

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

(EPHESIANS 6:10-18)

A BIBLE STUDY

By Rev. Ernest A. Baker, Sr.

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SPIRITUAL WARFARE

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BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

All Scripture for this study is taken from the New American Standard Bible

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SPIRITUAL WARFARE

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Are you trying to cope with, and make sense of the spiritual onslaught of challenges in your life? For the Christian, our God has given us an explanation of the source of such challenges and the “Spiritual Armor” to address it (Ephesians 6:10-17). Consider the following list of the Divine “armor” given us, and their practical meaning for our use in this “warfare”:

The “Belt of Truth” (Ephesians 6:14)

- i.e. “Stand firm having replaced my perspective on this life with the Biblical perspective on this life.”

The “Breastplate of Righteousness” (Ephesians 6:14)

- i.e. “Stand firm having exercised holiness in thought, word, and deed.”

The “Shoes of the Gospel” (Ephesians 6:15)

- i.e. “Stand firm having established the Gospel as my worldview.”

The “Shield of Faith” (Ephesians 6:16)

- i.e. “Be convicted regarding the truths of God’s Word in order to dispel all doubt.”

The “Helmet of Salvation” (Ephesians 6:17)

- i.e. “Protect my mind by reflecting on the security of my salvation.”

The “Sword of the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:17)

- i.e. “Speak the Holy Scriptures of God in response to any form of temptation and attack from the Enemy.”

In this study we will explore the dynamics, details, and “players” that comprise this “Spiritual War” we as Christians find ourselves fully engaged. We will also study the Scriptural text and related sources that undergird the practical definitions of this list of Divine Armor. I pray our Lord’s favor upon you and clarity from the Holy Spirit’s instruction as you embark upon this study of one of the most important themes of Scripture for the Believer.

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Part One

Components of Spiritual Warfare: An Introduction (Ephesians 6:10-13)

Spiritual Warfare is a very real and formidable presence in the Christian's life, hence the need to establish somewhat of a construct by which we can proceed with the duration of this study that addresses primarily the "Divine Armor" we have to use for this warfare. The Scripture informs us that the purpose of the Armor is to enable us to "...stand firm against the schemes of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11).

I. Introduction

A. Who is the "Devil" (Ephesians 6:11)

1. Devil (Gk. *diabolos*) - slanderer; false accuser. The word "devil" in this text is translated from the Greek word "diabolos" which is a combination of two words: "did" (a crack or entry way) and "ballo" (to throw; thrust; cast). In the very word "devil" we see his method of operation in advancing his slanderous "schemes" against us; namely, he thrusts and throws (i.e. "ballo") until he gets a crack or entry way (i.e. "dia) into our hearts and minds.
2. The Devil According to the Scriptures:
 - Is "*the anointed cherub*" (Ezekiel 28:14)
 - Is "*the ruler of the demons*" (Luke 11:15)
 - Is "*the god of this world*" (2 Corinthians 4:4)
 - Is "*prince of the power of the air*" (Ephesians 2:2)
 - The "*whole world lies in his power*" (1 John 5:19)
 - Is "*the ruler of this world*" (John 12:30)

The following list of words provides a framework to assist us in comprehending the scope of Spiritual Warfare as best as humanly possible. These are "tag words" that will help us grasp and quickly recall the components of Spiritual Warfare in the midst of "battle":

II. Components of Spiritual Warfare (Ephesians 6:10-13)

A. Strength (vs. 10)

1. I.e. might; power; ability.
2. This "power" is of Almighty God; it is not our own.

B. Sobriety (vs. 11)

1. I.e. clarity of mind is critical in this warfare.
 - *"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."*
(1 Peter 5:8)

C. Strategy (vs. 11)

1. I.e. managing and planning. Implies preemptive effort on our part in order to *"...stand firm against the schemes of the devil"*. Since he is crafty and methodical in his tactics, we should also be in ours'.

D. Spiritual (vs. 12)

1. I.e. "mental". It is a war that primarily affects our minds either unto holiness or sinfulness.
2. This warfare is NOT against "flesh and blood"; i.e. not against human beings.
3. This warfare is advanced and facilitated by the "Satanic Regime":
 - **Rulers** ("*principalities*" in KJV) - demons given dominion as perhaps "first" officers in terms of rank.
 - **Powers** - (Gk. *exousia*) i.e. "authority". Demons given authority to act and carry the "strategies" of the devil.
 - **World Forces of This Darkness** ("*rulers of the darkness of this world*" in KJV). The English words "world forces" used here are translated from the Greek word "*kosmokrator*", which is a combination of the words "world" and "strong ruler". This carries the idea of a strong ruthless dictator. These "world forces" are said to operate in and with "darkness". This implies that the devil through this category of demons, "strong arms" those who are ill-equipped for warfare by using darkness; which in Scripture generally refers to ignorance and obscurity

regarding the things of God. "...if our gospel is veiled ("hid"), it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)

- **Spiritual Wickedness in Heavenly Places** - ("high places" in KJV) These are demons who have the responsibility of promoting and sustaining an atmosphere of wickedness within the spirit realm, that permeates the lives and affairs of humanity, by appealing to its fallen nature through such a wicked and profane atmosphere and climate.

E. Stamina (vs. 13)

1. Resistance to fatigue, illness, hardship, etc; endurance. (Webster)
2. I.e. "stand" in spite of the spiritual exhaustion produced in this warfare. We **MUST** endure the ruthless efforts of the devil and his regime of demons.

III. Greater Is He Who Is In Us

"You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." (1 John 4:4)

A. Greater

1. Greek - "*megas*" i.e. big, high, large, loud, mighty, strong, etc... We get our English word "mega" from this word.
2. Describes the inability to even compare to "He who is in us"!

B. He Is "IN" Us

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you." (John 14:16-17)

STUDY/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What scriptural passages are used for the Biblical foundation for this study on Spiritual Warfare?
2. Define the word "devil" and discuss the significance of the Greek word "diabolos" from which it is translated.

List three other names/titles for the devil in the Bible. Give their scriptural locations.

- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

List and discuss the five "tag" words for the components of Spiritual Warfare

- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

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Part Two: The "Belt of Truth" (Ephesians 6:14)

As we have established in Part One of this study, we as Christians are fully engaged in a spiritual war that is facilitated by the devil and his satanic regime of demons. We also considered five "tag words" (i.e. *Strength, Sobriety, Strategy, Spiritual, Stamina*) to help our perception and understanding of the magnitude and nuances of this grueling war. We are instructed by the Scriptures to "*stand firm therefore, having girded (our) loins in truth...*" (Ephesians 6:14) as we endeavor to resist the enemy and his relentless efforts against us.

It is this "**Belt of Truth**" that we see presented as the first piece of Divine Armor, and is therefore the emphasis of this part of our study. The word "*having*" in this Scripture text implies that this is a piece of Divine Armor that is necessary in the area of preparation for spiritual battle. It is the first of three pieces of Divine Armor that can be considered as "preparatory pieces", critical to the logistical/tactical engagement of spiritual battle as well as the use of the other pieces of Divine Armor.

I. Introduction

A. Scriptural Context

1. The Apostle Paul is the author (i.e. "penman") of the book/letter to the Ephesians
 - Written from a Roman jail (Cp. Acts 28:16-31)
 - It is quite probable that he (i.e. Paul) was looking at a Roman guard/soldier while under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the writing of this Scriptural passage here in the 6th chapter of Ephesians.
 - Due to the somewhat long robe-like garments Roman soldiers wore, it was necessary to put on a "belt" or i.e. "gird up their

loins" when preparing for battle so that the garment would not hinder mobility. Also, it was common for the "sword" to hang from this belt as well. We therefore, must "pull it together" with "truth" as we prepare daily for battle!

II. The "Belt of Truth" (Ephesians 6:14)

A. Words Defined

1. **Truth** (i.e. "true") - in accordance with fact; that which agrees with reality. (Webster)
 - *"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth"* (John 17:17)
 - Ultimately the "truth" is the Word of Almighty God; all that it says as well as all things that are affirmed by it. It is the standard and foundation for and of all truth. The origin and source of that which is real and factual rests with God alone! (Cp. Job 5:9; 11:7; 41:11; Isaiah 40:13; Romans 11:33-36; 1 Corinthians 2:16; Colossians 2:3).
2. **Perspective** - a specific point of view in understanding or judging things or events, especially one that shows them in their "true" relations to one another. The ability to see things in a "true" relationship. (Webster)

B. Practical Definition For The "Belt of Truth"

1. *"Stand firm having replaced my perspective on this life with the Biblical perspective on this life."*
2. I.e. in order to effectively engage and resist the enemy in this war, we must be prepared with hearts and minds that have a Biblical perspective on this life.
 - This is very important because the devil is the "god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4) in which we live; and is the "father of lies" (John 8:44) as opposed to a supporter of "truth".

C. Examples of How to Practically Use The "Truth Belt"

As established, the "truth" is the Word of God-the Bible. Our minds must be brought under subjection to Biblical writ as the enemy attacks us with slander and false accusations, while also attempting to create obscurity (i.e. "darkness") regarding the things of God and our relationship with Him in this life. Consider the following "Truth Belt" usages as examples:

1. Perspective on our relationship with the Father.
 - He is ALWAYS with us! (John 14:16-17)
2. Perspective on wealth (Matthew 6:25-34)
 - *"...the worry of this world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful."* (Matthew 13:22)
3. Perspective on ill-treatment from others
 - Forgiveness (Matthew 6:14-15)
 - The world "hates" the Christian (John 15:18-19)
4. Perspective on death (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
 - *"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones."* I.e. "saints"
(Psalm 116:15)
5. Perspective on the sanctity of life (Psalm 139:13-14)
 - *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."* (John 10:10)

STUDY/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Define the word "truth".
2. Define the word "perspective".
3. Where was the Apostle Paul when he was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write the letter/book of Ephesians?
4. What was it about the location of the Apostle Paul's writing of Ephesians that could have influenced his usage of certain pieces of armor to describe and illustrate spiritual warfare?
5. What is the practical definition for the "Belt of Truth"? Explain/discuss the relevance and role of the Bible in this practical definition.

List and discuss the five examples of how to use the "Truth Belt" presented in this study:

- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

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Part Three: The "Breastplate of Righteousness" (Ephesians 6:14)

The "Breastplate of Righteousness" is the second piece of Divine armor listed in this scripture text, and the second of what we have labeled "preparatory pieces". As mentioned regarding the "Belt of Truth", the "Breastplate of Righteousness" is also associated with the word "having", implying its preparatory place in this warfare. "Righteousness" in this context is a reference to practical holiness. Although by virtue of the fact that we as Christians are declared positionally "righteous" in view of Jesus' blood that was shed on our behalf (Cp. Romans 5:17-21), we still have the imperative responsibility to demonstrate righteousness through practical holiness (Cp. Romans 6:12-13; 1 Peter 1:14-16). Consider the following outline:

I. Introduction

A. Scriptural Context (Ephesians 6:14)

1. "Breastplate" is translated from the Greek word "*thorax*", from which we get our English words "*thorax*" and "*thoracic*"; which is a reference to the chest cavity that houses and protects the heart and other vital organs of the human anatomy.
2. The breastplate of Roman soldiers was normally made of leather overlaid with metal, for the purpose of protecting the chest and torso areas of the body.

B. The Spiritual "Vital Organs" of the Christian

1. A reference to the "*heart*" and "*soul*"... i.e. the "YOU"
 - **Heart** - the seat of consciousness, thought, volition, inner-being, attitude and understanding. It is comprised of:
 - a) "affections" b) emotions c) will.

- **Soul** - the sum total of one's entire life, which is comprised of: personality, time, experiences, worldview, relationships, etc...
- The most significant responsibility given to humanity is to love the Lord God with **ALL** of our heart and soul (i.e. the "**Great Commandment**"; Cp. Mark 12:30), which is the reason the devil endeavors to permeate this area of our being; which is all the more a reason to be intentional in protecting it with the "Breastplate of Righteousness"!
- Such "practical righteousness" is displayed through the Christian's **thoughts, words, and deeds.**

C. Practical Definition for the "Breastplate of Righteousness"

1. *"Stand firm having exercised holiness in thought, word, and deed."*

II. The Breastplate of Righteousness: "What it Looks Like"

A. Holiness in "*Thought*"

Philippians 4:8-9 (NASB)

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

⁹ The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

1. We must prepare our minds daily with "holy" thoughts in order to protect our hearts and souls in this "Spiritual Warfare"
2. *"Sow a thought, reap an act. Sow an act, reap a habit. Sow a habit, reap a character. Sow a character, reap a destiny."* It all begins with a "thought"!

B. Holiness in "*Word*"

Ephesians 4:29 (NASB)

²⁹ Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such *a word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

1. The words we speak conversationally and otherwise are germane to the vitality of our righteousness, as they are the product of our thoughts, and subsequently important in the protection of our hearts and souls in this "Spiritual Warfare".

C. Holiness in "Deed"

1 Peter 1:14-16 (NASB)

¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance,

¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior;

¹⁶ because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

1. Holy "deeds" are also important in our preparation for this "Spiritual Warfare". Holy deeds as opposed to "unholy deeds" (Cp. 1 Corinthians 6:14-18; Galatians 5:16-17; etc...).

STUDY/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Define and discuss the word "Breastplate"
2. Discuss the relevance of the breastplate as a "preparatory piece" of Divine armor.
3. Describe the material of the breastplate of the Roman soldiers of the 1st century.
4. Define the word "heart" in the context of this study.
5. Define the word "soul" in the context of this study.
6. What is the practical definition of the "Breastplate of Righteousness"?
7. Discuss the significance of the "heart" and "soul" with regard to humanity's relationship with the Lord God.
8. Explain/discuss the relevance of holy "**thoughts**" regarding the "Breastplate of Righteousness".
9. Explain/discuss the relevance of holy "**words**" regarding the "Breastplate of Righteousness".
10. Explain/discuss the relevance of holy "**deeds**" regarding the "Breastplate of Righteousness".

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Part Four: The "Shoes of the Gospel" (Ephesians 6:15)

This study is an emphasis on the third piece of "Divine Armor" as well as the last of the three "preparatory pieces". As the previous, the "Shoes of the Gospel" are also preceded by the word "*having*", indicating that this is part of the Divine Armor that serves as a foundational and staple item that **MUST** be donned daily when preparing to engage in battle. I believe this piece of Divine Armor poses the toughest interpretive challenge, as the word translated "*preparation*" in both the King James Version (KJV) and the New American Standard Bible (NASB) can be defined in at least two ways in the original Greek language. "*Readiness*" is one such definition, as is rendered in the English Standard Version (ESV) and the New International Version (NIV); however we will explore the other definition in this study that appears to be more consistent with the "warfare" and "armor" theme. Be reminded that the objective of this entire study of Spiritual Warfare is to be able to practically comprehend and apply the Divine Armor provided for us in the text of Ephesians 6:10-18, therefore it is imperative that we endeavor to achieve the same with the "Shoes of the Gospel". To accomplish a clear and attainable practical definition, very key words will be defined and explained in this study. Let's get started!

I. Introduction

A. Previous Preparatory Pieces of Armor

1. The "**Belt of Truth**" - *Stand firm having replaced my perspective on this life with the Biblical perspective on this life.*
2. The "**Breastplate of Righteousness**" - *Stand firm having exercised holiness in thought, word, and deed.*

B. Words Defined

1. **Gospel** - (Gk. *euangelion*) i.e. "good news" or "good message". It is in essence the "*...proclamation of the forgiveness of sins and sonship with God restored through Christ.*" (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia). The following are some Biblical usages of the word "gospel":
 - "Gospel of the Kingdom" (Matthew 4:23; 9:35)
 - "Gospel of God" (Mark 1:14; Romans 1:1; 15:16)
 - "Gospel of His Son" (Romans 1:9)
 - "Gospel of Christ" (2 Corinthians 2:12)
 - "Gospel of your salvation" (Ephesians 1:13)
 - "An eternal gospel" (Revelation 14:6)
 - "**Gospel of peace**" (Ephesians 6:15)
2. **Preparation** - (Gk. *hetoimasia*) i.e. "readiness"; however also defined as a "*prepared foundation*". While both definitions of the word translated here as "preparation" are relevant in the broader idea of Spiritual Warfare, it is the latter that is more consistent with the warfare theme. Roman soldiers customarily wore hobnailed shoes for the purpose of firm footing during battle. "*...let the shoes on your feet be the gospel of peace, to give you firm footing.*" (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries). These Shoes of the Gospel "*... refers to the believer's stability or surefootedness from the gospel which gives him peace so he can stand in the battle.*" (The Bible Knowledge Commentary). Although this piece of Divine Armor is often interpreted in terms of missions and evangelism, contextually and in accordance to the wording used in the original text, it is more likely the "Shoes of the Gospel" is a reference to firm footage in the Word of God i.e. the "gospel".
3. **Worldview** - the framework of ideas and beliefs through which an individual interprets the world and interacts with it; formed generally by our education, upbringing, culture, books, media, etc... (Webster)

C. Practical Definition For The "Shoes of the Gospel"

1. ***"Stand firm having established the gospel as my worldview"***
2. Our responsibility concerning the gospel in this world:
 - Live it out! i.e. The "Great Commandment" (Mark 12:30)
 - Share it! i.e. The "Great Commission" (Matthew 28:19-20)

Now that we have established that the gospel must be our "firm footing" or i.e. worldview in this world, it is also important to explore the "terrain" upon which the "Shoes of the Gospel" must tread. The three areas upon which the gospel must stand firmly planted against are the: ***Flesh, Devil, and World.***

II. The "Terrain" of Spiritual Warfare

A. The "Flesh"

1. The flesh or "inner-man" fights against the Spirit within the Christian.

Galatians 5:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.*

¹⁷ *For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.*

(Cp. Romans 7:14-25)

B. The Devil

1. His objective (John 10:10)
 - To steal
 - To kill
 - To destroy
2. His "schemes" (Ephesians 6:11)
3. His demonic "regime" (Ephesians 6:12)

C. The "World"

John 15:18-19 (NASB)

¹⁸ *"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you.*

¹⁹ *"If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.*

1. **World** (Gk. *kosmos*) - i.e. "orderly arrangement". It is the system of systems controlled by the "god of this world". (Cp. John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:4).
2. Comprised of the (1 John 2:16):
 - "Lust of the flesh"
 - "Lust of the eyes"
 - "Boastful pride of life"
3. The "spirit of the anti-Christ"
 - The "spirit" i.e. "atmosphere" of the world is that of anti-Christ (1 John 4:1-6)
 - The anti-Christ profiled (Revelation 13:1-10)

III. The Gospel of "Peace"

A. In Every Area Of Our Lives

John 14:27 (NASB)

²⁷ *Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.*

1. The "Shoes of the Gospel" i.e. is a worldview firmly planted in the Gospel (i.e. Bible) that provides peace right in the midst of this Spiritual Warfare and its treacherous terrain!

STUDY/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Define the following words from this study:

1. Gospel
2. Preparation
3. Worldview
4. What is the practical definition of the "Shoes of the Gospel"?

What is our twofold responsibility concerning the Gospel in this world?

- 5.
- 6.
7. Explain/discuss the significance and relevance of the 1st century Roman soldiers' shoes to the Spiritual Warfare theme.

What three things comprise the "terrain" of Spiritual Warfare?

- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

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Part Five: The "Shield of Faith" (Ephesians 6:16)

"in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one". (Ephesians 6:16)

We have at this point of our study, completed the "preparatory" pieces of Divine Armor, by establishing their practical meaning and relevance to Spiritual Warfare. In this study we are introduced to the "Shield of Faith" that is to be used to "...extinguish all the flaming arrows..." of the Devil. The words "*in addition to all*" in the NASB and NIV versions of the Holy Bible; and "*above all*" in the KJV, is translated from the Greek word *pas*, which is translated approximately 731 times in our English translations of the Scriptures as "*all*"; 128 times as "*every*"; and 126 times as "*all things*". Therefore, I favor the ESV translation here, which renders: "*in all circumstances*". There is in essence, no time in our lives that we should be interacting in this spiritually hostile world without faith as a "shield" of sorts. As we have with the previous Divine Armor pieces, we will establish what this "Shield of Faith" means to us practically within the context of Spiritual Warfare.

I. Introduction

A. Preparatory Pieces of Divine Armor: "Stand Firm Having..."

1. "Replaced my perspective on this life with the Biblical perspective on this life." (The "*Belt of Truth*")
2. "Exercised holiness in thought, word, and deed." (The "*Breastplate of Righteousness*")
3. "Established the gospel as my worldview" (The "*Shoes of the Gospel*")

B. Words Defined

1. **Shield** (Gk) *thureos* - derivative of another word that is translated "door". I.E. a large "door-shaped" shield.
2. **Faith** - (Gk) *pistis* - trust, belief, assurance, conviction.
 - Conviction - the state of having overcome the doubts of the truth of a belief.
3. **Arrows/"Darts"** (Gk) *belos* - a missile, i.e. spear or arrow. "*Belos*" is from the Greek word *ballo*, which means to throw, thrust, or strike. (See Part One for the relationship to the name *diablos*)
4. **Worldview** - the framework of ideas and beliefs through which an individual interprets the world and interacts with it; formed generally by our education, upbringing, culture, books, media, etc...

From the words defined in this study, and in view of the "preparatory" pieces of Divine Armor within the Spiritual Warfare context; it appears that this "Shield of Faith" is in the form of our conviction with regard to the truths of God's Word-the Holy Bible. "Fiery arrows" of doubt are incessantly hurled at us, but our faith must be ever present to "extinguish" such demonic attacks on our faith in the truths of Scripture.

C. Practical Definition For The "Shield of Faith"

1. *"Be convicted regarding the truths of God's Word, in order to dispel all doubt."*
2. This is imperative particularly in view of the "terrain" of Spiritual Warfare...namely:
 - The "*Flesh*" (Cp. Romans 7:14-25; Galatians 5:16-17)
 - The "*Devil*" (Ephesians 6:11; 1 Peter 5:8)
 - a) His objective to "steal, kill, and destroy" (John 10:10)
 - b) His "schemes" (Ephesians 6:11)
 - c) His "demonic regime" (Ephesians 6:12)

- The "*World*" (1 John 2:15-16)
 - a) i.e. system of systems controlled by the "god of this world" (Cp. 2 Corinthians 4:4; John 12:31; 14:30;16:11)
 - b) anti-Christ spirit (1 John 4:1-6)
3. Faith is significant in that it brings validity and most of all substance to the truths of *God's Word* for the one who possesses such faith (Cp. Hebrews 11:1). This is why part of the warfare tactic of the Enemy is to attack with "arrows" of doubt regarding *God's Word*. We saw this tactic in action with Adam and Eve (*Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-6*); and with our Lord while in the wilderness following His baptism (*Matthew 4:1-11*). These "arrows" of doubt are ablaze, which is an indication of the Enemy's objective to totally consume his opponent, as was the purpose of 1st century Roman soldiers' use of "fiery" arrows. The spiritual implication of this in the context of *Spiritual Warfare* is profoundly important. If our "Shield of Faith" is penetrated; or i.e. our conviction regarding the truths of Scripture is neutralized by doubt, the "Belt of Truth", "Breastplate of Righteousness", "Shoes of the Gospel" as well as the other pieces of *Divine Armor* will be useless! For it is faith that undergirds the very essence of *Almighty God's* relationship with the universe and humanity! (Cp. Hebrews 11:1-3, 6)

The following and remaining portion of this study is a categorical list of a few foundational truths that are daily attacked in the Christian's life while engaged in this *Spiritual Warfare*. However, we must "stand firm" on our conviction of *God's Word* and its truths; i.e. holding up at all times our "Shield of Faith"!

II. The "Shield of Faith In Action"

A. God (Hebrews 11:4)

1. His Person

- Omnipotence (Cp. Colossians 1:16-17)
- Omniscience (Cp. Romans 11:33)
- Omnipresence (Cp. Psalm 139:7-12)

- Holiness (Cp. Leviticus 11:44-45)
- Eternalness (Cp. Revelation 4:8)
- Truth (Cp. Deuteronomy 32:4)

2. His Power

- Creation (Cp. Genesis 1:1)

3. His Plan

- Salvation for humanity (Cp. John 3:16)

B. Man

1. Love (Cp. Mark 12:30; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

- Sacrificial
- Unconditional

2. The Family Unit

- Marriage (Cp. Ephesians 5:22-33)
- Children (Cp. Ephesians 6:1-2)
- Parenting (Cp. Ephesians 6:4)

3. Holiness/Morality (Cp. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 18-20)

4. Finances (Cp. Malachi 3:10-11; Matthew 6:31-34)

C. The After-Life

1. The Rapture (Cp. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11)

2. The Millennial Kingdom (Cp. Revelation 20:1-4)

3. The Eternal State i.e. "New Heaven and New Earth" (Cp. Revelation 21:1-22:1-5)

STUDY/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Define The Following Words From This Study

1. Shield
2. Faith
3. Arrows
4. Conviction

5. What is the practical definition of the “Shield of Faith”?

6. Explain/discuss how faith serves as a “shield” in Spiritual Warfare.

7. Who were the Scriptural examples mentioned in this study, of the Devil’s tactics of attacking the truths of God’s Word?

List The Three Categorical Foundational Truths Of Scripture Listed In This Study

- 8.

- 9.

- 10.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

(By Rev. Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

Part Six: The "Helmet of Salvation" (Ephesians 6:17)

One of the most controversial themes of Theology is that of "*Eternal Security*", which in essence says that once one receives the precious free gift of salvation it is an eternal position in God that cannot be changed or altered in any way. I approach this lesson with the utmost sensitivity, in view of the fact that there are wonderful God-fearing Christians on both sides of this controversy, and I would not want to risk the possibility of providing the Enemy with the irony of division amongst the Saints while studying a subject as Spiritual Warfare. However, I must state and explain my position in this study primarily because of the significance of such in terms of Spiritual Warfare.

In Ephesians 6:17 we are introduced to the fifth piece of Divine Armor: the **Helmet of Salvation**. The helmet was worn by 1st century Roman soldiers in battle to protect the head. The primary objective of the helmet was to protect the brain. The brain receives information from the five senses (i.e. sight, sound, smell, taste, touch) and coordinates the activity of the entire body based on that sensory information received. From a spiritual perspective, the mind has the responsibility of processing sensory information through memory and subsequent action. The two senses that have the greatest effect on the mind, particularly in the area of memory are sight and sound; i.e. the "eye-gate" and "ear-gate" (Cp. Genesis 3:1-6; Matthew 4:1-11). It is the mind that serves as the spiritual "*brain*" of sorts that transports physical sensory information from the physical brain into the memory, of which is where the most intense spiritual battles of this war take place! If Satan could penetrate our minds and thoughts with ambiguity regarding our eternal destiny, he stands a good chance at causing us to fight in fear, which we know is NOT from God! (Cp. 2 Timothy 1:7). Therefore, we are instructed to "...take the *Helmet of Salvation*..." (Ephesians 6:17).

I. Introduction

A. Words Defined

1. **Salvation** (Gk) *Soteria* - safety, soundness, deliverance, healing, preservation.

- Salvation is the system devised by God that enables mankind to restore his lost fellowship with God through his reception of Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord.
- Some salvation "terms":
 - a) Adoption (Cp. Romans 8:15-17)
 - b) Reconciliation (Cp. Romans 5:10-11)
 - c) Justification (Cp. Romans 5:18)
 - d) Redemption (Cp. Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19)
 - e) Sanctification (Cp. 2 Thessalonians 2:13)
 - f) Glorification (Cp. Romans 8:16-18,30)

B. Practical Definition of The "Helmet of Salvation"

1. "Protect my mind by reflecting on the security of my salvation".

As previously mentioned, the doctrine of "Eternal Security" is one of controversy within the Body of Christ; however, it is interesting that the Apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit used *salvation* in the imagery of a helmet. It is apparently something that is impenetrable in terms of its certainty and eternity. In addition to the aforementioned definition of salvation and its synonymous terms, we see certainty and assurance with regard to salvation through the involvement of the Holy Trinity as well; hence providing even more support for the sturdiness of our "helmets" in this Spiritual Warfare!

II. Eternal Security

A. God's Grace

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

B. Jesus' Blood (Hebrews Chapters 9-10)

1. Our sins cleansed once and for all (Hebrews 10:1-18)
2. The Christian is in Jesus' possession (John 10:27-30)

C. The Holy Spirit's Seal (Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30)

1. **Seal** - a stamp denoting authority. The *seal* is God's pledge of the Christian's future inheritance. (Ephesians 1:13-14)
2. The seal is also the Holy Spirit's guarantee of the Christian's eternal redemption in Christ. (Ephesians 4:30)

STUDY/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the significance of the mind in Spiritual Warfare as presented in this study.
2. What is the practical definition of the “Helmet of Salvation”?
3. Discuss how salvation serves as the Christian’s “*helmet*” in the context of Spiritual Warfare.

List four of the salvation “terms” listed in this study

- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Discuss the significance of the Holy Trinity regarding the security of salvation

8. God (the Father)
9. Jesus
10. The Holy Spirit

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

(By Rev. Ernest A. Baker, Sr.)

Part Seven: The "Sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:17)

We have now come to the sixth and final piece of Divine Armor listed in the text of Ephesians 6:13-17: The "**Sword of the Spirit**". The Sword of the Spirit is apparently the only offensive piece of the Divine weaponry listed in the text of Ephesians chapter six. This sword is the "*Word of God*", which obviously implies the power and significance of the Holy Scriptures in the daily spiritual battles that comprise this warfare. In this study we will explore the power of the spoken words of the Holy Scriptures in a practical usage context, and conclude this entire study of Spiritual Warfare by addressing the role and importance of prayer in the spiritual war of which we are engaged.

I. Introduction

A. Review

The "Belt of Truth" (Ephesians 6:14)

1. i.e. "Stand firm having replaced my perspective on this life with the Biblical perspective on this life."

The "Breastplate of Righteousness" (Ephesians 6:14)

2. i.e. "Stand firm having exercised holiness in thought, word, and deed."

The "Shoes of the Gospel" (Ephesians 6:15)

3. i.e. "Stand firm having established the Gospel as my worldview."

The "Shield of Faith" (Ephesians 6:16)

4. i.e. "Be convicted regarding the truths of God's Word in order to dispel all doubt."

The "Helmet of Salvation" (Ephesians 6:17)

5. i.e. "Protect my mind by reflecting on the security of my salvation."

B. Words Defined

1. **Word** - (Gk) *rhema* - that which is spoken; i.e. not a reference to the whole Bible, but to individual Scriptures the Holy Spirit brings remembrance to be spoken and applied for specific "real time" situations. To be distinguished from (Gk) *Logos* - the expression of thought as embodying a conception or ideas.
2. **Truth** - in accordance with fact; that which agrees with reality.

C. Practical Definition For The "Sword of the Spirit"

1. *"Speak the Holy Scriptures in response to any attack from the Enemy."*

The word "**word**" here in Ephesians 6:17 as the "Sword of the Spirit", is translated from the Greek word "rhema"-a reference to the spoken word. However, it is not the Greek word "*logos*" which is the embodiment of a thought or ideas. "Logos" is used in making reference to the whole of the Scriptures, as well as to Jesus as the "*Word*" (Cp. John 1:1, 14; Revelation 19:13). In the context of Spiritual Warfare, we offensively respond to the tactics of the devil and his regime daily by the speaking and application of the words of Scripture. We see this masterfully done by our Lord during the devil's efforts to tempt him in the wilderness (Cp. Matthew 4:1-11). The tactic of the devil's temptation of Jesus was to challenge His flesh, His faith, and to lure Him with the "pride of life", as he so challenges us today. Let's take a look at the "*Word's*" (i.e. *logos*) usage of the "**word**" (i.e. *rhema*) in the midst of Spiritual Warfare:

II. Jesus' Example Of "Fighting" With The Word (Matthew 4:1-11)

A. Challenge of the Flesh (vss. 2-3)

Matthew 4:4 (NASB)

⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" (Deuteronomy 8:3)

B. Challenge of Faith (vss. 5-7)

Matthew 4:7 (NASB)

⁷ Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'" (Deuteronomy 6:16)

C. The Challenge of the Pride of Life (vss. 8-9)

Matthew 4:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ Then Jesus *said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" (Deuteronomy 6:13; 10:20)

Consider the following examples of areas the devil attacks us, and the Scriptures that could be used to practically fend him off:

III. The "Sword of the Spirit" Practically Used

A. Fear (Matthew 28:20; 2 Timothy 1:7)

2 Timothy 1:7 (NASB)

⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

B. Unforgiveness (Matthew 6:14-15)

Matthew 6:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁴ "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

¹⁵ "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

C. Worldly Lusts (Colossians 3:2; 1 John 2:15-17)

1 John 2:15-17 (NASB)

¹⁵ Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

¹⁷ The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

D. Marriage (Ephesians 5:22-33)

Ephesians 5:22-28 (NASB)

²² Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

²⁴ But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,
²⁶ so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.
²⁸ So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

E. Revenge (Romans 12:17-20)

Romans 12:17-21 (NASB)

¹⁷ Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

¹⁹ Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

²⁰ "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

F. Temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13; James 4:7)

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB)

¹³ No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

G. The Love of Christ (Romans 8:35-39)

Romans 8:35-39 (NASB)

³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

As we conclude this study of Spiritual Warfare, it is critical that we understand the significance and relevance of prayer. Ephesians 6:18 gives us a rubric of sorts for Spiritual Warfare prayer:

1. "With all prayer and petition" i.e. the diversity of **Prayer**.
2. "...at all times..." i.e. the frequency of **Prayer**.
3. "...in the Spirit..." i.e. the depth of **Prayer** (as connected with the will of God e.g. Romans 8:26-27).
4. "...be on the alert..." i.e. the vigilance of **Prayer**.
5. "...with all perseverance..." i.e. the persistence of **Prayer**.
6. "...petition for all the saints..." i.e. the intercessory nature of **Prayer**.

Obviously, the need for prayer during this Spiritual War is imperative! I encourage you to be aware of this very real war we are fighting, and pray unceasingly for yourself and your fellow Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Nevertheless, remember that this war is already won, and we are victorious...says the Word of God! (Cp. Romans 8:37; Revelation 20:1-10)

STUDY/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Define the word "*word*" as used in Ephesians 6:17.
2. How is Jesus referred to regarding the "word"?
3. What is the practical definition for the "Sword of the Spirit"?

List the three challenges the devil used in tempting Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11

4.

5.

6.

List and discuss three of the areas the devil commonly challenges us, and the Scriptures we can use as our "Sword".

7.

8.

9.

10. Discuss the significance of prayer in Spiritual Warfare as presented in this study.

