

*A New Mind for the New Year – Week Two*

# ***Power Comes When We Put On the Full Armor!***

*Ephesians 6:10-20 and Selected Scriptures*

**Main Idea:** We face a formidable adversary in the Christian life. The way we can defeat him is by putting on and keeping on the whole armor of God.

## **1. *OUR ADVERSARY IN THE BATTLE – We are in an all-out warfare against an unseen but very real enemy. Ephesians 6:11c-12***

- A. First question – Who is our enemy? 6:12b
  - 1. Our ultimate enemy is Satan. Ezekiel 28:12-17; Isaiah 14:12-15
  - 2. Our immediate enemy consists of the spiritual forces of darkness. 6:12b
- B. Second question – Where does our enemy operate? 6:12a,c
  - 1. He operates on a supernatural level. (Not flesh and blood.) 1 Peter 5:8
  - 2. He operates on an invisible level. (In the heavenly places.)
  - 3. He operates on a personal level. (Struggle=hand to hand combat.)
- C. Third question – How does our enemy operate? ...*Through deception!* 6:11c
  - 1. He attacks our minds. John 13:2
  - 2. He sabotages relationships. Ephesians 4:26-27
  - 3. He hinders ministry. 1 Thessalonians 2:18
  - 4. He fosters addictive behavior. 2 Timothy 2:26
  - 5. He promotes false religions and strange cults. 1 Timothy 4:1

## **2. *OUR ADVANTAGE IN THE BATTLE – In the heat of the battle, we have supernatural power, the power of God. Ephesians 6:10-11b***

- A. In the heat of the battle, we must rely on his strength. 6:10
  - 1. “Be strong,” is a call to spiritual preparation. (O.T. battle cry.)
  - 2. “Be strong,” is a call to renewed relationship. (Notice: it’s *in the Lord*.)
  - 3. “Be strong,” is a call to spiritual power. (Notice: it’s in the strength of *his* might.)
- B. In the heat of the battle, we must recall our position in Christ. 6:11a
  - 1. The armor of God pictures our full position and resources in Christ.
  - 2. Putting on the armor of God is a mental discipline.

## **3. *OUR ARMOR FOR THE BATTLE – We are to resist our enemy, and stand firm, by putting on the full armor of God. Ephesians 6:13-17***

- A. Our goal in the battle is a minimal goal: stand! 6:13
  - 1. The normal Christian life is described as a walk in Ephesians (4:1,17; 5:2,7,15).
  - 2. Under attack, we are to stand firm, and not give up any ground (6:11,13,14).
  - 3. The reason is a promise: “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” James 4:7
- B. Stand by putting on the defensive armor. 6:14-17a
  - 1. *The belt of truth* – Be ready to rely on the truth of God’s word and your position in Christ. 6:14
  - 2. *The breastplate of righteousness* – Trust in Christ’s righteousness not our own. 6:14b
  - 3. *The shoes of the gospel of peace* – Constantly reckon that you are at peace with God you have received Christ. 6:15
  - 4. *The shield of faith* – Use God’s Word to confront Satan’s lies. 6:16
  - 5. *The helmet of salvation* – Draw hope from the security of our salvation; he will never leave you or fail you. 6:17a
- C. Stand by taking up the offensive weapons. 6:17b-20
  - 1. *The sword of the Spirit* – Hit Satan with the Word of God. 6:17b
  - 2. *The prayer of the Spirit* – Grow bold through prayer. 6:18-20