



We often think of Christianity as loving, merciful, and kind. Therefore, Christians should always be at peace and not at war. But I want to be upfront with you, we are in Spiritual Warfare everyday. While we're still on earth, we will always be in spiritual warfare. Some days, they're preparing their weapons, getting more armories, and planning new strategies. But some days, they will be in attack mode because the enemies are at large and they're harming the civilians or soldiers. So this is our reality: We are at war and we have to be prepared.

WHAT'S OUR BATTLE PLAN?

Be Strong in the Lord

Ephesians 6:10 - "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power (NIV)." Being strong is not an option, it is a command. It is not a feeling. No matter how discouraged you are, God says, "Be strong!" During the time of Joshua, the disciple of Moses, God said to him in. Of course, experiences and education can give us advantage in life to achieve success. But Joshua's advantage is only his strength. If Joshua won the battles because the Lord was WITH HIM, the more that you should not be afraid because THE LORD IS IN YOU.

The God of the universe lives inside of me. I am the Temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19)." Folks, satan knows when you come to him with courage or not. Let me give you an illustration. In an actual fight, your enemy will try to gauge if you're afraid or not. If you're afraid, then you already lost even before the fight starts.

1 Samuel 17:45- - "David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. (NIV)!"

Fight the Right Battles

Ephesians 6:12 - "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (NIV)." Let us go back to David. Before David faced Goliath, David has to face his brothers. The brothers are cowards. They don't want to fight Goliath so they're picking a fight against David. They're fighting with David so that he'll get distracted and lose his anointing and stop him from fighting Goliath. Brethren, when we're fighting with people, our anointing diminishes. God didn't anoint us to fight with people but the spirit behind them.

If you fight people, you don't have time to fight the devil. So if there are people in your previous church that you don't like, if there are people who are always putting you down either at work or in the church, if there are people who are slandering you, silence them with the truth, rebuke them strongly with the word of God (Titus 1:15-16), and forget about them.

Withstand the Evil Day

Ephesians 6:11 - "Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes (NIV)."

The devil's scheme against us is to use the evil day to turn us into an evil person. Why did I say that? In NIV 1984 version it says, "Therefore, take up the whole armor of God that you maybe able to withstand in the evil day and having done all to stand." Paul is saying to us here that in spiritual realm there is a day that is called evil day. Things don't go right. The spiritual armor is not to prevent the evil day but to prevent us from becoming an evil person. God didn't give us spiritual armor to stop the devil from attacking us. God gave us spiritual armor to protect us.

What's the full armor of God?

BELT OF TRUTH.

Truth simply means honesty. A person can only be free according to his ability to be truthful. The only way to defeat satan is to be truthful and honest about your struggles in life. A person can never be free if he's not honest. John 8:31-32 - "31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (NIV)."

BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

We should keep our integrity by doing what is right. Integrity is what you do, who you are, when no one is watching. It is so easy that when life gets tough, to start cutting corners. If you want to be protected from the devil, keep your integrity.

SHOES OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

Peace is unnatural on evil days. Do you know what happens when we don't have peace? We can't sleep. We can't work. We can't rest. We become anxious.

SHIELD OF FAITH

We have to act knowing God's word is true. The Roman shield was called a *SCUTUM*. This type of shield was as large as a door and would cover the warrior entirely. Such a shield was not just defensive but could also be used to push the enemies.

This was especially helpful to protect against arrows launched from the walls of cities they were attacking. Shields, often made of wood and then covered in hide, when wet, could extinguish flaming arrows. The devil will always attack us with doubts, fears, and accusations. This is why we should block all these negativities with the SHIELD OF FAITH.

Faith is a protective barrier between us and the schemes of Satan. When we believe God and take Him at His word, we remain grounded in truth, the lies of the enemy lose their power, and we become overcomers.

HELMET OF SALVATION

SALVATION Put on the helmet of salvation and take off the hat of condemnation. This means that you have to live your life believing in your heart and mind, "I'm going to heaven because of Jesus."

Everything that you worry about on earth will come to an end. But if you believe that you're saved, you're going to heaven, it changes a lot of perspective. Jesus said in Luke 10:20, "However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven (NIV)." When you're discouraged, remember that your citizenship is in heaven. When you're depressed, remember that you're a child of the living God. Life on earth is short term. But life in heaven will be forever.



- 1.) What is the effect to you of the awareness that we are in a constant battle?
 - 2.) Share some of your battles?
 - 3.) . What battle plan do you have for your life ?
- Pray for each other in your group.**