

## Message Two

# **The New Man as the Corporate Warrior of God with Christ as the Constituents of the Whole Armor of God**

Scripture Reading: Eph. 6:10-20

- Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
- Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
- Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
- 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.
- Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness
- Eph 6:15 And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace;
- Eph 6:16 Besides all these, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.
- Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
- Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
- Eph 6:19 And for me, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known in boldness the mystery of the gospel,
- Eph 6:20 For which I am an ambassador in a chain, that in it I would speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

### **I. Ephesians 5 reveals that the church is the bride to satisfy the desire of Christ for His expression with His image, and Ephesians 6 reveals that the church as the new man is a corporate warrior fighting the battle for God's interests on earth for His dominion (thus fulfilling God's eternal purpose in Genesis 1:26):**

- Eph 5, 6 be omitted.
- Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
- A. In Ephesians 5 and 6 we see the church as the bride and as the warrior; in Revelation 19 we also have these two aspects of the church.
- Eph 5, 6 be omitted.
- Rev 19 be omitted.
- B. In Revelation 19:7 and 8 we see that the bride is clothed in "fine linen, bright and clean"; then in verse 14 we see that the armies that follow the Lord into battle are "dressed in fine linen, white and clean"; these verses indicate that the bride's wedding garment will also be the uniform that she wears as God's army to fight against His enemy.
- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.

Rev 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

- C. As the bride, the church needs love and light; as the warrior, the church needs might and the whole armor of God.

## II. Ephesians 6:10-20 reveals that Christ is the constituents of God's armor for the church, the one new man, as the corporate warrior of God:

- Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.  
Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,  
Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.  
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.  
Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness  
Eph 6:15 And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace;  
Eph 6:16 Besides all these, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.  
Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,  
Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,  
Eph 6:19 And for me, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known in boldness the mystery of the gospel,  
Eph 6:20 For which I am an ambassador in a chain, that in it I would speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

- A. "Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil"—vv. 10-11:

1. The fact that we need to be empowered in the Lord indicates that we cannot fight the spiritual warfare in ourselves; we can fight only in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
2. The whole armor of God is for the entire Body of Christ as the corporate warrior, not for any individual member of the Body; we must fight the spiritual warfare in the Body, not as individuals—vv. 10-13; James 4:7; cf. Phil. 1:19; Rom. 13:12-14; 16:20.

- Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.  
Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,  
Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.  
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.  
James 4:7 Be subject therefore to God; but withstand the devil, and he will flee from you.  
Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,  
Rom 13:12 The night is far advanced, and the day has drawn near. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the weapons of light.

- Rom 13:13 Let us walk becomingly as in the day; not in reveling and drunkenness, not in fornication and licentiousness, not in strife and jealousy.
- Rom 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts.
- Rom 16:20 Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

3. In Ephesians 2 we sit with Christ in the heavenlies; in chapters 4 and 5 we walk in His Body on the earth; then in chapter 6 we stand in His power in the heavenlies.

Eph 2, 4, 5, 6 be omitted.

4. To sit with Christ is to participate in all His accomplishments, to walk in His Body is to fulfill God's eternal purpose, and to stand in His power is to fight against God's enemy.

**B. "Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth"—v. 14a:**

1. Truth in Ephesians 6:14 refers to God in Christ as the reality in our living, that is, God realized and experienced by us in our living; this is actually Christ Himself lived out by us—4:15, 21, 24-25; John 14:6.

- Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness
- Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,
- Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
- Eph 4:25 Therefore having put off the lie, speak truth each one with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

2. The truth with which we are girded is actually the Christ whom we experience; because Paul's living was conformed to the pattern of Christ, he had the strength to face all opposition and adverse circumstances—Eph. 4:20; Phil. 1:19-21a.

- Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,
- Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
- Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.
- Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...

**C. "Having put on the breastplate of righteousness"—Eph. 6:14b; 1 Cor. 1:30; Jer. 23:6:**

- 1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
- Jer 23:6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, Jehovah our righteousness.

1. Christ as the breastplate of righteousness covers our conscience, signified by the breast; in fighting against Satan, our accuser, we need a blood-purified conscience, a conscience void of offense—Heb. 9:14; 10:22; Acts 24:16.

- Heb 9:14 How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Heb 10:22 Let us come forward to the Holy of Holies with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.  
Acts 24:16 Because of this I also exercise myself to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

2. “They overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb” (Rev. 12:11); our response to Satan’s accusations should be, “I overcome Satan, the accuser, not by my perfection and not even by a conscience void of offense but by the blood of the Lamb; I am defended against his accusations by the breastplate of righteousness.”

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

D. “Having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace”—Eph. 6:15:

1. Christ has made peace for us on the cross, both with God and with man, and this peace has become our gospel; the gospel of peace has been established as a firm foundation, as a readiness with which our feet may be shod—2:13-17.

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have become near in the blood of Christ.

Eph 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity,

Eph 2:15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace,

Eph 2:16 And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.

Eph 2:17 And coming, He announced peace as the gospel to you who were far off, and peace to those who were near,

2. We fight the spiritual warfare by standing in peace; if we lose the peace between us and God or between us and other believers, we lose the standing to fight—Col. 3:15; Phil. 4:6-7.

Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

Phil 4:6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Phil 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

E. “Besides all these, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one”—Eph. 6:16; 2 Cor. 4:13; Heb. 12:2; cf. Phil. 2:13:

2 Cor 4:13 And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak,

Heb 12:2 Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.

Phil 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

1. The flaming darts are Satan’s temptations, proposals, doubts, questions, lies, and attacks; we need to take up the shield of faith to quench these flaming darts.
2. We need to exercise our spirit of faith with our subdued and resurrected will to believe that the Lord’s manifestation is to destroy the works of the devil—2 Cor. 4:13; 1 John 3:8;

Matt. 16:22-23; Luke 4:39; Matt. 12:28; Luke 10:17, 19.

- 2 Cor 4:13 And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak,
- 1 John 3:8 He who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
- Matt 16:22 And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, God be merciful to You, Lord! This shall by no means happen to You!
- Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.
- Luke 4:39 And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her. And she instantly rose up and served them.
- Matt 12:28 But if I, by the Spirit of God, cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.
- Luke 10:17 And the seventy returned with joy, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.
- Luke 10:19 Behold, I have given you the authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

3. We need to exercise our spirit of faith to believe that the Lord's death has destroyed Satan—Heb. 2:14; 1 Cor. 15:54-58; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 6:3-6.

- Heb 2:14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,
- 1 Cor 15:54 And when this corruptible will put on incorruption and this mortal will put on immortality, then the word which is written will come to pass, "Death has been swallowed up unto victory."
- 1 Cor 15:55 Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?
- 1 Cor 15:56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
- 1 Cor 15:57 But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
- Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
- Rom 6:3 Or are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?
- Rom 6:4 We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life.
- Rom 6:5 For if we have grown together with Him in the likeness of His death, indeed we will also be in the likeness of His resurrection,
- Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;

4. We need to exercise our spirit of faith to believe that the Lord's resurrection has put Satan to shame—Col. 2:12-15, 20; 3:1; John 14:30; Phil. 3:10; Isa. 61:10; Zech. 3:4-5.

- Col 2:12 Buried together with Him in baptism, in which also you were raised together with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who raised Him from the dead.
- Col 2:13 And you, though dead in your offenses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our offenses;
- Col 2:14 Wiping out the handwriting in ordinances, which was against us, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.

- Col 2:15 Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it.
- Col 2:20 If you died with Christ from the elements of the world, why, as living in the world, do you subject yourselves to ordinances:
- Col 3:1 If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.
- John 14:30 I will no longer speak much with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and in Me he has nothing;
- Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
- Isa 61:10 I will rejoice greatly in Jehovah, My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with the robe of righteousness; I am like a bridegroom who wears the headdress of the priest, And like a bride who adorns herself with her jewels.
- Zech 3:4 And He answered and spoke to those standing before Him, saying, Remove the filthy garments from him. Then He said to him, See, I hereby you're your iniquity pass from you and clothe you with stately robes.
- Zech 3:5 And He said, Let them put a clean turban upon his head. And they put the clean turban upon his head and clothed him with garments while the Angel of Jehovah stood by.

5. We need to exercise our spirit of faith to believe that the ascension of the Lord is far above Satan's power—Eph. 1:19-23; 2:6; 6:11, 13.

- Eph 1:19 And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength,
- Eph 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,
- Eph 1:21 Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come;
- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
- Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- Eph 2:6 And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,
- Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
- 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.

6. We must have faith in God, who is real, living, present, and available—Mark 11:22; Rev. 1:18.

- Mark 11:22 And Jesus answered and said to them, Have faith in God.
- Rev 1:18 And the living One; and I became dead, and behold, I am living forever and ever; and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

7. We must have faith in God's heart; God's heart toward us is always good; He has no intention to punish us, to injure us, or to cause us to suffer loss—Rom. 8:28-39.

- Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
- Rom 8:30 And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified.

- Rom 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
- Rom 8:32 Indeed, He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not also with Him freely give us all things?
- Rom 8:33 Who shall bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who justifies.
- Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Jesus who died and, rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
- Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?
- Rom 8:36 As it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; we have been accounted as sheep for slaughter."
- Rom 8:37 But in all these things we more than conquer through Him who loved us.
- Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor things present nor things to come nor powers
- Rom 8:39 Nor height nor depth nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

8. We must have faith in God's faithfulness; God cannot lie but is always faithful to His word—1 Cor. 1:9; 1 John 1:9; Titus 1:2.

- 1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- Titus 1:2 In the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before the times of the ages

9. We must have faith in God's ability—Eph. 3:20.

- Eph 3:20 But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,

10. We must have faith in God's word; God is bound to fulfill all that He has spoken—cf. 1 Thes. 5:24; Eph. 6:17-18.

- 1 Thes 5:24 Faithful is He who calls you, who also will do it.
- Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
- Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

11. We must have faith in God's will—1:5, 9, 11; Rom. 12:1-2; Heb. 10:5-10.

- Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
- Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
- Eph 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
- Rom 12:1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.
- Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.
- Heb 10:5 Therefore, coming into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me.

Heb 10:6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You did not delight.  
 Heb 10:7 Then I said, Behold, I have come (in the roll of the book it is written concerning Me) to do Your will, O God."  
 Heb 10:8 Saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You did not desire nor delight in" (which are offered according to the law),  
 Heb 10:9 He then has said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will." He takes away the first that He may establish the second,  
 Heb 10:10 By which will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

12. We must have faith in God's sovereignty; under His sovereignty even our mistakes work for good—Rom. 9:19-29.

Rom 9:19 You will say to me then, Why does He still find fault? For who withstands His will?  
 Rom 9:20 But rather, O man, who are you who answer back to God? Shall the thing molded say to him who molded it, Why did you make me thus?  
 Rom 9:21 Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?  
 Rom 9:22 And what if God, wishing to demonstrate His wrath and make His power known, endured with much long-suffering vessels of wrath fitted for destruction,  
 Rom 9:23 In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,  
 Rom 9:24 Even us, whom He has also called, not only from among the Jews but also from among the Gentiles?  
 Rom 9:25 As He also says in Hosea, "I will call those who were not My people My people, and her who was not beloved beloved;  
 Rom 9:26 And it shall be that in the place where it was said to them, You are not My people, there shall they be called sons of the living God."  
 Rom 9:27 And Isaiah cries concerning Israel, "Though the number of the sons of Israel be like the sand of the sea, it is the remnant that shall be saved;  
 Rom 9:28 For the Lord will execute His word upon the earth, accomplishing it and cutting it short."  
 Rom 9:29 And as Isaiah has previously said, "Unless the Lord of hosts had left us a seed, we would have become like Sodom and been made like Gomorrah."

F. "Receive the helmet of salvation"—Eph. 6:17a:

Eph 6:17a And receive the helmet of salvation...

1. The helmet of salvation is for covering our mind, our mentality, against the negative thoughts shot in by the evil one; such a helmet, such a covering, is God's salvation.
2. Satan injects fear, threats, worries, anxieties, and other weakening thoughts into our mind; God's salvation is the covering that we take up against all of these, and this salvation is the saving Christ whom we experience in our daily life—John 16:33.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have affliction, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

G. Receive "the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God"—Eph. 6:17b:

Eph 6:17 ...and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,

1. Among the six items of God's armor, the sword of the Spirit is the only one for attacking the outward enemy and the inward adversary; with the sword we cut the outward enemy and the subjective, inward adversary to pieces.
2. Christ as the Spirit and the word furnishes us with a sword as an offensive weapon to defeat and slay the negative elements in our being; as we pray-read the Word, eventually

the self, the worst foe of all, will be put to death.

3. When the logos (the constant word in the Bible) becomes the rhema (the present, instant, living, and personal speaking of the Spirit) to us, this rhema is the sword that cuts the adversary to pieces:

a. The more we take in the word with its killing power, the more our pride and all the negative elements within us are put to death; by pray-reading, the inward adversary is slain.

b. In Ephesians 5 the word is for nourishment that leads to the beautifying of the bride (vv. 26-27), but in Ephesians 6 the word is for killing that enables the church to engage in spiritual warfare (vv. 17-18).

Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,

Eph 5:27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,

Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

H. “By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints”—v. 17-18:

Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,

Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

1. Prayer may be considered the seventh item of the armor of God because it is the means by which we apply the other items.

2. Prayer is the unique way to apply Christ as the armor of God; it is prayer that makes the armor available to us in a practical way.

3. We need to persevere in prayer because prayer involves a battle, a fight; two parties, God and Satan, are hostile to each other; the third party consists of God’s chosen and redeemed people—Col. 4:2; Eph. 6:18; Matt. 26:41; cf. Eph. 5:14; Rom. 13:11-14.

Col 4:2 Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving,

Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

Matt 26:41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Eph 5:14 Therefore He says, Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Rom 13:11 And this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to be raised from sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

Rom 13:12 The night is far advanced, and the day has drawn near. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the weapons of light.

Rom 13:13 Let us walk becomingly as in the day; not in reveling and drunkenness, not in fornication and licentiousness, not in strife and jealousy.

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

4. In order to fight on God’s side against Satan, we need to persevere in prayer; this

perseverance is needed because the course of the whole world is away from God—1 John 5:19; cf. John 14:30; 16:33.

1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the evil one.

John 14:30 I will no longer speak much with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and in Me he has nothing;

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have affliction, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

5. Before we try to persevere in prayer, we should first make a vow to the Lord concerning our prayer life; we need to say to Him, “Lord, I am desperate about this; I offer myself to You so that I may have a prayer life; Lord, keep me in the spirit of prayer; if I forget this or neglect this, I know that You will not forget it; remind me again and again about prayer.”

6. Persevering in prayer has many benefits:

a. Prayer is the only way that we can set our mind on the things above—Col. 3:2; Heb. 7:25; 8:2; cf. Acts 6:4.

Col 3:2 Set your mind on the things which are above, not on the things which are on the earth.

Heb 7:25 Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them.

Heb 8:2 A Minister of the holy places, even of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.

Acts 6:4 But we will continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word.

b. Prayer is the way to enter into the Holy of Holies and come forward to the throne of grace so that we may receive mercy and find grace to meet our timely need (Heb. 4:16); when we pray, approaching the throne of grace, grace will become a river flowing in us and supplying us—Hymns, #770.

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

Hymns #770

(1) In the holiest place, touch the throne of grace, Grace as a river shall flow;  
In the holiest place, touch the throne of grace, Grace as a river shall flow.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Grace as a river shall flow;

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Grace as a river shall flow.

(2) In the holiest place, live before His face, Light of glory thru me will shine;  
In the holiest place, live before His face, Light of glory thru me will shine.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Light of glory thru me will shine;

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Light of glory thru me will shine.

(3) To the spirit turn, and the incense burn, Touch the living fountain of life;  
To the spirit turn, and the incense burn, Touch the living fountain of life.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Touch the living fountain of life;

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Touch the living fountain of life.

c. The more we pray, the more we experience being one with the Lord, enjoy His presence, and have fellowship with Him; what a marvelous reward!