

Bible Study Packet

Ephesians 6:10-20



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Ephesians 6:10-20

Spiritual Warfare

1. Paul said that our fight is not against flesh and blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places (verse 12). What goal was Paul trying to teach? (Compare 3:8-10 and 2 Corinthians 10:3-5)
2. What do you think it means to “be strong in the Lord and his mighty power” (verse 10)?
3. What is Paul’s counsel in verse 11 (also in verse 13) for engaging in the fight in verse 12?

It is not possible to “resist the enemy” without the whole armor of God (verse 13). Consider the use of each of the pieces of armor Paul described.

4. Putting on the belt of truth (verse 14) is literally “having girded your loins with truth” (NASB). A man tucked his garment into his belt when he needed his legs free for battle. What do you think it means to gird your loins with truth?

5. Why is this piece of preparation important in resisting evil?

Righteousness (verse 14) Truth, righteousness, faith, and so on are the gifts that God promised in His covenant and the signs of His Kingdom (see Isaiah 59:15-21, especially verse 17). So, “righteousness” is the righteousness of God, the salvation and judgement to be fully manifest when the Messiah returns. Also, in the Old Testament, the one **who puts on** righteousness accepts the high calling of a righteous judge, that is the responsibility to see justice done on earth.

6. Explain what you think it means to put on righteousness as a breastplate.

7. Why are you vulnerable to attack if you are not **wearing** true righteousness?

8. What are some practical implications of the image in verse 14?

9. The “gospel of peace” (see Ephesians 6:15 and compare to Isaiah 52:7) is the good news of wholeness and reconciliation through Christ. How does this good news provide stable support in your warfare?

10. What do you think “faith” in verse 16 means?

11. Explain what you think “the fiery arrows of the devil” in verse 16 are and how can faith extinguish them?

12. What do you think “the helmet of salvation in verse 17 refers to?

13. How does the helmet of salvation protect you from evil attacks?

14. In what ways is the word of God the “sword of the Spirit” both an offensive and a defensive weapon?

15. The command in verse 18 is both a continuation of the armor which protects the Christian from evil and a description of his manner of warfare. Remember the sword is both an offensive and defensive weapon. Why do you think Paul wraps up his discussion of the “full armor of God” with the command in verse 18?

16. List the four instructions on how to pray given in verse 18. After each, explain the specific instruction in your own words. Put a star by any instructions you are not sure that you practice.

17. Why is the work of prayer so crucial?

18. **Boldly** in verses 19 and 20 can also mean with “good humor” or “high spirits.” How did Paul want the Ephesians to pray for him? To answer, pretend you were in the Ephesian church and write out a one or two sentence prayer for Paul.

19. Why do you think Paul asked the Ephesians for this kind of prayer?

20. What does Paul’s prayer request in Ephesians 6:19-20 suggest for our intercession for those actively spreading the gospel?

a. Our own presentation of the gospel to unbelievers?

21. State the main point of 6:10-20.

22. How does 6:10-20 relate to Paul's purpose for writing the letter?