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### The Christian's Armour for the Battle

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## THE CHRISTIAN'S ARMOUR FOR THE BATTLE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS  
NUMBER 69  
EPHESIANS 6:10-11

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EPHESIANS 6:10-11 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

I suppose the people in Ephesus were like the people of Immanuel are today, they rejoiced greatly when they heard Paul say, "Finally, my brethren."

### Paul's Roman Training

The Apostle Paul was a Jew and he came from Tarsus, a university town. It held a strategic place in the plans and program of the Roman army in keeping the peace of the world. Paul moved from Tarsus to Jerusalem where he received a complete Jewish education and he became a Pharisee and a ruler among the Jews. Paul possessed Roman citizenship. Paul was born a Roman citizen even though he was a Jew. As a Roman citizen Paul was very patriotic. He believed in patriotism and this was a vital part of the Christian's life. Since Paul was under Caesar, who was the head of the Roman government, he believed in being loyal to Caesar and the government. Paul never served in a military capacity but his contacts with the military were many.

### Rome's Military Strength

Because of the fantastic organization and strength of the Roman military, there was the "Pax Romana," the Roman peace. There was great respect for the military in Paul's day and the military maintained peace and order throughout the entire empire. The Roman army also protected the people against the Barbarians from the outside and held a strong line of defense against the Rhine and the Danube, holding back the Mongolians. The Roman army had known so much success that God was able to use their power as one of the main forces for preparing the right time for Jesus Christ to come into the world. They were used, so to speak, to help produce the atmosphere of "The fullness of time." Law and order and military effectiveness helped produce "The fullness of time." For a man to be described in the Bible as a centurion meant that he was a man of great ability, poise, character and leadership.

Paul understood the ability of the Roman soldier, for it was a Roman officer who delivered him from the mob in Ephesus. It was a Roman soldier who saved Paul's life when the mob tried to kill him in the temple area in Jerusalem. It was the Roman soldier who took Paul out of an angry Jerusalem and by night marched him out of the city and delivered him safely to Caesarea. It was a Roman soldier who escorted Paul on that long journey from Caesarea to Rome.

### The Praetorian Guard

The Praetorian Guard represented everything that was famous in Roman history and Roman achievement. This was probably the best trained military establishment in the history of the world. The Praetorian Guard was composed only of commissioned officers. The lowest was the centurion, and the one above him who was in command of a thousand men was called a Chiliarch. They had the most rigid training and were disciplined in every way. No man could serve as Emperor of the Roman empire unless he had the backing of the Praetorian Guard. This was true of Nero, who was the emperor at the time of Paul's imprisonment in Rome. His family was one of the most famous in Roman history, but in later life, Nero turned into a monster.



From The Prison House

Paul wrote this Ephesian message from his house arrest in Rome and in this passage, Paul used many military terms. He spoke about the helmet of salvation. The Roman helmet was the most impressive in all the world. The Praetorian Guard wore golden helmets with a red tassel. Probably Paul was looking at one of these Roman guards, a young Roman officer, as he wrote this passage here in Ephesians 6. No doubt Paul witnessed to many of these guards and many of them became believers and helped carry the gospel message to the world. It was in this military situation where Paul wrote his greatest messages.

Look At Paul's Military Language

2 TIMOTHY 2:3-4 "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." This is about the selection and training of military recruits.

GALATIANS 6:17 "From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." This is a very interesting figure as he speaks of bearing about in his body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Paul was very proud of those marks. When a Roman soldier had completed his training, they marched him out in a ceremony and he was struck across the hand with a hot branding iron and he would carry to his grave this mark of distinction of which he would always be proud. This was the highest honor that could come to any military man of the Roman Empire.

COLOSSIANS 2:5 "For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ." Here Paul referred to setting up a military perimeter.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:23 "But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming." Here is the famous passage in Corinthians where Paul described the resurrection in military terms of passing in review as a battalion. It is translated "each in his own order" and the Greek says, "each in his own battalion." In his resurrection, Christ was the firstfruits, he was the first battalion to have passed the reviewing stand. Then the Church Age saints will be next. The next battalion will be the Old Testament saints, and then the last battalion will be the Millennial saints.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:8 "For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?" Here Paul describes military commands as given by a trumpet. The uncertain sound is the sound of unknown tongues or false doctrine. The tongues movement has always given an uncertain sound.

GALATIANS 1:6 "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:" Here Paul described believers out of fellowship as having gone AWOL from the gospel.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Here Paul used information about the guard mount. This is a description of the peace which passes all understanding.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:14-16 "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?" This is a beautiful picture of the victorious procession of the believers.

Here in Ephesians 6 we have the most concentrated use of military terms of all the writings of Paul. Here in verses 10-12 Paul uses the military principle of THE ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION. This is a military term. No army ever moves into a battle without first making an estimate of the situation so they will know something of the opposition they must face. They must know all the facts about the strength of the enemy if they are going to adequately prepare themselves for the battle. There must be a reconnaissance report so the military staff can plan for the invasion of enemy territory. Every single military undertaking that is successful must first have an accurate estimate of enemy strength so the proper preparation can be made for the attack. (As an illustration of neglect of the "estimate of the situation," Robert E. Lee lost the three-day battle of Gettysburg.)

Therefore in this material, Paul asks a question--Who is our enemy in the Angelic Conflict? What kind of battle does he wage? Over what kind of terrain does he fight? What supporting units does the enemy have? Paul knew that we were in the Angelic Conflict and he knew every believer was a part of the battle.

EPHESIANS 6:10 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." "Finally" comes from "to loipon" and it means "now to get down to the final attack." "Be strong" is a present, passive, imperative of "endunamoo" and it means inner strength, it means inner moral courage. So these words "be strong" really mean "keep on every day receiving inner strength." Every decisive battle in all of history has required great moral courage. This moral courage is received by the believer on the basis of grace. Christians are commanded here to receive this moral courage. Now what does it mean to you and to me to receive this moral courage in the midst of the Angelic Conflict? Now this will be a shock to some of you, but it means nothing less than the inhale of Bible doctrine every single day. There is no other way to be strong as a Christian. Great moral courage is the divine viewpoint of life.

Turn for a moment to 2 Corinthians 10

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3 "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:" This is not a physical battle we are waging, but this is spiritual warfare.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4 "(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)" Our weapons are the strength of the Word of God.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:5 "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;"

"Casting down imaginations" refers to mental attitude sins, anything that puts you off balance. Every thought must be captured by Christ. Our greatest weapons are the weapons of thought. (We always hear about "doing something" when the major emphasis should be on "thinking something" and "being something.")

#### Now back to our Ephesian passage

"In the Lord" identifies the source of our strength. "In the power" is from "kratos" in the instrumental case and it means self-discipline. "Kratos" is something you have in order to be strong morally and that something is self-discipline. "Of his might" is a genitive of "ischus" and this means endowed power. By means of self-discipline, we will put on the whole armour of God, but there must be a source of everything, and that source is "his might." The Lord has endowed power and this is the power on which we operate. This, therefore, is the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives. This is the only life that really pleases God.

#### The Resources Available

EPHESIANS 6:11 "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Here Paul outlines the resources that are available to us as Christians. "Put on" is an aorist, middle, imperative of "enduo." This means that there comes a time when you pick up your equipment with which you wage the warfare. The middle voice means that you are greatly benefited by doing this. The words "whole armour" are from "panoplia" and it refers to your spiritual military equipment.

In the Roman system, they had three groups of fighters. They had the "hastati" and these were the young recruits. They were in training and they were trusted with only one weapon, namely a javelin. (The "hastati" represents the young believer who doesn't know much doctrine. He is in the learning stage.)

The second group was called the "princeps" and these were the stronger soldiers. (These represent the stronger Christians who are in the process of learning doctrine and are building an edification complex.)

The third group of Roman soldiers are called "triari" and these are the veterans, the real trained soldiers. They carry the major part of the battle and these represent the mature, seasoned Christians.

Please notice that Paul said, "The whole armour of God--but it really is "from God." God provided the armour.

In our next study we will see how to win the battle with our spiritual equipment.