

Ephesians Chapter 6  
Week 7, v. 11

Consider the attempts we take to be secure in our daily lives. We lock our front doors to our homes; we lock our cars – in fact, newer cars have an automatic lock; we put babies and young children in car seats; we use plug protectors if we have children in the house; we put fences around pools; airbags are standard equipment in vehicles; armored vehicles transport valuables from place to place; security personnel are visibly seen at school campuses, at airports, at sporting events; we walk through metal detection devices at hospitals, airports and courthouses; personnel are allowed to open bags to look inside when entering a secure area; we have smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms; etc. we are fingerprinted and photographed, we have identification cards and passwords. We could go on and on. All of these things have one thing in common – they are meant to provide protection against harm in the physical realm where we exist.

**What do we do to provide protection to our soul?** Man is made of physical – our body – and spiritual – our soul. In the Bible, we are told to protect our soul.

De 4:9 "Only give heed to yourself and **keep your soul diligently**, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons.

Our love and service to God comes from our soul.

De 6:5 "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

De 10:12 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

We protect our soul by clothing it with the armor of God.

Eph 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

We put on, or clothe ourselves, with the armor of God. **How does our attire change when it gets cold? What do people wear in the snow? Why?**

One reason we wear clothing is for protection from the elements. People who are sensitive to sun wear light clothing to cover up and keep from burning. If you are in a climate with freezing weather you may put on several layers of clothing to protect yourself from the cold. Another type of clothing, uniforms, identifies us with certain groups of people. Sports teams, schools, military, medical personnel, firemen, policemen and many others wear uniforms that identify them with their professions. Some of the careers mentioned have special parts of their attire that provide protection from the elements they encounter. Helmets provide head protection, turnouts provide protection from fire, some headgear have lights to help see in the dark, flack jackets protect from arsenal attacks, many athletes wear padded protection to avoid injuries and gloves and face protection are worn by medical personnel to protect from contamination.

Eph 6:11 begins with the words *put on*. This comes from the Greek word *enduo* meaning (in the sense of sinking into a garment); to invest with clothing (literally or figuratively); to array, clothe (with), endue, have (put) on.

To endue means *to endow somebody with an ability or quality*.

Luke 24:49 "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are **clothed with power from on high**."

We physically change our clothing to match the activity we are involved in. We adjust how much clothing to put on depending upon the temperature or weather. When we are saved by grace through faith God changes us. He strips away the old self and replaces it with a new self clothed in His forgiveness and grace.

Col 3:9-10 Do not lie to one another, *since you laid aside the old self* with its [evil] practices, and have **put on the new self** who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him

Eph 4:21-24 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and **put on the new self**, which in [the likeness of] God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Think of a time when you have shopped for one particular item for a special event. It seems that whatever you find is not just right. Either it is too expensive or doesn't come in your size or isn't the right color or fit.

We get a new heart when we are saved. We also get a new wardrobe! Something that is very different about this wardrobe than the one you may have in your closet is that it includes everything we need for every purpose we might encounter. It always fits perfectly and will never wear out. We don't need to look all over for the exact fit or the right price. The fit is perfect, it is just right for the occasion and the price has been paid. But, we have to put it on, have a desire to sink into this garment and be completely enveloped by it.

If it is freezing outside would you put on only one mitten? Would you put on a heavy jacket and scarf and go barefoot? This would only give you partial protection from the elements. The idea is to be fully protected; putting on the complete wardrobe necessary to ward off what could harm us.

Think about this. If you had the choice between a shield that was frail and tiny and one that was strong and large, which would you choose? Which choice would offer you more protection?

A soldier would not put on his breastplate and forget his helmet. Neither would he wear his helmet and not take up his shield. Each piece of his armor was necessary to fully protect him in battle.

We are to put on the *full armor of God*. The KJV says 'put on the *whole* armor of God'. The word 'whole' comes from the Greek word *panoplia*. The whole armor or panoply means the full array of something. In this case the protective covering or full suit of armor and equipment for a warrior.

What is the 'armor of God'?

...that which He has provided in and through Jesus Christ, and furnishes by His word, Spirit, and providence. Family Bible Notes

'the word of truth, the power of God, the weapons of righteousness' (2 Cor 6:7)

Ro 13:12-14 The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to [its] lusts.

"Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ"; in putting on Him, and the new man in Him, we put on "the whole armor of God." No opening at the head, the feet, the heart, the belly, the eye, the ear, or the tongue, is to be given to Satan. Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary

Gal 3:26-27 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have **clothed yourselves with Christ**.

Eph 6:13 Therefore, **take up the full armor of God**, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and **having done everything, to stand firm**.

Complete armour in this period included "shield, sword, lance, helmet, greaves, and breastplate"... Paul adds girdle and shoes to the list... not armour but necessary for the soldier. Certainly Paul could claim knowledge of the Roman soldier's armour, being chained to one for some three years. Robertson's NT Word Pictures

Notice this is the armor **of God**. Not strength from ourselves. God goes before us. He is the Commander-in-Chief. His is the perfect battle plan which, when carried out to His specifications, will always succeed.

Ps 35:1-6 ([A Psalm] of David.) Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; Fight against those who fight against me. Take hold of buckler and shield, And rise up for my help. Draw also the spear and the battle-axe to meet those who pursue me; Say to my soul, "I am your salvation." Let those be ashamed and dishonored who seek my life; Let those be turned back and humiliated who devise evil against me. Let them be like chaff before the wind, With the angel of the LORD driving [them] on. Let their way be dark and slippery, With the angel of the LORD pursuing them.

2 Cor 10:4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, **but divinely powerful** for the destruction of fortresses.

In Ephesians 6:10 we were told to be strong in the Lord; in the beginning of verse 11, we are told to put on the full armor of God. The rest of Eph 6:11 tells us why these commands are important: **"that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."**

The armor of God gives us the resources and power necessary to stand firm or hold up against the devil's trickery or lies.

What does it mean to scheme?

A scheme can be a plan or a system in a positive sense, but in this context it is negative.

Scheme: 1) a secret plot – a secret and cunning plan, especially one designed to cause damage or harm; 2) a plan of action – a systematic plan of action – to devise plots and plans, especially secret or cunning ones intended to cause damage or harm; a conspiracy

Scheme or [wiles – KJV] *mehodeia* – travesty (trickery); wile, lie in wait

Have you ever been tricked – led to believe something that was not true or convinced something had qualities that it did not? How did this happen?

The word *diabolos* means a traducer, Satan: a false accuser and slanderer. Satan feeds us with all kinds of false ideas and information. He is malicious and desires to damage all that is Truth.

He is a crafty foe and knows the weak spots in the Christian's armour. Robertson's NT Word Pictures

John 8:44b ...He [the devil] was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own [nature;] for he is a liar, and the father of lies.

Eph 4:27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.

1 Tim 3:7 And he [an overseer] must have a good reputation with those outside [the church,] so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Ja 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

1 Pet 5:8 Be of sober [spirit,] be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

What does it mean to stand firm?

Some of the words used to describe the phrase '*stand firm*' are establish, hold up and staunch.

The word establish means that something is securely and permanently in a position. To be staunch is to be resolute, committed, unwavering. Think back to the world's

strongest men that we discussed last week. His thighs measure over thirty inches in diameter. He would be a difficult foe to move once he has positioned himself. In Christ, we are strong, unable to be moved. In Christ, we have victory over the attempts and scheming of the devil to uproot us. Without Christ, we will lose our footing.

What can we conclude from this verse?

- 1) **Spiritual warfare is expected.** We need the strength and wisdom of God through His Spirit to fight against the temptation of sin. When we are fully protected by all the 'armor' available to us, we can overcome Satan's schemes to derail us.
- 2) **We are warriors of God.** We are expected to stand firm against the enemy.
- 3) **Our weapons of warfare, or armor, come from God.** The weapons we are to use are not carnal, from men, but spiritual.
- 4) **We are to put on the whole armor.** We need to be fully prepared to fight the enemy offensively and defensively. God has provided for us everything we need to be victorious against sin. Using only part of God's armor will leave us exposed to Satan's attacks. When we rely on ourselves we are weak and will be defeated.

...Satan does not carry on an open warfare. He does not meet the Christian soldier face to face. He advances covertly; makes his approaches in darkness; employs cunning rather than power, and seeks rather to deceive and betray than to vanquish by mere force. Hence the necessity of being constantly armed to meet him whenever the attack is made...the enemy is invisible...he steals upon us slyly and stealthily... he practices war only by ambushes and by surprises. He approaches us not in repulsive forms, but comes to recommend some plausible doctrine, to lay before us some temptation that shall not immediately repel us. He presents the world in an alluring aspect; invites to pleasures that seem to be harmless; and leads us in indulgence, until we have gone so far that we cannot retreat. Albert Barnes' NT Commentary

In what areas of your life have you left yourself exposed to Satan's attacks? Have you been willing to embrace thoughts and ideas that are not based on Truth? What sin(s) have you justified as harmless in your life? What actions do you need to take in response to this verse?

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Application

Read Ephesians 6:11 again. List the ways you prepare yourself for battle with the proper armor.

Read Deut 4:9. What is the command in the first part of this verse?

What does it mean to be diligent? What things are you diligent at? Do you apply this same effort to your relationship with God?

The full armor of God is "that which He has provided in and through Jesus Christ, and furnishes by His word, Spirit, and providence". Family Bible Notes

Look up 2 Cor 6:7 and Ro 13:12-14. What do these verses say?

Should we expect spiritual warfare?

Are you leaving yourself exposed to Satan's attacks by not wearing full protection against his schemes?

Write down at least one verse you can use to 'fight' against the devil's plan to derail you.

Whose war are we in?                      Who has the best plan of attack?                      When have  
you been able to stand strong?                      What were the circumstances?

When are you likely to fail?

Why?

Who is Satan?

What is his goal?

John 8:44b

1 Pet 5:8

What does Eph 4:27 say?

Are there sins that you have justified in your life? How is this weakening your stand against sin?

Review your 'Apply It' bookmark. How would God have you apply Ephesians 6:11 this week?