him to defeat us!
 - i. Righteous rewards.

- ii. Rebellion curses.
- e. When Satan accuses the Christian, it is the righteousness of Christ that assures the believer of his salvation.
- f. But our **positional righteousness in Christ**, without practical righteousness in the daily life, only gives Satan opportunity to attack us.

4. *The shoes of the Gospel* ([y. 15](#)). **And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace**

- a. The Roman soldier wore sandals with hobnails in the soles to give him better footing for the battle. If we are going to "stand" and "withstand," then we need the shoes of the Gospel.
 - i. The truth of the Gospel is the stability upon which we stand.
 - ii. When the enemy tries to push us around gospel footing we have keeps us being moved from the solid ground!
 - iii. Because we have the peace with God ([Rom. 5:1](#)) that comes from the Gospel, we need not fear the attack of Satan or men.
 - iv. We must be at peace with God and with each other if we are to defeat the devil ([James 4:1-7](#)).
- b. But the shoes have another meaning. We must be prepared each day to share the Gospel of peace with a lost world.
 - i. The most victorious Christian is a witnessing Christian.

- ii. We are called ambassadors for God and Christ; wherever we are found on solid footing there is factory for God!

5. ***The shield of faith*** ([v. 16](#)). Above all, taking the shield of faith,

- a. The shield was large, usually about four feet by two feet, made of wood, and covered with tough leather.
 - i. As the soldier held it before him, it protected him from spears, arrows, and "fiery darts."
 - ii. The edges of these shields were so constructed that an entire line of soldiers could interlock shields and march into the enemy like a solid wall.
 - iii. This suggests that we Christians are not in the battle alone.
- b. The "faith" mentioned here is not saving faith, but rather living faith, a trust in the promises and the power of God.
 - i. Faith is a defensive weapon which protects us from Satan's fiery darts.
 - ii. In Paul's day, arrows, dipped in some inflammable substance and ignited, were shot at the enemy.
 - iii. Satan shoots "fiery darts" at our hearts and minds: *lies, blasphemous thoughts, hateful thoughts about others, doubts, and burning desires for sin.*

- iv. If we do not by faith quench these darts, they will light a fire within and we will disobey God.
 - v. We never know when Satan will shoot a dart at us, so we must always walk by faith and use the shield of faith.
6. ***The helmet of salvation*** ([v. 17](#)). Eph 6:17 **And take the helmet of salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
- a. Satan wants to attack the mind, the way he defeated Eve. Questioning what God said!
 - b. The helmet refers to the mind controlled by God.
 - i. It is too bad that many Christians have the idea that the intellect is not important, when in reality it plays a vital role in Christian growth, service, and victory.
 - ii. When God controls the mind, Satan cannot lead the believer astray.
 - iii. The Christian who studies his Bible and learns the meaning of Bible doctrines is not going to be led astray too easily.
7. ***The sword of the Spirit*** ([v. 17b](#)). Eph 6:17 **and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**:
- a. This sword is the offensive weapon God provides us.
 - b. The Roman soldier wore on his girdle a short sword which was used for close-in fighting.

This is the second time I have referred to this verse; Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)

¹² For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- i. A material sword pierces the body, but the Word of God pierces the heart.
- ii. The more you use a physical sword, the duller it becomes; but using God's Word only makes it sharper in our lives.
- iii. A physical sword requires the hand of a soldier, but the sword of the Spirit has its own power, for it is "living and powerful" ([Heb. 4:12](#)).
- iv. The Spirit wrote the Word, and the Spirit wields the Word as we take it by faith and use it.
- v. A physical sword wounds to hurt and kill, while the sword of the Spirit wounds to heal and give life.
- vi. But when we use the sword against Satan, we are out to deal him a blow that will cripple him and keep him from hindering God's work.

When He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, Christ used the sword of the Spirit and defeated the enemy of God.