

## Spiritual Preparation: the Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-20

Put on the Whole Armor of God (v. 11)

III. Preparation—Being an ambassador for Christ, King Jesus’ representatives on the Earth, sounds like a BIG responsibility. We need to prepare.

Soldiers and athletes go through extensive preparation to meet the task they are determined to accomplish: win a war, serve their country, or win a prize. (2 Timothy 2:1-7)

A. Put on the Full Armor of God—Ephesians 6:10-20

This is how you:

1. Be strong in the Lord, in His might not yours
2. Stand against the wiles of the devil
3. Wrestle, or fight against, the powers of darkness of this age
4. Quench the fiery darts of the wicked one
5. Be watchful and persevere
6. Build and maintain your relationship with God and other Christians
7. Speak boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel

Written by Paul, the “ambassador in chains” (v. 20)

B. The Full Armor of God is a map for our preparation as Christian ambassadors. It is also a description of our full arsenal, our weapons for effectively engaging in and winning our spiritual warfare.

1. **Belt of Truth**—Determine to seek to know and follow what is true. First and foremost. Thirst for truth. The belt of truth will keep your pants up!
2. **Breastplate of Righteousness**—Develop your Christlike character. The Bible calls this righteousness. Throw out your own so-called goodness and replace it with God’s goodness.
3. **Shoes of Preparation of the Gospel**: “Having your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace—Know the gospel. Make sure your message is correct. You need to prepare.
4. Above all, the **Shield of Faith**—Biblical faith is not blind faith or gullibility. True faith is trust. We have faith in an airplane when we place our bodies inside of one and go along for the ride and in the pilot as well to guide the plane safely to its destination. True faith (trust in God) is how we ascertain and quench lies, deceptions, and distortions of the truth.
5. **Helmet of Salvation**—Salvation is our own reconciliation and restored relationship with God. This is what makes us His ambassadors.
6. **Sword of Spirit**—the Word of God. This is our offense, our biblical message of reconciliation. The gospel of salvation.

C. No soldier or ambassador is a “lone ranger.” As we learn and carry God’s message of reconciliation:

1. We build and deepen our relationship with God
2. We build and deepen our relationships with one another.

3. We build the church as a unified army. That's where the battle happens and where the power is.

#### D. Readiness—the Result of Adequate Preparation (Preparedness)

Question: Do you get a little nervous about sharing the gospel? Do you think that you'll do it someday, just not right this second? This is not because you're a bad person or an awful Christian, or because you don't care about the salvation of others. God put this desire in your heart, to want to share the message of His love and forgiveness with others. The fear and hesitation, or sense of unsureness about what to do, how to get started, etc., all of this merely stems from a lack of adequate preparation.

That's good news because we just learned how to prepare ourselves! The Bible tells us right here in Ephesians 6, "Put on the full armor of God." So, if you are missing any part of the armor, you now know two important things that are essential for getting prepared and equipped (or ready).

1. Number one, you know your need. You know what it is you're missing, and once you have identified what is missing from your arsenal, then you know what it is you need to concentrate on building up and acquiring in yourself.
2. This is the second thing you now know, that you need to acquire whatever you're missing. You now know what to pray for in order grow into becoming a better prepared and more effective Ambassador for Christ.

Pray for the Lord to give you what you're lacking. I think you'll find that He is ready, willing, and able to give it to you.