

Putting on the Full Armour of God: Ephesians 6:10-18

Last week, we mentioned the spiritual battlefield that Jesus was involved in right from the start of his ministry. As Christians, we too are in a battle. In Ephesians 6, the Apostle Paul urges us to "be strong in the Lord" (v.10). In order to stand against the devil's schemes, Paul calls us to "put on the full armour of God" (vv.11 & 13). In verses 10-14 alone, he says "stand" four times.

As John Stott comments on these verses in *God's New Society* (p.275), "The Apostle's concern is for Christian stability. Wobbly Christians... are easy prey for the devil."

The imagery of the "full armour" is taken from the uniform of the Roman soldier, with which Paul was very familiar: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the gospel boots, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit.

Alongside putting on all our spiritual armour, we need to "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" (v.18). Our prayers, then, need to be varied and persevering—not just asking for things.

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