THE ARMOR OF GOD

Eph. 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 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. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

I. REAL WEAPONS

2Cor. 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

Paul made it very clear, we are in a war. The Christian life is not casual or just fun and games, it is a spiritual battleground. The problem that we run into with this can be two fold. First we can never fight this battle with our own human strength or will power. This battle is facing spiritual enemies and we must be equipped with spiritual power. Paul said in Ep.6 to be strong in the Lord and the power of His might. Paul is describing someone who is daily filled and empowered with the Holy Spirit. The power of God is our hope in this spiritual war. Here are some thoughts from the Fire Bible on this topic.

"Our warfare—our main source of conflict in life—is not with other people, but against spiritual forces of evil (Eph 6:12). For that reason, worldly weapons, such as human invention, talents, wealth, organizational skills, military might, eloquence, propaganda, charisma and personality, are inadequate to defeat our real enemy and to demolish Satan’s strongholds. Only the weapons that God provides are adequate to resist evil, crush Satan’s resistance, defeat ungodliness and combat false teaching."

The second mistake often made by Christians is a hyper version of spiritual warfare. The error is this, shouting in “prayer” at wicked territorial spirits. This practice is not Biblical and has no proof text in the scriptures. Demons and spiritual principalities are real but our approach must be Biblical. Our example with dealing with the enemy was Jesus Himself. When He was confronted with people possessed by demons, He simply cast them out with His words. When He was confronted with temptation by the devil, He simply resisted by quoting the scriptures. He resisted the deal and the devil left.

The two ways we stay prepared for whatever attack we face are these;

1. STAY FULL OF THE WORD OF GOD. One of the most important daily disciplines a Christian must practice is daily study of the Word of God. God's word equips us with wisdom, power, and supernatural protection.
2. STAY FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. It says in Isaiah that the yoke of oppression is broken by the anointing. The reason it was easy for Jesus to always defeat the enemy was that He was filled with the Spirit.

With the Word of God we carry authority; with the filling of the Spirit we carry anointing. These are the spiritual weapons given to us by the Lord.

II. BE STRONG IN THE LORD

Eph. 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

WUEST

"Be strong" is endunamoō, "to make strong, to endue with strength." The idea is, "to clothe one's self with strength as one puts on a garment." Here the verb is in the passive voice, "be continually strengthened." The qualifying phrase, "in the Lord," defines the strengthening as Christian strengthening, such as can take effect only in union with the Lord (Expositors). The rendering, "be strong," could encourage one to self-effort at being strong, whereas the translation "be strengthened," causes the saint to depend on the Lord for the supply of that strength.

III. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD - PUTTING ON CHRIST

Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Rom. 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

THESE WEAPONS ARE ACTUALLY A DESCRIPTION OF THE WEAPONRY OF CHRIST HIMSELF - AS WE PUT HIM ON WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS
IV. THIS IS A SPIRITUAL STRUGGLE

EPH.6:12 - 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.

WHAT IT IS NOT - WE DO NOT SHOUT AT TERRITORIAL SPIRITS

1. WE DEFEAT THE ENEMY BY THE POWER OF THE WORD

Matt. 4:1-4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”

2. ...BY THE ANOINTING OF THE SPIRIT

Isaiah 10:27
And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

3. ...BY THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS NAME

Mark 16:17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

4. ...BY THE REALITY OF CHRIST IN YOUR LIFE

Revelation 19:10
And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow-servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.
V. THE ARMOR OF GOD

EPH. 6:13 - 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.

1. THE BELT OF TRUTH - FOUNDATION OF OUR LIFE: THE WRITTEN WORD

OUR LIFE IS GIRDED, OR STRENGTHENED WITH GOD’S WORD

2. BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS - IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD BY FAITH IN CHRIST - ALSO THE IMPARTED RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHARACTER

3. THE SHOES OF THE GOSPEL - EQUIPPED WITH THE MESSAGE FOR THE LOST

2Cor. 10:4,5 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

OUR CONVERSATION IS PERMEATED WITH GOD’S WORD

4. THE SHIELD OF FAITH - OUR DEFENSE - FAITH IN GOD’S PROMISES

THE WORD OF GOD EXPOSES ALL OF THE ENEMIE’S LIES
5. THE HELMET OF SALVATION - OUR MIND BEING RENEWED BY THE WORD AND SPIRIT

DAILY BIBLE READING IS A MUST TO GET OUR MIND RENEWED

6. THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT - GOD'S WORD IN OUR MOUTH

IT IS WRITTEN - THIS IS HOW JESUS RESISTED THE DEVIL

7. PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT - THE POWER OF THE HEAVENLY LANGUAGE

THIS IS OUR POWER SOURCE - STAYING FILLED DAILY ASSURES US OF POWER OVER ALL THE TRICKS OF THE ENEMY