



July 17
READ & DIG.

Passage: Ephesians 6:10-20

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The Plan (v10-12)

Goodness, Paul has really laid a plan and he is finalizing it for us here in chapter 6. God's plan of redemption has really been laid out in Ephesians for us. We started this week seeing that God chose us and had a plan laid out to save us before time began. It seems a mystery to our little minds, but in reality when studying God's word it becomes clear and organized to us. We are encouraged throughout this book to accept His plan, surrender to it through faith, live it out in actions of putting off darkness & putting on light by imitating Christ. Paul knows best of all that there is going to be some opposition. It is a battle against Satan to work this plan. Paul is leaving us with the strategy to suit up and get busy in being strong in the Lord, so listen up.

Rhonda Maydwell said it so well that I have copied and pasted her thoughts below to finish us out this week.
Belt of truth (v. 14): If you believe that Satan is the father of lies ([John 8:44](#)), then you can be sure of two things: 1. Satan will lie to you to throw you off course. You must be on guard for his lies. 2. You must be the opposite of the devil and live a life of truth by spreading the truth about Jesus and be a truth-teller with dependable honesty.

Breastplate of Righteousness (v. 14): A knight's breastplate was positioned over his heart and protected his vital organs from a fatal attack. The wage of sin is death ([Romans 6:23](#)), therefore the breastplate of righteousness has nothing to do with your own good acts. It is the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross that saves you. You must have Christ's salvation to protect your life. Satan may accuse you of sin, but you can have the assurance of salvation to ward off this attack.

Sandals of Peace (v. 15): You must be willing to take God's message wherever He leads you—even if it means entering enemy territory. To have "feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace" means that you'll be prepared for traps and snares when the devil throws obstacles in your path to thwart God's plan and your efforts. Your feet can be ready to dodge and jog around any obstacle in your way peacefully—without having to engage in fighting.

Shield of Faith (v. 16): Your shield counters the flaming darts of doubt the devil loves to shoot toward believers. Your faith will be strongest when you read the Bible regularly and pray without ceasing ([1 Thessalonians 5:17](#)). Growing in faith consistently is a part of upkeeping your armor on the journey. When doubts sneak into your mind, combat them with God's word of His promises and love for His people.

Helmet of Salvation (v. 17): Your mind is a vital aspect of your faith in God. With your mind, you can understand God's plan for salvation. Use your mind to distinguish truth from lies. Without your mind, you are unable to discern between spiritual truth and spiritual deception. Protect your mind and preserve your way of thinking about God.

Sword of the Spirit (v. 17): This is the Word of God—the Bible. While all other elements of our armor are defensive in nature, the sword of the Spirit is the only offensive weapon in the armor of God. Think words are a useless weapon? During Jesus' 40-day temptation in the desert, the Word of God was *always* His overpowering response to Satan's attacks. Jesus crushed the devil's evil schemes with Scripture ([Matthew 4:1-11](#)). You can be equipped with the very same weapon as Jesus and be assured that you can overpower the devil too!

Prayer ([Ephesians 6:18](#)): If the armor of God is your defensive gear and offensive weapons, prayer is your source of true power. God strengthens you when you pray in the Spirit (that is, with the mind of Christ and His heart and priorities). You can try to fight Satan in your own power, but you just can't. No one has enough

strength for that—except God. You need God's power, protection, salvation, and Word to defeat Satan's attacks against you—and you can access all of those through constant prayer with God.

APPLY AND GO

The Christian life is not for the faint of heart. To whom much is given, much more will be required ([Luke 12:48](#)). [Fulfilling your godly purpose](#) will require going into battle, often directly into the enemy's territory. Scary as that sounds, God never asks us to go it alone. He equips us with His finest armor, His Word, and strengthens us through our prayers so that we may be victorious in every battle. Regardless of your age, it is imperative that you put on the full armor of God each and every day. You must gird your body, heart, and mind against the attacks of the devil. We have a message to spread and a mission to accomplish. With God's armor, you can face the devil's schemes—and win.