

Review: **STANDING** is the key result of utilizing the Armor of God. **Battle** not **against** People!

V14: Belt of Truth: Word of God. So **IMPORTANT** to be **in**, and **learning**, and **knowing** the Bible! All the other armor rests upon the belt of truth!

Breastplate of Righteousness Right living is a protection for our life. Need to daily choose to live for Christ! Bulletproof vest example for holes. Bottom of breastplate held in place by belt of truth.

In place NIV way of saying to have breastplate on your body all the time! Daily decision for Christ!

V15: Feet “fitted” “readiness” that comes from the Gospel of peace. Roman Soldier Sandals. Gospel Security!

V16: Shield of Faith Our Faith is so important to our standing!

Extinguish GK: Lowu: to cause a fervent activity to cease. Resist the devil!!!

ALL Flaming Arrows GK: perfect participle passive. **Perfect** something started in the past & keeps on going!

V17: Helmet protects our mind better than a construction hard hat or football helmet.

Verse 17b **Offensive Weaponry!~**

Sword of Spirit GK: relatively short sword, ie: dagger.

- Dagger used for hand to hand combat.
- A weapon of precision! Sword is offensive!!! **Rev 1:16; 19:15, 21** out of Jesus’ mouth comes a sword...

Word of God. Sword/dagger is the word of God!

- Not **Logos** the entire bible but **Rhema GK:** a minimal unit of discourse could be words or even a single word. IE: Bible verse or part of verse.
- Bible full of “spiritual daggers” we can utilize offensively!
- How did Jesus fend off resist devil? Three verses from **Deut!**
- We need to be planning ahead by thinking about weak areas in our lives that Satan would exploit to tempt us. Then **diligently** seeking verses/words to help us in our time of need.
 - When devil attacks, its not often when we have a bible cracked open or in our hands! When tired etc.
 - We need to **MEMORIZE** spiritual daggers from the bible ... parts or whole verses! Internalize them!
 - Learn verses by heart so the Spirit can pull them up at a moment’s notice!

David Jeremiah, “Bible is an armory filled with swords of the Spirit!”

Hebrews 4:12 Word of God (LOGOS) alive and active, sharper than any double-edged **sword GK:** Dagger!

VITALLY important to be **daily** in the BIBLE reading & learning. **You desire strong sword or feeble one?**

Rom 13:14 Put on Christ & make no provision for the sinful nature to fulfill its lusts!

Verse 18

I Thess 5:17 Pray unceasingly. Mean 24/7? Be ready to pray at the drop of a hat!

Prayer GK: present passive (ongoing-receive action)/middle (do action to self) participle. **Talking with God!**

- Everyday talk. Like constant conversation with coworkers or friends during day’s routine.
- Prayer moves God’s heart. Prayer is priority 1 before undertaking anything.
- James 5:16 prayers of a righteous man are powerful and effective/accomplishes MUCH!
- Prayer helps us understand the need to Take Up the FULL Armor of God!

In Spirit rather than in your own power. Prayer should not be chore or mechanical. Speaking connection like you have when speaking with someone you really desire to engage whether family, friend, loved ones.

Rom 8:26-27 – when we don’t know what to pray... Spirit in us is praying!

All **Occasions GK:** (Lowu) points of time consisting of occasions for particular events. **I Pet 5:7; Psalm 55:22**

Anxiety GK: feeling of apprehension or distress in view of possible danger or misfortune

Requests/Petitions GK: Lowu: that which is asked with urgency based on presumed need

- All kinds of prayers (general prayer) and requests (Special supplication)
- Should this just be a laundry wish list of things? Should include thanksgiving and praise!
- How much do we thank the Lord after he answers a prayer? Once, twice, three times, never?

Alert GK: Present Active Participle: *to be sleepless, keep awake, attentive, vigilant* OPP of listlessness
Always keep on/Perseverance GK: *to give constant attention to a thing, to give unremitting care to a thing*

- Prayer is not something we do when we think about it or remember.
- We need to develop a **habit of prayer** if we want to make an impact!
- Create a **special time** of the day in a **special place** set aside just for prayer to be most successful!

Bill Hybels, “People in the fast lane determined to make it on their own, prayer is an embarrassing interruption”

Col 4:12 Prayer is **HARD WORK!** Not a casual relaxed exercise!

Epaphras ... **always wrestling** in prayer for you...may stand firm in all the will of God, mature & fully assured.

Wrestling/Laboring Intensely GK: Lowu: to strive with great intensity making every effort to do everything possible to reach a goal or outcome...

- Fierce hand to hand combat operations for daily living on all occasions in every way!
- How **much** could daily prayer for a specific person impact their life??

For All The Saints How do we pray for all of them? Does Paul expect us to name each believer individually?

How do we know who to pray for? Church Prayer Chain. Asking people what we can pray for them.

Prayer should be SPECIFIC! What topic is Paul praying about? Spiritual warfare! Taking on God’s Full Armor.

How often do we lift up a believer that they would take up the armor? Do we ever ask them about the armor?

Spiritual Warfare in our inner being!

Examine our prayer lives!

II Cor 11:3 Eve deceived by devil’s cunning.

Adam and Eve aware of Lucifer aka Satan’s story? Adam very intelligent. He named every animal God made.

God walked in Eden face to face with Adam and Eve. Wouldn’t God warn them of the devil?

Should they have even talked with Satan? Michael Archangel in **Jude 1:9** did not try to reason with Satan.

We need to be careful not to try to talk or reason with Satan in our daily battles. Instead we need to:

- **II Cor 10:5** and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
- **James 1:13 – 15** All turn there and read together
- **Rom 7:21 – 25** All Turn and Read
- **Devil works FULL TIME to deceive!** We need spiritual daggers to defend ourselves resisting devil.

Verse 19

Specific prayer for Paul:

- Words given to him. (from whom?) Paul did not want to use his wisdom, but words from the Lord! Paul was very wise but knows if its not of the Lord, the work will not stand.
- As we commune in prayer with the Lord, he speaks to us. Answers to questions I don’t ask come!
- He opens doors for us to walk through. The more we walk by faith through them the more he opens.

Fearlessly GK: confidence or boldness, particularly in speaking

- Nero was Emperor! Think about sharing the gospel with Nero!

Mystery of Gospel: Both for Jews and Gentiles. By faith not by works.

- How does this apply to us?
- How does praying for Paul work for us? He’s in heaven already!
- Our **Pastors** need regular **daily prayer** as they prep messages, bible studies, and minister to people!

Verse 20

Ambassador Paul is a prisoner in chains at this time. Yet he views himself as an Ambassador!

- If we were in chains, how would that impact our sharing of Christ? **Hospital Stays**

Declare GK: aorist **subjunctive** middle

Boldy GK: in freedom and frankness. **Rom 1:16** Paul said I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jews and then Gentiles.

We have a powerful tool to help people in the Gospel Message!

Verse 21

CONCLUSION TO BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Tychius: Acts 20:4 (Jerusalem gift) ; II Tim 4:12 (sent to Ephesus) Paul loved & considered him a close friend.

- **Dear/Beloved Brother** One who is deeply loved. He's impacted people and they love him! Agape form
- **Faithful Servant GK:** Lowu: pertaining to being trusted

People know that Paul suffered many hardships including beatings with rods, whippings, stoning, jail now. Paul wanted to ease saints' concern by having Tychicus share how he is doing physically and spiritually for the Lord.

Verse 22

Ministry Update:

Goal was to **Encourage**/console believers!

Paul is totally Other Centered while even in prison!

How other centered are we as we live our lives?

Devil desires us to focus on ourselves! Devil tells us:

- You've done too much.
- Let someone else carry their load. Why should you do it all?
- Look at all you are missing by ministering to others!
- **Secret:** Never give with the expectation of receiving ANYTHING in return from people!

Paul, in spite of being chained, is focused on the well-being of the believers! Apostle **John 3 John1:4** says he has no greater delight than to hear his children are walking in truth (growing and walking in the Lord – me).

- When we hear or see a believer we know growing, we should experience joy and delight.
- Note that John just doesn't tell the Lord he's thankful for these believers by he specifically tells the believers.
 - How often should we express thankfulness to believers for the growth we see in them?

Verse 23

Peace GK: set of favorable circumstances involving peace and tranquility. It's a state in which we live!

- Paul wishes for a state of tranquility for believers even in times of crisis.

Love GK: (Agape love) God's unmerited love which desires the best for each of us!

With GK: Lowu a relation in which one thing is combined with another.

Faith Love and Faith go hand in hand!

Paul's praying these blessings bountifully fall from God onto the Ephesian saints!

- **Eph 3:20** Now to him who is able to do **immeasurably** more than all we **ask** or **imagine**, according to his **power** that is at work within us

Verse 24

Grace GK: God's underserved favor. Grace, particularly that which causes joy, pleasure, gratification, favor, acceptance, for a kindness granted or desired, a benefit, thanks, gratitude. A favor done without expectation of return; the absolutely free expression of the loving kindness of God to men finding its only motive in the bounty and benevolence of the Giver; unearned and unmerited favor

Paul **starts with Grace** in 1:2 and **ends with Grace** in last verse!

Love GK: (a form of Agape love) To esteem, love, indicating a direction of the will and finding one's joy in something or someone. (Present Active Participle)

Undying/Incorruptible GK: continuous state or process, with the implication that the state or process in question is not interrupted.

Second "love" not in translation but added for clarity. Love is incorruptible!

Application to us:

1. Sword of the Spirit!

- a. How full and well stocked is your armory of daggers?
- b. How much time to you invest considering areas that you are weak in and ripe for temptation?
- c. How much effort and time do you invest in seeking out daggers from scripture for future use?
 - 1) Memorization plan.
 - a) 3 x 5 index cards.
 - b) Read the verse over and over during the course of a week. Have it on car visor, refrig, wallet.
 - c) Learn part of the verse and expand to whole verse.
 - d) As you work on getting the verse into your brain, BLESSED BENEFIT, Spirit will open up the verse to you in ways you did not previously see.
 - 2) Why not get one started?

2. Prayer

- a. As a nation we are taught to be self-reliant and pick ourselves up by our bootstraps. Don't depend on others but be self sufficient
- b. Self effort can lead to I trouble.
 - 1) We need to be in constant communication with God in casual communication
 - 2) We need to lay specific needs for others and ourselves on his lap.
 - 3) Prayer moves the heart of God. He so wants to hear his little children come to him as any parent enjoys in life.
 - 4) Col 4:12 How much are we wrestling in prayer for other believers?
- c. Prayer is the "lifeblood of those who seek to be victorious" David Jeremiah
 - 1) If you miss one day of real prayer, the devil will make you feel like you lost and are beyond recover. He will tell you that you blew it so you might as well hang it up. Don't believe his deception!
 - 2) Give the Lord the First Fruits of your time, not the leftovers. Leftovers lead to a weak prayer life.

3. The D Words of the Devil: deception, discouragement, defeat, depression, defame (lie), distress,

- a. Don't let the devil deceive you into thinking that you "messed up" so why bother!
- b. He will call you a loser.
- c. He will plant a thought in your mind about "why bother"? Like when we fall off the wagon on a diet. We feel frustrated and may give up.
- d. You have the power of Christ surging through your body! Tap into Jesus!!
- e. Focus on this D Word! DELIGHT in the Lord!!

NOTES: