

The Whole Armour of God

Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Last week in our open meeting the passage we used was verse 10 from the passage I have just read. "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might".

Today we are going to be **looking in particular at verses 11 to 13 of Ephesians 6.**

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

The theme of today's message is the whole armour of God.

We will look at **Paul's exhortation to put on the whole armour of God.**

We will look at **WHY we are to put on the whole armour of God.**

ME

I often like to start a message with **a personal story** something that is relevant to what I am speaking on, and this week **nothing seemed forthcoming.** I was racking my brains for an example in my own life where putting on armour is important. There were the obvious pictures of when I have been **paintballing, where you have to wear a mask to protect your eyes, or how about putting on Suntan lotion to protect myself from the sun's dangerous rays.** Then on Wednesday, **I got my personal picture about how important armour is!!** We had got a letter through the post saying WEEE. A company would come past our house and take away any old electrical items we did not want. No even though we had an old broken TV in the loft I had not got it ready, and as the chaps walked past our house, Em shouted, Dave could you get the TV to the guys. I ran outside told them I had a TV. I ran up into the loft, whilst pulling out the TV, it

hit my bare feet, OUCH, I took the TV down stairs and got rid of it. Only to find blood pouring from my foot!! I had cut my toe in the process of getting the TV. Anyway, what has this got to do with armour!! Well, I thought to myself, Dave you idiot, you should have at least had socks on, or even better your shoes. Then you wouldn't have hurt your foot!
I had not put on my shoes, and as a result I got hurt.

**Has anyone here ever been hurt because they had not protected themselves.
Armour is used to protect those wearing it.**

WE

We often **rush around in life, taking care of things, busy at work, with the family, at church, doing different activities.** Do we always stop to think about our well being. Now, **I'm sure you wouldn't drive a car without putting a**

seatbelt on would you? We know what the consequences are if we don't and are in a

crash. **A soldier** in an army **would not be dumb** enough to go into battle without all his armour and weapons. A riot policeman in London last week would not be on the frontline without his armour, his helmet and his shield.

**But I imagine many Christians, don't go into the battles we face
having put on the full armour of God. Not very sensible!!**

So let's get into Paul's exhortation to put on the whole armour of God.

GOD

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

In these verses Paul says almost exactly the **same thing twice!!**

In verse 11 he says: "put on the whole armour of God" and in verse 13 he says: "take up the whole armour of God"

So why does he say it twice.

Now here, I think Paul is **trying to make a point!** If you want someone to listen to what you have to say, you say it more than once!

This must be a **very important** thing he is saying!!

Firstly he is pointing out that **we need God's strength not our own**, verse 10.

Phil 4:13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

And secondly, because we are **wrestling against the devil and his evil forces**, verse 12.

Eph 6 ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

As we have seen recently, **we are not in an earthly battle, but a spiritual one**. Our battle is against the spiritual forces of evil!!

So we are to **put on/take up the whole armour of God**. Just like with my story earlier of not putting on my shoes, or driving without a seatbelt. **There is a responsibility here upon us!**

Put on and take up are **very proactive terms**. **We have to do the putting on!!** Lets not kid ourselves that when we chose to follow Jesus , **the armour is put on us by default!** We simply have access to it. Just as a soldier takes time to put on their armour when in battle situations, so can we. In peace times there is no need for armour, you do not need protection from your enemies. **It is only in war times that armour is essential.**

So it is important to put on the whole armour of God, **But why?**

1. We put on the whole armour to **STAND AGAINST** the schemes of the devil. He is a lying enemy. Who seeks to deceive and destroy us.
2. We put on the whole armour to **WITHSTAND** the day of evil. Now we live in a sick world, but to be honest not every day is a battle. **We don't know if a day is going to be a day of spiritual warfare**. When you're driving you don't know if today is the day you may have an accident, but that doesn't mean you don't put your seatbelt on.
Need to be prepared at all times to protect yourself.

In both verses we see that we are able to **STAND AGAINST – *histemi pros***, or to **WITHSTAND *antihistemi***. This implies that if we put on the whole armour of God, we will be able to stand up against the forces of the enemy. With the whole armour we will be able to prevent being knocked down or out by our enemy the devil.

Sci-fi- force field

Paul finishes this sentence - **Having done all, stand firm.**

The translation of **“done all”**, is the same as that used in Phil 2:12-13 **“work out”** ¹²**Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my**

absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Having worked all this out, basically having put all this into practice stand firm....

Do you notice that Paul always uses the term **“whole armour”**. This is **like ENTIRE or FULL or COMPLETE**.

In the passage Paul goes on to say what the items are that make up the whole armour, this is a spiritual armour made up of:

Belt of truth, Breastplate of righteousness, Shoes of the gospel of peace, Shield of Faith, Helmet of salvation, the Sword of the Spirit which is the word of God, and Prayer!

We are NOT SAFE without the whole armour. We will be looking at the separate elements in the coming weeks....

YOU

OUR RESPONSIBILITY to put on the whole armour

This is a proactive task...

Do you go through life, in the battles we face without your armour on?

If you do, it is like driving without a seatbelt on!!

Em & Catriona – tough time at work, teaching , encouraging each other to put on their armour in car before they got to school.....

WE

This stuff is vital to how we live our lives. Last week Charles talked about a **seamlessness** to living in the spirit, we don't have to call down power from on high, as Christians we should live in the power of the spirit in everyday life.

As I said earlier, the **devil is a sneaky, deceitful, evil being who wants to destroy us**. He wants to **destroy our marriages, our family life, he wants to pick off our children, he wants us to gossip, and argue, he wants us to be ineffective Christians, and an ineffective church!**

The way we stand against him is clear from this passage, **put on the whole armour of God, don't go out without it.** If we don't know what it is find out – teaching to come. If we are struggling, ask someone to pray with you. **This is not a trivial issue.**

We want to stand firm don't we? We want to stand against his evil plans.

One man who stood firm with his mission was **Jesus.** He even hung on a cross to stand against the devil. He now stands firm at the father's right hand with all rulers and dominions under his feet.

It is with Gods spiritual armour, the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus that we stand!

Will you join me to stand firm and put on the whole armour of God.

If we do, we will **make a difference** in this world, we will have **godly marriages and families**, we will **not gossip or slander**. We will **unite behind our captain Jesus**, in **his mission** to see many come to glory.

PRAY

Ask people to stand in response.