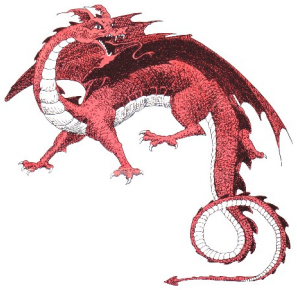
"Be Ready for Spiritual Battle"

Ephesians 6:10-18

Today, we are in a battle, but we cannot see the enemy. We are in a war, but we do not fire guns or missiles. We fight on a continual basis, but often do not realize it.

I Peter 5:8 Our Adversary the Devil

*SATAN (Zech. 3:1; Mt. 4:10; Rev. 12:9, 20:2), *DEVIL (Mt. 4:1, 13:39; Eph. 4:27; Rev. 12:9, 20:2), *LUCIFER (Is.14:12) *ANOINTED CHERUB (Ezek. 28:14 *EVIL ONE (Mt. 13:19, 38; Jn. 17:15; Eph. 6:16; I Jn. 5:18, 19) *RULER OF THIS WORLD *GOD OF THIS AGE (II Cor. 4:4) *PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR (Eph. 2:2) *SERPENT (Gen. 3:1; II Cor. 11:3; Rev. 12:9, 20:2) *DRAGON (Rev. 12:3, 7, 9) *ACCUSER (Rev. 12:10). *TEMPTER (Mt. 4:3; I Thes. 3:5) *DECEIVER (Rev. 12:9; 20:3). *MURDERER (Jn. 8:44) *LIAR (Jn. 8:44). *SINNER (I Jn. 3:8). *BEELZEBUB, RULER OF THE DEMONS *BELIAL (II Cor. 6:15) *ROARING LION (I Pet. 5:8) *ENEMY (Mt. 13:39 *THE WICKED ONE

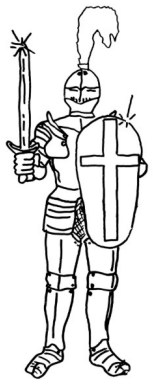


Every believer is a soldier and is expected to fight (there are no spiritual pacifists).

V. 10
"Be strong" - lit. be empowered (passive).
Allow yourself to be endued with divine ability.
Yield to the power that God alone gives.

V. 11
"The whole armor" - the complete armor; the full armor (planoplian).

V. 12
"Principalities" - high rulers
"powers" - authorities
"rulers" - lit. world rulers of this (present) darkness (kosmos & kratoras).
"Spiritual wickedness in high places" - the spiritual armies of evil in the heavenlies; a reference to the demonic spirits that soar through the universe.



Three truths:
1. We can only be strong in the Lord (v. 10)
2. By ourselves, we are no match for Satan (v. 11)
3. Spiritual battles require spiritual weapons (v. 12).

Seven pieces of armor to overcome Satan:

I. BE TRUTHFUL

V. 14
"Truth" -
Believe the truth
Tell the truth
Live the truth

Satan is opposite of truth; he is a liar (jn. 8). Overcome him with the truth.

Lying is characteristic of Satan's children, not God's. Rev. 21:8 - *"all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone which is the second death."*

II. DO RIGHT

V. 14
"Righteousness" - Do Right - hymn

Chest plate covers vital organs.
NOTE: Righteousness is not merely abstaining from what is wrong, but it is positively doing what is right.
Righteousness is:
1) Being just and fair (not partial)
2) Being kind and helpful (not self-centered)
3) Being holy and pure (not defiled)

How will righteousness help you defeat Satan's attacks?
1. A righteous man's prayers get answered (James 5)
2. A righteous man's life is not cluttered with obstacles to make him stumble
3. A righteous man's life is pleasing to God and God will come to his rescue (when God isn't helping a person, it is because that person is not right with God).

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right" (Eph. 6:1) --So that you will have a:--good life and a long life

III. SPREAD THE GOSPEL

V. 15

"Feet" - cp. Is. 52:7 - "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!"

Rom. 10:15

How does witnessing (evangelism) keep us from Satan's attacks?
1) It keeps us from idleness (*"Idle hands are the devil's workshop")*
2) It keeps us fulfilled and joy-filled (*"...fruit, that your joy may be full"*)
Depression comes when the focus of our lives is self.

IV. BELIEVE GOD'S PROMISES

As Satan aims and fires his arrows of:
"Fear" - we deflect with God's promise *"Be not afraid, for I am with thee"*
"Loneliness" - we deflect with God's promise of *"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."*
Discouragement" - we deflect with God's promise of *"Your labor is not in vain in the Lord"*
"Trials and tribulation" - we deflect with God's promise of *"All things work together for good"*
"Persecution" - we deflect with God's promise of *"When you pass through the waters I will be with you..."*
"Sexual lust" - we deflect with God's promise of *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man..."*
"Faith" is the victory that overcomes the world (I Jn. 4).

V. BE CONFIDENT IN YOUR SALVATION

Ex: helmets are used in golden glove boxing; NFL; construction hard hats; motorcycling etc.

One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to assure us regarding our salvation. *"The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the sons of God"* (Rom. 8).

When we grieve Him because of sin (Eph. 4) or quench Him because of unbelief (I Th. 5), we forfeit His ministry of convincing our spirit that we belong to God.

Satan plagues the mind; he torments the spirit of the one who lives in continual doubt of his salvation.

Paul said, *"I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."*

VI. KNOW THE SCRIPTURE

V. 17
"Sword of the Spirit" - Heb. 4:12; Rev. 19:15

The weapon He uses to convict, rebuke, encourage the hearts of men is His inscripturated oracles, the Bible (Heb. 4:12 - *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful and sharper than any two-edged 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.")*

A sword is an offensive and defensive weapon.

It also defensively fights off temptations (Mt. 4 - *"It is written").*

VII. PRAY CONTINUALLY

In war times, one of the greatest tactics is to cut the lines of communication; to cut the telegraph wires; to jam and scramble the messages; to sabotage the phone lines.

Don't let Satan cut off your communication to the "Captain of the Lord's Host."