

The WHOLE Armor of God

[Eph 6:11-13 ESV] 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

I. Intro

- A. The WHOLE or FULL Armor of God, is a statement of:
 - 1. Completion
 - 2. Fulfillment
 - 3. Sufficiency
- B. He has given us enough, and Has given us everything
- C. What we face, we face with the fullness of what is necessary to accomplish the task.

II. Text

- A. Verse 11
 - 1. The whole armor:
 - a) Whole: panoplia: all weapons
 - b) This is a huge statement, and reminder that God is not giving us just enough, but everything necessary
 - 2. For a purpose: STAND AGAINST THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL
- B. Verse 12
 - 1. The fight you face is not against flesh and blood
 - 2. The armor we have is also not physical
 - 3. It is armor fit for the real battle:
 - a) Rulers and authorities over this present darkness
 - b) And spiritual forces in the heavenly realm
 - 4. Our battle is real, and it is spiritual
- C. Verse 13
 - 1. Ultimate result of walking in the full armor: standing firm in a world without the ability to stand firm.
 - 2. We will look different, fight different, and stand strong in the battle

III. Points

- A. Able to Stand
 - 1. You've got to stand for something or you'll fall for anything. Aaron Tippin, 1991
 - 2. Standing up for what is right will sometimes cause you to stand alone, but alone you shall stand.
 - 3. You are able to stand alone, but it is better to stand together with like minded people who are also trusting God for everything
 - 4. Daniel 3: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
 - a) They stood against what was clearly against the plan of God
 - b) And they believed God to be ENOUGH
 - c) And God delivered them...HE WAS AND IS ENOUGH
 - 5. You are able to stand, because you have been given the WHOLE armor of God
- B. Wrestling for Real
 - 1. Make no mistake, the battle is real and raging
 - 2. We are really wrestling, but know this...the more you wrestle in the flesh, the less impact you will make of the real problem.
 - 3. As a believer today, we wrestle with problems in our world that seem to be problems in the physical realm, that need a physical solution.
 - 4. The reality is, the problem is in the spiritual realm, bleeds over to the physical, but cannot be won there.
 - a) WRESTLE IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM
 - b) IT IS THE PLACE YOU ARE EQUIPPED FOR.

5. When you Wrestle in the physical world, you will get beat up
 6. Elijah and the Prophets of Baal...
 - a) 1 Kings 18:20-40
 - b) The sheer number of prophets of Baal could have overpowered Elijah physically, but he challenged them to a spiritual battle
 - c) They used all the power available to them, and came up empty
 - d) Elijah prayed to God and fire came down from heaven.
- C. Having Done All
1. What does it mean "Having Done All"?
 - a) Having done everything
 - b) Having done it all...
 - c) ALL WHAT?
 2. This is where you come in to the story...
 - a) You must DO something
 - b) But its not fight the physical fight, so what is it?
 3. Spiritual Battles are won in the Spiritual LIFE
 - a) You have a life in the SPIRIT
 - b) You have the truth of God
 - c) You have the direction and plan of God
 - d) You are to DO SOMETHING...
 4. We fight:
 - a) On our knees in prayer
 - b) Resisting the attacks on our mind through study and truth
 - c) Reminding the enemy of his limited power
 5. [Jas 4:1-10 ESV] 1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. 4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? 6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

IV. Close

- A. Oswald Chambers quotes:
 1. Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.
 2. Prayer is not an exercise, it is the life.
 3. Prayer is the battle; it is a matter of indifference where you are. Whichever way God engineers circumstances, the duty is to pray. Never allow the thought — "I am of no use where I am"; because you certainly can be of no use where you are not. Wherever God has dumped you down in circumstances, pray to Him all the time.
- B. We are doing battle in the Spiritual realm, with the armor of the Spiritual Realm, and the KING OF KINGS on our side!