

COURAGEOUS IN BATTLE

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Text: Ephesians 6:16-20

"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak." (Ephesians 6:16-20)

INTRODUCTION

- Christian armor (Eph 6:13-18)
- every Christian engages in spiritual battle

Satan uses deceit & tricks

Satan's army - demons

THREE FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

1. We are all in a spiritual battle today.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8)

2. We are fighting Satan and his armies.

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2)

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

- Satan was the cherub ~~used~~ that covered God's throne until... he sinned (Ezek 28:13-15)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

3. We must put on spiritual armor.

*"By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."
(Romans 5:2)*

*"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."
(2 Corinthians 5:21)*

*But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.
(Numbers 32:23)*

1. A WARRIOR'S Protection

(vs. 16-17)

A. The shield of faith (vs.16)

WE WERE SAVED BY FAITH

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8)

WE ARE PROTECTED BY FAITH

Quote: Satan is the source of unbelief and doubt. "Yea, hath God said?" is his favorite question (Genesis 3:1). Faith is what overcomes every foe. As believers use the shield of faith, the fiery darts of unbelief and doubt are kept away.
-Warren Wiersbe

*"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."
(1 John 5:4)*

Each person must choose for
themselves

B. The helmet of salvation (vs. 17)

"But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." (1 Thessalonians 5:8)

SALVATION IS A DELIVERANCE

"From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." (John 6:66-68)

"For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2)

SALVATION IS OUR VICTORY

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:1-2) quickened = made alive

2. A WARRIOR'S Projection (vs. 17b)

"And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" (Luke 24:32)

Sword
of the
Spirit
same as
Word
of God

USING THE WORD OF GOD - God's offensive weapon

1. When witnessing

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

2. When tempted

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1 Corinthians 10:13)

- the sword sticks out in front

3. When worried and anxious

"Be careful for nothing but everything by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known unto the Lord" (Philippians 4:6)

4. When angry

"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath; Neither give place to the devil." (Ephesians 4:26-27)

5. When fearful

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7)

6. When indecisive

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Quote: "The amazing thing is that everyone who reads the Bible has the same joyful thing to say about it. In every land, in every language, it is the same tale: where that Book is read, not with the eyes only, but with the mind and heart, the life is changed. Sorrowful people are comforted, sinful people are transformed, people who were in the dark walk in the light. Is it not wonderful to think that this Book, which is such a mighty power if it gets a chance to work in an honest heart, is in our hands today?" - Amy Carmichael

A. God's Word is correcting

IT CORRECTS THE SPIRIT OF MAN

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

IT CORRECTS THE OPINIONS OF MAN

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works"
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

"Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:29)

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11)

B. God's Word is convicting

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."
(Psalm 119:9,11)

Quote: "A single text of Scripture is better to meet a temptation, than all the philosophy which the world contains." - Albert Barnes

3. A WARRIOR'S Petitions (vs. 18-20) - prayers

"And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." (1 John 5:15)

A. Prayer for others (vs. 18)

CONSTANTLY

"Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Quote: "Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?" - Corrie Ten Boom

UNSELFISHLY - pray for others

DILIGENTLY

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a

righteous man availeth much.” (James 5:16)

B. Prayer for opportunity (vs. 19-29)

IN WITNESSING

IN BOLDNESS

IN CLARITY

“Brethren, pray for us.” (1Thessaonians 5:25)

Quote: “Next to the wonder of seeing my Saviour will be, I think, the wonder that I made so little use of the power of prayer.” - D.L. Moody

CONCLUSION

- Eph 6:19 Praying to God that Paul can speak boldly the gospel

“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived” (2 Timothy 3:13)

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” (Revelation 20:10)