

Living in Grace

Armor Up – Ephesians 6:10-20

Be Alert

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the... powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”
Ephesians 6:10-12

Every day, we’re engaged in a _____.

Stand Firm

“Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground...”
Ephesians 6:13

Belt of _____

Breastplate of _____

Shoes of the Gospel of _____

Shield of _____

Helmet of _____

If we don’t take our thoughts captive,
our thoughts will take us captive.

Sword of the _____

Pray First

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”
Ephesians 6:18

Prayer is often our last resort but must become our
_____.

Go a little deeper:
Live No Lies by John Mark Comer

Living in Grace: Armor Up

Questions based on sermon from November 12, 2023

Getting to Know Me –

1. What is the scariest movie you have seen that left a lasting impression?
2. When was a time you were confronted with the reality of our daily spiritual battle? What happened and how did you react?

Digging Deeper

3. What new insight or information did you learn from hearing Pastor Phil's sermon this Sunday?
4. As you read Ephesians 6:10-13, consider: How does being aware that our battle is not against people and circumstances, but a spiritual battle help put your trials into proper perspective?
5. Read Ephesians 6:14-17. When you think of getting ready to do battle or face a difficult situation, how do you usually prepare?
6. Paul mentions the word "stand" four times in this passage (vv. 11, 13-14). What does Paul say we must do to "stand" our ground?
7. Read Hebrews 4:12. How is the sword of the Spirit – knowing God's Word – a defense against the attacks of the enemy? What steps can you take to better know and wield this sword?

8. Read Ephesians 6:18-20. How can you use prayer as your first defense against evil? In v. 18, who are we told to pray for and how often? Can you describe a time where you know prayer helped you or someone you know overcome a difficult battle?
9. Though prayer isn't assigned a piece of armor, it is something we're commanded to do constantly - especially in the spiritual battles we face. What is prayer's relation to the other pieces of armor?
10. How are we sometimes tempted to use prayer as a last resort? How can we begin to make prayer our first defense instead?

Where Do I Go from Here?

11. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. How does knowing you have received the righteousness of God help you stand firm in your faith?
12. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 and James 4:7. What does it look like, practically speaking, to take your thoughts captive, resist the devil and draw near to God?
13. Take time this week to practice taking your thoughts captive. Become aware of the attacks and negative thoughts, and celebrate your victories as you make those thoughts obedient to Christ.

Prayer

Father God, we thank you for your Word that instructs us and gives us powerful weapons to be victorious in spiritual battle. Help us to remember to pray continually for victory over our enemy. May we strive to take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ. Remind us daily of the righteousness you imparted to us at salvation. We are so grateful of your love and grace. Amen.

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Belt of Truth

Breastplate of Righteousness

Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

Shield of Faith

Helmet of Salvation

If we don’t take our thoughts captive,
our thoughts will take us captive.

Sword of the Spirit

Pray First

*“And **pray in the Spirit on all occasions** with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”*
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