

## Ephesians 6:13-17 The Fight

Last week we looked at the description of who our enemy really is. We saw that we really don't fight each other, but we fight the evil that is in each of us. And now Paul begins to tell us how to dress for battle. What to use as defensive weapons and what are the offensive weapons of this war. And it is war.

1. Know your enemy – vs. 13 As we saw last week, our enemy is Satan himself and the evil he creates in this world. We do not fight against family or friends, but the evil that is in all of us. And therefore evil is in the world.
2. Know your battle ground – vs. 13-14 Stand firm. Paul says this 3 times. We cannot ignore that Paul was warning us that we can never be sure where the enemy will attack from, so we must be ready on all fronts. We need to pick the place we do battle with Satan. Don't let him do it. Stay away from those places that he is most likely to attack. We need to stand firm. That is we must firmly plant our feet and be steadfast in our beliefs, our faith, and our trust in who God is. If we waver even a little, we can be knocked down and defeated. And we have all been there. Don't be so proud of any area of your life that you think you cannot be tempted or shaken. That is where Satan can and will get you.
3. Know your weapons – vs. 14-17
  - a. Gird your loins with Truth – vs. 14 The first thing we are told to do is to Prepare. We are to prepare for battle. None of us can fight successfully without complete preparation. No football team would be successful if it did not prepare. No army can win without preparation. One of the largest expenses in this country is our national defense. We prepare. Most technological advances are a result of the military demanding an edge in warfare. You must be ready for war, and you must be ready to fight. Boxers often will dance around the ring to keep their opponent from getting a clear shot at them. This is no different. We need to weave, duck, and swerve, to avoid giving Satan a clear hit on us.
  - b. Breastplate of Righteousness – vs. 14 The most vulnerable part of the human body is the upper body. The chest area holds all the vital organs and when exposed to enemies weapons, often results in death. So why is it called the Breastplate of Righteousness? If we do not make it a priority to do what is right and to live a righteous life, Satan gets a firm foothold and we are easily defeated in our walk with Christ. It is the righteousness of God that provided salvation and the righteousness of God that gives us the Spirit in us, and that is our "Bullet

proof” vest to protect us from Satan.

- c. Cover your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of peace –vs. 15 Be aware that sometimes you choose where you fight. Don’t go looking for a fight just to fight, but look for ways to bring peace. The Gospel of God is peace. We need to always remember that anytime we can resolve conflict peacefully, it is better than war. However, you must also remember that in order to defeat Satan and his demons, we need to utterly destroy them, and that means war.
- d. Take the shield of Faith – vs. 16 The shield was the most important part of the soldier’s equipment. It was mostly a defensive part of the soldier, but it could also be used offensively if he were to lose his sword. The shield was big, heavy, and reinforced wood with metal. It was made to withstand even a direct hit with a sword or spear. It could even cover the soldier in case of an attack by the “rock throwers”. When the entire front line of soldiers stood with their shields in front of them, they made a very solid line of defense. It was the faith of the fathers of Israel that the Bible says got them through the tough times and their faith helped them in their decision making.
- e. Put on the helmet of salvation – vs. 17 The head is most difficult to protect. If you cover it completely, the soldier cannot see and therefore is ineffective. If you don’t cover it some, you expose the soldier to certain death. That is why we issue “steel pots” to all soldiers to cover their heads, but not restrict their vision. If you look back and the Knights, they wore helmets that just had slits for the eyes, to protect the face and head. They knew that a blow to the head or an arrow in the face meant almost certain death. It is no different for us. If we do not “receive the helmet of Salvation”, we cannot experience eternal life. It is the gift of God that allows us to beat Satan and his pull to get us into hell.
- f. Use the sword of the Spirit – vs. 17 The sword is the Word of God. It is the very essence of who God is and what God is about. Heb. 4:12 tells us that the “Word of God is sharper than any two edged sword.” Hebrews goes on to say that the Word of God can divide soul and spirit and joint and marrow, and judge the intentions of the heart. This is the only offensive weapon. Therefore we need to be mindful that the only weapon we are to use against someone Biblically is the sword of the Spirit. Imagine using a weapon that can “see” into the heart of the enemy, or separate their “soul and spirit”. That’s how powerful the “Sword of the Lord is.