

The Sword And The Word Ephesians 6 Verses 10-20

Eph 6:10 ¶ "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; 19 ¶ 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, 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

In the preceding words in this chapter and chapter 5, Paul is addressing the family structure, and the relationships of the members of the family, who are of the church of God. He also addresses the slaves and the owners and their relationship in the church of God.

Now, Paul says "**Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**" Now, notice Paul says "**my brethren**" which is the church, including the families, owners, and slaves. Paul says: I have told you how to live naturally in relationship to each other, and now I am telling you how to live spiritually.

Paul then goes on to say in verse 12 "**For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.**" Paul tells the church: if you observe to do that which he has specifically addressed about family, and slave/owner relationships, we will win the battle against the principalities and powers, the rulers of darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places.

Now, Paul addressing the protection against these things. He admonishes us to put on the protective armor that Jesus has provided, as seen in *Eph 6:13-18*: 13 "**Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;**"

We point out that these pieces of armor are available to every child of God. However, there is the requirement that you do something. You must pick up the armor, put it on, and put it to its purposed use.

Paul addresses the particular parts of this heavenly armor to which I wish to specifically speak about verses 16 and 17. In verse 16 we are told "**Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.**" The word "**shield**" has the definition of *a large shield that is shaped like a door*. Thus, we see the picture of a large shield behind which we would be able to completely hide our bodies. This large door shaped shield of faith is the picture of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the shield of faith that we hold up before us in our journey in life as a child of God. Since Jesus is the Word our shield of faith is comprised of the whole word of God. Thus, we see that Paul is telling us to pick up the Word of God, believe in its saving power, hold it up before us in our battles with temptation. Why? Because Jesus demonstrated to us that the word of God will thwart the devil from his purpose, when he was tempted in the wilderness.

We notice the definition of shield says a "**large**" shield. This tells me that we do not need to just memorize a verse or two from the scriptures, since the size of our shield of faith is going to be determined by our knowledge of the word of God, and of Jesus Christ. If we do not have a thorough knowledge of the whole bible; our shield is going to be very small which will offer us very little protection. This tells us that we need to be very familiar with the whole word of God, whereby our shield of faith will be large enough to hide our whole body behind. The whole armor of God protects the whole body.

Thus, we see ourselves protected from those Paul told us our battle is against, once we are indwelt with the Holy Spirit. Christ has provided it for us and it is at our disposal, but the responsibility to put on the whole armor is ours. By taking action: putting on the whole armor of God: taking up the shield of faith and the sword of the spirit: which actions will result in the empowering of the Holy Spirit and we shall be protected from all the things Paul warns us of. If we do not put on our armor and take up our weaponry, we shall surely lose the battle.

In verse 17 Paul tells us "**Above all, And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**" The word "**helmet**" has a definition of *to encircle the head*. Where do all the controls of the body resonate from? The head which has in it the mind, through which all the cognitive functions flow to their respective sources. Who is our head? Jesus Christ. I ask you, and me, this question: who is head in your life? Is it your inherited sin nature; or is it your new nature in Christ? It must be your new nature in Christ if you are to be successful, in standing and holding firm the position you are placed in by God's providential grace.

Paul tells us: in conjunction with taking the helmet of salvation, we must also take the "**sword of the spirit**". The word sword has the meaning of *a knife, a dirk* (which is a small knife); *figuratively, war, judicial punishment: sword*. The first definition is of a knife rather than a sword which is the last definition. The knife, versus the sword, changes the proximity of the enemy, from well over an arm's length, to up close and personal. Paul also tells us, above all, take the sword of the spirit, "**which is the word of God:**" The word "**word**" has the root definition of *to utter, speak or say, command*.

The word "**word**" used here is from the Greek word "**rehma**." It is used 67 times in the New Testament and generally has the definition of being specific and using specific words of God. Thus, we see Jesus in the wilderness being tempted by the devil, We see Jesus giving specific answers from the word of God for each specific temptation. Wherefore, again, we see the need to have a full knowledge of the Word of God.

Usually, the word "**word**" is from the Greek word "**logos**" which is used 316 times in the New Testament, and carries the definition of the word in general, or of the complete gathering of the words of God. Logos is the word used to describe Jesus in John 1 verse 1, who is the embodiment of the whole word of God. Word has several other uses and definitions.

Thinking on these definitions, we get the picture of an up close, a personal, confrontation with the devil, seen in verses 11-12: **11 "to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."** Why up close and personal? Because with a knife, we must get much closer to the enemy to use it with effectiveness. A picture of why; we need the whole word of God in our minds and hearts, to be able to give the specific answer needed for the specific temptation.

Finally, we would point out what we are told in **Lu 4:13 "And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season."** This is our reminder that though we may effectively use the word of God in defense against the temptations of the devil, and the devil departs, as seen in **Mt 4:10-11; 10 "Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him."** yet, we can rest assured that the devil will be back to tempt us further, and we will need new scriptures to meet the new temptations.

As we consider the example Jesus set in utilizing the specific Word of God, for each specific temptation; we see He was able to tear down "**principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places.**" Thus, we get a better grasp of what Paul is conveying to us of how to live the life of a disciple of Christ. Understand, while Jesus was in the world in a body of flesh, he was still God, and he possessed the power to command the unclean spirits, and the devil himself, who had no choice but to obey.

Wherefore, we see the admonition to read and study the whole Word of God, and to teach our children, and the following generations, the whole Word of God. Why? For their protection from temptations, when empowered by the Holy Spirit. Remember, Jesus is a personal Saviour to each child of God. Remember, the short knife that makes the devil's attacks upon us up close and personal. Remember, you want a large shield of faith to protect the whole body, not a tiny shield which cannot protect the whole body.

Thank you, King Jesus, for being KING of kings, and LORD of lords. Thank you for leaving us the written Word of God, the King James bible, which provides us with the whole armor of God, our shield of faith, and the sword of the Spirit, though your presence in us. Hallelujah! Amen!