

Theme: Through Christ and the Gospel God has equipped us with everything we need for spiritual warfare as we draw our strength from Him.

## I. Intro - Secretary of Defense Mattis

- A. Distinguished USMC war vet General; now SecDef
- B. Many colorful quotes/threats to enemies
- C. "Who keeps you awake at night" "I keep them awake"
- D. Spent whole adult life studying war relentlessly - became fearsome leader in war, equipped for battle
- E. How are we equipped for spiritual warfare?

## II. Review - Understanding Spiritual Warfare

- A. Spiritual warfare is Satan's ongoing war against God, His purposes, and His people, and every Christian and church is part of this warfare.
- B. This is not just a metaphor - there is a real spiritual conflict which effects every believer and local church
- C. It is disastrous for Christians to live like practical atheists - trying to handle spiritual attacks with worldly, fleshly weapons
- D. We must engage in this warfare as individuals families, and with other believers

## III. Equipped for Spiritual Warfare

- A. Our strength for spiritual warfare comes from God  
Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.  
Ephesians 6:10
  - 1. This is spiritual warfare, we need spiritual strength
  - 2. Our strength for spiritual warfare is found in the Lord

- 3. There is no way to be spiritually strong and prepared for spiritual warfare apart from a vibrant, consistent, close walk with Jesus
- 4. Because spiritual warfare is an ever present possibility, the time to prepare is now! We prepare for tomorrows war by walking with Jesus today.

- B. God has given spiritual armor to equip us for spiritual warfare

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:11-13

- 1. Commanded twice to put on the armor of God
- 2. So that, for, therefore, so that - you need spiritual armor because you are in a spiritual war
- 3. We need not fear spiritual warfare because God has equipped us with armor for our war

## IV. Equipped With the Armor of God

- A. Don't try to press the analogies too far  
Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, Ephesians 6:14  
  
But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 1 Thessalonians 5:8

**Righteousness will be his belt** and faithfulness the sash around his waist. Isaiah 11:5

1. Two different things called breastplate in these passages
2. Righteousness is breastplate in Ephesians, but belt in Isaiah
3. This is an analogy - don't press too far

B. The armor we are given is the armor of God

Put on the full armor of God ... <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God... Ephesians 6:11, 13

1. This is armor provided by God, not us
2. We can not do spiritual warfare in our own strength, nor by using our own abilities - we must find strength and resources in God
3. This is the armor God Himself wore in battle

The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice. <sup>16</sup> He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. <sup>17</sup> **He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head**; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak. Isaiah 59:15–17

- a. God wrapped Himself in armor to do battle
- b. We are given the very armor of God for battle

C. The armor is first and foremost what we are given in Christ through the Gospel

Stand firm then, with the belt of **truth** buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of **righteousness** in

place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the **readiness that comes from the gospel of peace**. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of **faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of **salvation** and the sword of the Spirit, which is **the word of God**. Ephesians 6:14–17

1. Is this my truth and righteousness - or that given by God?
2. Is it the strength of my faith that is in view - or is it simple faith that lays ahold of God's promises?
3. The primary focus here is on God and the gifts He gives us in the Gospel - truth, righteousness, readiness, salvation, and God's Word of promise
  - a. It is the armor of God - He wore His own righteousness, and He gives that to us in Christ
  - b. Clearly salvation and the Word come from God, not us - and the same is true of all others
  - c. Gospel is message of God's salvation given to us!  
How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Isaiah 52:7
4. When doing warfare against Satan's accusations and temptations, what I need is God's truth and righteousness, the riches of the Gospel, the faith once for all delivered to the saints, and God's Word of promise - and I have been given all of this in Christ! This is my spiritual armor for battle.
5. This battle takes place in the heavenly realms - where we have been given every blessing in Christ and are seated with Him!

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**.  
Ephesians 6:12

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ**. Eph 1:3

which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and **seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms**, Ephesians 1:20

And God raised us up with Christ and **seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus**, Ephesians 2:6

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,  
Ephesians 3:10

6. God has exalted Jesus to His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rulers and powers, and He has raised and seated us with Christ in the heavenly realms, given us every blessing so that we might be equipped for battle, and as we take up His armor and do spiritual warfare, His wisdom is displayed through the church to the forces of evil in the heavenly realms as they are vanquished by Christ through His people. This is spiritual warfare - and it is the privilege and call of every believer in Christ!

- D. Taking up the armor of God for our spiritual warfare  
**Put on** the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having **fastened on** the belt of truth, and having **put on** the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and, as shoes for your feet, having **put on** the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In all circumstances **take up** the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup> and **take** the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, Eph 6:11–17 ESV

1. The main verb in the passage is stand - we will look at that next week
2. Notice commands to put on, take up, fasten, etc
3. God has given the armor to us by grace, but we must take it up and put it on - and we do this as we preach the Gospel to ourselves daily
4. As we daily walk with God, preaching the Gospel to ourselves, drawing strength from Him, we become equipped for warfare, clothed in the armor of God, able to withstand Satan's fiery arrows of accusation, temptation, and assault, and able to help others withstand the forces of evil as well.

## V. Applying the Word

### A. Be encouraged regarding our spiritual warfare!

1. We are engaged in spiritual warfare - but we should not fear or be discouraged
2. The battle belongs to the Lord - and He is mighty
3. He says be strong and courageous; He is with us  
Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9
4. God has equipped us with everything needed for battle, and He Himself goes with us to battle

### B. Am I equipped for spiritual warfare?

1. Only in Christ are we equipped - do you know Him?
2. As a believer, we have been given every spiritual resource needed for warfare!
3. Am I growing strong in God, or is my walk withering?
4. Am I taking in God’s Word & talking with Him daily?
5. Am I walking closely with other believers who will speak the Gospel to me regularly and help me find strength in God?
6. Am I preaching the Gospel to myself daily?
7. When Satan attacks, do I turn to the Gospel and Word of God, or to my own resources?

## C. The Table of the Lord

1. At this Table we commune with God and receive strength
2. Here we are fed in the presence of our enemies
3. Here we hear and receive the Gospel anew, and are strengthened for battle
4. Come and receive strength from God

### Equipped for Spiritual Warfare

Ephesians 6:10-20

July 16, 2017

Communion

Genesis 12:2-3

Teaching keywords: spiritual warfare; Gospel; word of God; prayer; Satan and demons; Christian life

I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. Gen 12:2–3

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.  
<sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> 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.  
<sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> 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 saints. <sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. Ephesians 6:10–20