



10/13/26

*Ephesians 6:10-20*

*Life on earth is a war... whether I acknowledge it or not. How I handle it depends greatly on whether I embrace that I'm in a war or stick my head in the sand. The war began the moment the serpent approached Eve.*

*I was born on the losing side. I had no choice. The enemy of my soul had no loyalty to me even though I was on his side. I was just a pawn that he could use to hurt the Creator of my soul. He knew that God Almighty loved His creation, and the devil wanted to do anything he could to destroy what God loves.*

*But God loves me so much that He fought to save me from the enemy's schemes of destruction. He sent His own Son to pay the debt I couldn't pay and to free from the trap of the devil who forced me to fight in his army. The moment I cried out to the Ruler whose Kingdom is above all kingdoms, God saved me and placed His seal on me by the Holy Spirit so that I became part of HIS army. He issued me my own divine, holy, powerful, supernatural armor to be used as protection so that I could take my stand against the devil enemy. Like the suit of the marvel character, Ironman, as long as I'm wearing that suit of armor, I'm protected. My enemy is not another person like me. My enemy has supernatural powers that I can't stand against without my Kingdom issued armor. Praise God! He doesn't withhold that armor, and He also doesn't expect me to fight alone. In fact, He does the fighting FOR me. My armor is mostly used for standing. This is what He says about my armor through the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 6:10-20.*

*Vs. 10-12 ~ "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For 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."*

*The whole letter to the Ephesian Church was written to give them the gospel, the war plan. It's all about how God fought for us, and what being part of His army looks like. It's quite different from the enemy army. This army is about unity and love and hope and grace. The enemy army is*

*about "every man for himself."*

*So Paul says, "therefore," in light of all you've learned about this war called life on earth and the new army you've been welcomed into by the Commander in Chief, your Dad who loves you, be strong IN THE LORD and in the strength of HIS MIGHT.*

*Why be strong in the Lord and in His strength? My own strength is no match for the enemy. I'm just a bug, something to be toyed with to him. The only reason he doesn't destroy me right now is because the true Ruler of All won't let Him. The only purpose the enemy would have in keeping me alive for a while would be to use me to take others down. I NEED the Lord's strength, or I am completely helpless.*

*Praise His name, He gives me HIS armor. I don't have to fight in my own strength. In fact, if I do try to fight in my own strength, not only am I no match for the enemy's tactics, but I actually become a double agent... helping his cause. Yikes!*

*I've been given the armor, but I need to put it on every day SO THAT I can STAND against the devil's schemes. That's all I'm called to do. Stand. That's all I need to do. Exodus 14:14 says, "The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be still." Hmmm... O Lord, please help me to lay down any pride that would make me think that I could fight in my own strength. Please help me to lay down any lies that would make me think that You won't fight for me.*

*I need to remember that I am in a Divine Marvel reality. The enemy has way more power than I do, way more authority. He's the ruler of this present darkness and he's over the spiritual forces of evil that I can't even see. But I can definitely see evidence of his evil hand in this world. The more leash he gets, the more damage he causes... but his time is short and his punishment is imminent.*

*Vs. 13 ~ "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm."*

*Therefore, because I have no power on my own to fight against the schemes of the devil, I need to take up the entire armor of God. As long as I am putting ALL of it on, there's no place I can be touched by the devil's schemes. The day IS evil. I have been told. Who would go onto a battlefield in war and take no protection or weapon with him? Even if I'm told that my only job is to stand, I'm still standing in the middle of a war zone! Put it all on! And stand FIRM.*

*What is this armor that helps me stand? Vs. 16-20 tell me. So how do each of these pieces of God's armor help me to stand?*

*Belt of truth ~ This helps me to be held together by truth and especially NOT my feelings. I'm in a war. My feelings are going to react to the bombs and the missiles and the enemy who is taunting me. But I have God's truth. His word is truth. This belt holds everything together and gives me the freedom to stand and to be unencumbered by things that would get in my way. My*

*sword will be fastened into this truth belt.*

*The enemy will try to get me to take off my belt. He'll say that my feelings are what matter. He'll say God's word is outdated. He'll redefine truth to fit a meaning that takes away all meaning. But he's a liar and the father of lies. Stand firm in the Lord and hold fast to the truth that holds me.*

*Breastplate of righteousness ~ This piece of armor protects my heart. It is so different than the enemy's breastplate. With the Lord's breastplate there is no deception or manipulative strategy. It's all pure and holy... protecting my heart is about loving what God loves and hating what God hates.*

*The enemy tries to tell me that righteousness is boring. He says it makes me judgmental. But God's righteousness is not judgmental because the very foundation of righteousness is built on love... pure, holy love. Not the fake stuff that the enemy tries to define as love. The enemy tries to twist righteousness and call what is unrighteous righteous... and call what is righteous unrighteous. He's a liar. Stand firm IN THE LORD.*

*Shoes fit with the readiness given by the gospel of peace ~ that is the longest title!!! But so important. This is one of the coolest parts of God's Kingdom issued armor. In what battle can you ever stand in PEACE? Only when you're on God's side... because HE is the one who fights for me. The gospel is peace. I can take my stand so securely and with such great peace because Jesus walked to the cross in my place. I can be in peace because I know the war is already won.*

*The devil wants to taunt me and make me think I'm alone in the battle. He's a liar. Not only am I not alone, but I'm standing in my Father's shoes!!! And I have the promise from Psalm 139:5 that He "hems me in behind and before." I'm surrounded by God's grace! I can take my stand securely because my God holds me securely.*

*The shield of faith ~ In ALL circumstances, this shield is so powerful that it can protect me from ANY flaming dart the evil one shoots at me. He will use any tactic he can to get me to drop my shield. He will try to distract, flatter, accuse, manipulate, rage, whisper, shame, build up with lies... all to deceive and cause doubt. He's a liar.*

*God's shield of faith stops EVERY SINGLE ATTACK. It doesn't matter what strategy he uses. This is an awesome defense weapon for me to have. Can I also just recognize that the devil's darts are FLAMING??? Without the shield of faith I will be absolutely terrified!!! But God's shield is able to handle any torch the devil wants to throw.*

*The helmet of salvation ~ A very important piece of the armor. My head protected because I belong to Christ. Revelation 22 says His name will be on my forehead. My mind is where I receive information. As I engage my mind with God's protection, the devil will not be able to twist scripture to mess with my mind. I will be able to process any whispers he speaks through*

*the lens of God's word. "Would God say this? Does His word say this? Does He talk this way?" If the answer is no, I can be sure it's not from the Lord and I can use my helmet to reject the words. If it IS from the Lord, pay attention. Everything He says is for my good.*

*The sword of the Spirit ~ The only offensive weapon. This is the Word of God... a two edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Jesus modeled this weapon for me when the devil tempted Him in the wilderness. His only response to the devil was, "It is written..." Jesus took His stand. He calls me to do the same.*

*These defensive and offensive weapons are mine IN THE LORD... but they are not ALL that He gives me. I also have something, or I should say, someone who teaches me and empowers me to use the weapons more and more faithfully and powerfully. My communication with the Lord is never cut off. I can pray in the Spirit at all times. I MUST pray in the Spirit at all times.*

*What does it mean to pray "in the Spirit"? It means that I pray with a surrendered heart... Not my will, but Yours be done. I pray with a humble heart... You're in charge. I pray with a confident heart... You will never leave me or forsake me. I pray with a grateful heart... I don't deserve my salvation or this armor, and yet You graciously give me all things. To pray in the Spirit is to pray according to John 15:8, that God would be glorified and that I would bear fruit for Him. How many of my prayers change when my motivation is to glorify God and to bear fruit for Him? O Lord, let that be my motivation!!!*

*It doesn't stop there! God calls me to keep alert with all perseverance. Just for myself? No. Also for other believers... other soldiers for Christ. I'm called to keep alert and persevere as I pray for them, too. God gives us each other to be a support and encouragement to each other.*

*Paul REALLY stressed the importance of prayer. He called us to pray IN THE SPIRIT, to pray for each other, AND to pray for him! Paul never once thought that he could accomplish the work God called him to on his own. He knew he needed the Spirit, and he knew that the prayers of God's people would be a massive support to him as well. Even in his imprisonment, he asked them to pray for him to have boldness in preaching the gospel.*

*How could Paul, while in prison, speak with such resolve to keep preaching the gospel? He had the full armor of God firmly in place. No lie could deceive him. No selfish pleasure could distract him. No anxiety could derail him. No doubt could destroy him. No whisper could phase him. No counterfeit could fool him. He prayed in the Spirit continually, and the Spirit was continually present.*

*Paul was a man, a sinner saved by grace... He needed a Savior just as much as I do. He had the same armor I have. O Lord, please help me to be strong IN YOU. Help me to take up Your COMPLETE armor, generously given to me. Help me to be in constant humble, surrendered, confident, grateful prayer. And help me to be a prayerful encouragement to other believers. Maturity in Christ will never mean that I can stand on my own two feet. Maturity in Christ*

*means that I know how desperately I need You. I desperately need You and You are faithful to care for all my needs, and to help me stand. Amen!*

*Have a blessed day!*

*Jonna*