



Ephesians

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Today's Scripture Reading:

EPHESIANS 6:10-20

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¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² 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. 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.

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¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

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To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

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Genesis 3:1: "Did God actually say"?

Daniel 10:13: The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia,

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2 Kings 6:17: Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see." So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Jesus casting out demons, his disciples unable to do so without fasting and prayer.

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10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

Paul's instruction is because of the nature of our battles, warfares, and our limited abilities on our own to engage in this type of spiritual warfare apart from God Himself supplying the proper mindset and equipment.

1. Who do we serve? And what are His capabilities?

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- a. Manna, quail, water, mocking of Pharaohs' gods, slingshot vs giant
- b. Is anything too hard for Him?
- c. We all have personal examples of His power and intervention.

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John 14:12-14: "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

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¹² 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.

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2 Corinthians 10:3-5: For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ

¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

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1. ***Belt of Truth*** (clarity of the entirety of God's Word)
 - a. Do you know God's Word?
 - b. Has it affected your way of living?
 - c. If Scripture is not on your daily diet, your armor will be deficient. 7 sons of Sceva in Acts 19
 - d. Jesus' use of this we will talk of later

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2. Breastplate of Righteousness

- a. Are you wearing Jesus's blood bought breastplate, or do you rely on your own garment sewn of good works?
- b. Do you, as Paul did, count all of his accomplishments, social standing, heritage, education, as useless dross compared to knowing Jesus and being hidden in Him?

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3. Shoes of Readiness

- a. As you travel daily, have you prepared yourself as Peter says, "to give an answer"?
- b. Does your life exhibit God's peace as an answer to the chaos we are surrounded by?

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4. *Helmet of Salvation*

2 Tim 12b because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

- a. Protect your thoughts with the consistent renewing of the promise of eternal Salvation.
- b. Your life will be filled with curve balls, sorrows, confusions. Will you choose to answer all internal conversations with the hope of eternity?
- c. He doesn't love me, I've sinned too much, I am too weak to be of any use

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5. *Sword of the Spirit* - "Word of God"

- a. In Jesus' temptations, what did He begin each sentence with? Jesus not only used the Sword of the Spirit, but He also used the Belt of Truth to correct Satan's perverse use of quoted Scripture.
- b. We use many things as markers of authority. I.e. Cash, Gold/Platinum CC's, Driver's License, Titles (Dr/Lawyer/Home School Mom/Business Owner), but God's Word defines the highest authority.

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6. Shield of Faith

How does faith quench, put out, subdue, prevent or remove future acts of destruction? By replacing the torment of an uncertain future with one of certainty. It trumps the circumstantial now with a secure tomorrow by placing the authority of God's Word over all else.

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1 Corinthians 13:12: *For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.*

1 Corinthians 4:17-18: *For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*

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Luke 18:1,8: And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ⁸ Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?

- a. Name some darts; pain, sorrow, confusion, doubt, fear, anxiety, lies, half truths.
- b. In all circumstances, why all? Because they affect us, control us, direct, divert, stop, they whisper partial truths, they sow seeds of emotion to cloud our thinking.

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- c. If we allow fiery darts to remain unchecked by not putting up the Shield of Faith, we can begin down a slippery slope leading to hopelessness and potentially a loss of faith.
- d. Nothing can separate us, no condemnation, how much more, God shows His love while we were yet sinners, Father of Mercies, God of Comfort.
- e. The Shield of Faith is not static. It can be moved to protect every part of us, as we engage in battle. It can also be used as a weapon of offense as Jesus did in His temptation.

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