

FORWARD TO FREEDOM SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The Protection of the Believer

HELP! WE SEEM A LITTLE OVER EXPOSED HERE! (Matthew 10:16)

- Positionally Christ-followers are already seated with Jesus in the Heavenly Realms
- Physically, however, we still live and minister in hostile territory where we are vulnerable
- James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9
 - ▶ The battle is... spiritual personal daily
 - ▶ Question: What is our defense or protection in this warfare?

GOD IS OUR PROTECTION

- Psalm 18:2 – Our rock, fortress, deliverer, refuge, shield, horn of salvation, stronghold
- Psalm 32:7 – Our hiding place, protection from trouble, deliverer
 - ▶ Biblical Balance: God protects us as we engage in spiritual warfare. (Passivity is not an option)

EPHESUS / EPHESIANS 6:10-20

① BE STRONG (v. 10)

- ▶ In the Lord
- ▶ In His mighty power

PRINCIPLE #1: The only way to experience victory (or even survive) in this spiritual battle is through the protection & strength of Christ.

② PUT ON (v. 11)

- ▶ The full armor of God
- ▶ So that you can stand against the devil's schemes

PRINCIPLE #2: The Armor of God represents all that we are in Christ & all that we have in Christ. (Putting on the Armor of God = Putting on Christ)

- John 14:30; Romans 13:12-14

PRINCIPLE #3: The armor is for believers living in community, not for individuals doing it on their own.

③ STAND FIRM (vv. 13,14)

ARMOR OF GOD (vv.14-17) – Dress For Success!

- ▶ Belt of Truth (v.14; cf. John 8:31-32; 44; 14:6)
- ▶ Breastplate of Righteousness (v.14; cf.1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:1; Romans 8:33-34)
- ▶ Footwear of Gospel Readiness (v.15; cf. Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Colossians 4:6; Philemon 6)
- ▶ Shield of Faith (v.16; Romans 10:17)
- ▶ Helmet of Salvation (v.17; cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:8))
- ▶ Sword of the Spirit (v.17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

④ PRAY IN THE SPIRIT (vv.18-20)

PRINCIPLE #4: Before you talk to people about God, you need to talk to God about people.

- Mark 3:27

Suggested Prayer: *Heavenly Father, I ask in the name of Jesus Christ and through His shed blood that you rebuke Satan and bind him from having any influence or hold on _____'s life. I ask that You would allow _____ to come to his/her senses, grasp the truth, and come to faith in Your Son. Amen.*

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Sermons can be viewed online at creeksideeg.com/sermon

Questions are based on the NIV translation of the Bible

PRAYER

Begin your time together by thanking God for not only being our ultimate protector, but also for giving believers spiritual armor to help them in spiritual warfare.

MY STORY

Football in the United States requires a lot of protective clothing. Name some of the protective items and why each one is important.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What from Sunday's message gave you new insight into the believer's protection?
2. According to the following verses who is the believer's ultimate protector? What specific words are used to describe our ultimate protector? Which word or phrase stands out most in your mind? Explain.
- Psalm 18:2

- Psalm 32:7
3. If God is our ultimate protector, why do you think He gave believers the items of spiritual armor?

4. Explain in your own words this statement from Sunday's message, "The chief condition for the working of evil spirits in a human being, apart from sin, is passivity, in exact opposition to the condition which God requires from His children for His working in them."
5. Read **Acts 19:1-20**. What were some of the things that happened in Ephesus that made it the perfect location for Paul to send his teaching on spiritual armor?
6. What is the first piece of spiritual armor mention in **Ephesians 6:13-18**? Do you think there is a reason it was listed first? Explain.

DIGGING EVEN DEEPER

7. List all of the pieces of spiritual armor found in **Ephesians 6:13-18**. What is significant about each one, and why is each essential to having victory in spiritual warfare?
8. Read **Romans 13:12-14**. How do these verses support the idea that putting on the Armor of God is equivalent to putting on Christ? What does it mean to you "to put on Christ"?

TAKING IT HOME

9. Based on what you have learned from this message, how well are you doing at putting on the Armor of God? Do you struggle with utilizing any of the pieces of armor? Explain.

PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the needs of your group, and thank God for providing the various pieces of armor for us, and for being our ultimate Protector.