

Lesson 11

Read Ephesians 6:10-24

More armor described

The next piece of protection that believers are to wear is shoes. These shoes are not designed for running, however. Remember, we are not to attack and we are not to retreat; we are to stand. (vs. 11,13 & 14)

These shoes represent the confidence that we can have because of the peace that we have with God. Review Ephesians 2:17 & 18. A believer is no longer an enemy of God. We are on the same side of the battle as God. He is right beside us in this battle with Satan. He doesn't want us to be fearful, but to be confident of His help and His protection.

1. What did Jesus promise to believers in John 14:27?

Peace - don't be troubled or afraid

2. What is the antidote for anxiety according to Phil. 4:6 & 7?

Prayer & petition with thanksgiving

3. One of Satan's most effective lies to believers is to convince them that they are not secure in their salvation. How does it affect our lives if we doubt the security of our salvation?

We dwell on that - we become immobilized, unable to serve, no joy

4. How do Romans 5:1 & 5:8-11 help to give us confidence?

If we are justified by faith, we have peace with God. We are justified by His blood and we will be saved from His wrath. We are saved through His death & reconciled by His life.

5. What does Jesus say about the security of His sheep in John 10:27-30?

He gives us eternal life, we will never perish; no one can snatch us out of His hand; The Father is greater than all.

6. What is the Father's will concerning the security of believers? (John 6:39 & 40)

That Jesus doesn't lose any of us - everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life and be raised on the last day.

7. Are your feet ready to help you stand firm because you have confidence in the God of your salvation to be with you always? **AMEN**

The shield

Ephesians 6:16 describes flaming missiles being aimed at us. This is referring to the tips of arrows being dipped into tar and then set ablaze before being slung from the bow. The shield is attached to the arm by a strap and is able to be moved quickly to divert those fiery attacks. This type of shield was approximately 2.5 feet by 4.5 feet. It is large enough to hide behind.

8. What is our spiritual shield? (Ephesians 6:16)

Faith

9. What is the source of faith (reliance/trust) according to Romans 10:17?

Hearing the Word

10. What is essential for maintaining faith during a trial? (Hebrews 12:2)

Keep our eyes on Jesus - the author & finisher of our faith - He also endured the cross and took it's shame

11. Give some examples of "flaming missiles" that Satan might lob in your direction during a spiritual battle.

"God has forsaken you. This isn't a spiritual battle; it your own fault. You should have been stronger/done things differently."

The helmet

12. The helmet obviously protects the head. In this passage, our head (our mind/thought) is protected by [salvation](#). (Ephesians 6:17)

We find a similar reference in I Thes. 5:8-11. Notice that in this passage, it is the "hope of salvation". This doesn't mean that we "hope" we are saved, but rather that salvation brings us great hope.

13. According to I Thes. 5:8-11, why can we confidently look forward to our eternal future?

God didn't appoint us to suffer but to receive salvation through Christ. He died for us so we can live with Him.

14. What hope and encouragement do you find in these passages?

Mark 10:29-31	Jesus will reward us abundantly for everything we've ever given up for Him.
I Cor. 3:12-15	All of our works will be rewarded
Gal. 6:9&10	Don't become weary/we will have a harvest in time
I Thes. 4:13-18	We will be with Him - maybe in the rapture!
2 Tim. 4:7&8	There is a crown of righteousness waiting for those who love His appearing.
James 1:12	There is a crown of life for those who love Him.
Rev. 19:5-9	We are a part of His Bride
Rev. 21:1-8	We will live in the new Jerusalem - no more tears, no death, no mourning or crying or pain
Rev. 22:20	He is coming soon

The soldier on the front lines encourages himself and others by remembering that the war will someday be over. He keeps his mind on the good things that are coming. Don't let Satan rob you of your hope of salvation.

The sword

15. All of our armor so far has been for our protection.....a belt, a breastplate, shoes, a shield, a helmet.....now at last we find one weapon that we can use against our enemy. What is it? (Ephesians 6:17)

The sword of the Spirit - the Word of God

The type of sword that is referenced here is the Greek word "machaira". This describes a sword of 6 - 18" in length. It is used for hand-to-hand precision combat. In Scripture, it can be compared to a "rhema", which is an individual, specific statement. Read Matt. 4:1-11. Notice how Jesus responds in verses 4, 7 and 10. This is an example of knowing the word well enough to be able to use it during a spiritual battle.

16. What does 2 Tim. 3:16 tell us about the usefulness of scripture?

It is God-breathed & useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, training in righteousness so that we can be thoroughly equipped.

17. What is the admonition in 2 Tim. 2:15?

Do your best to be a workman that God approves of and one who correctly handles the word of God.

18. What will be Satan's response to our resistance to him according to James 4:7?

He will flee from us.

19. How is the word of God described in Heb. 4:12 and what is it uniquely capable of?

Described as a living, active sword; sharper than any two-edged sword; penetrates even to the dividing of soul & spirit, joints and marrow; it judges thoughts and attitudes

Read Ephesians 6:10-24 once again.

The secret weapon of the believer

20. Paul has just finished describing the spiritual armor that God has provided for all believers. Now he reminds us to be using one more powerful tool available to Christians. What is it? (Ephesians 6:18a) [PRAYER](#)

Notice the two descriptions of prayer in vs. 18.....prayer and petition. Prayer is a more general word. Petition describes specific, pointed requests. For example, we might pray for a missionary "to be blessed". Or we could prayer more specifically that they "would be strong to resist the attacks of Satan today". We might pray in general that God "would supply their needs". Or we might petition God "to provide the extra \$500.00 that they need for an unexpected car repair". God answers prayer to display His glory. His glory is much more obvious when a specific prayer is answered. Prayers and petitions are both very important.

21. We are also told to pray "in the Spirit". Read also Romans 8:5-9 and Jude 20. What is the opposite of being "in the Spirit"?

[Having a natural, sinful, unregenerated nature & mind.](#)

22. Consider Romans 8:26 & 27. How does the Spirit help our weakness when it comes to praying?

[He intercedes for us in accordance with God's will - He uses groans that words can't express as He searches our hearts.](#)

23. The power of prayer is activated when we pray in accordance with God's will. In order to know God's will, we need to know the mind of God. Just as in a human relationship, we learn to know someone's mind when we spend time with them and when we converse with them. What activities in your own life help you to know God better?

[Reading the word, doing Bible study, studying & fellowshiping with godly believers, reading Christian books, going to church](#)

As in every area of our Christian lives, God is more concerned about who we are than He is about what we do. Our actions only reflect what is in our hearts. For this reason, God does not prescribe any particular method of prayer. No special posture is required or prohibited. He welcomes you at any time, in any place, under any circumstance. It is the posture of your heart that is important.

24. There are things that God tells us will hinder our prayers from being answered. List what you discover from these verses: Psalm 66:18, James 4:3, I Peter 3:7, I Peter 3:10-13, I Peter 5:5

Cherishing sin in our hearts, disrespect in the marriage, doing evil/speaking evil, pride & lack of submission; asking with the wrong motive

25. Jesus warned his disciples that even prayer can become corrupted. What warning do you see in Matt. 6:5-8?

Don't pray to impress other people

26. In Ephesians 6:18b, we are told to be on the alert and to be praying for each other. How is this a demonstration of our love and concern for each other?

We need to be alert to the needs of others - we won't know their needs unless we know them.

27. Even Paul needed the prayer support of other believers. What did he ask them to pray for in 6:19 & 20?

That he would have the right words & speak fearlessly.

28. Look again at Paul's request for prayer. What sort of spiritual attack do you think he might have been under at this time? Consider also 2 Cor. 11:23-29

Fear of suffering physical consequences for speaking out.

29. Paul was in prison. He had suffered physically in many ways because of his ministry. It is understandable that he might have been fearful, tempted to give up, and discouraged. What sort of tactics might Satan use to smother the flame of the spiritual life of a person who has freedom, comfort, resources and support?

Self-reliance, apathy, too busy, "can do it myself"

30. What was Paul planning to do in addition to sending this letter to the Ephesians? (6:21 & 22)

Sent a personal representative - Tychicus

31. What final three blessings did Paul want not only for the Ephesians but for "all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with a love incorruptible." (6:23 & 24)

Peace, love & grace.

"O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, For they are ever mine. I have more insight than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, Because I have observed Your precepts. I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word. I have not turned aside from Your ordinances, For You Yourself have taught me. How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth! From Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. "
Ps 119:97-104