

THE ARMOR OF GOD

Ephesians 6:10 – 18 Study Companion

THE “WHY” BEHIND THE ARMOR OF GOD

According to Ephesians 6:10–18, we need the armor of God so we can do two main things:

1. Recognize who our true enemy is (spiritual forces, not physical)
2. Stand firm in our faith

STAND FIRM

This phrase, used five separate times in the armor of God passage, means to:
“remain steadfast in conviction despite attack or efforts to persuade” (Collins Dictionary)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Located at the intersection of several major trade routes, Ephesus was the capital of the Roman-controlled province of Asia Minor and acted as an epicenter for Roman pagan worship. The church in Ephesus faced not only an onslaught of pagan ideas but also severe persecution. Perhaps most importantly, the church of Ephesus was critical to the spread of the gospel across the Middle East and Asia thanks to its trade-route access. ***It is no wonder, then, that in a world so contrary to the truth of God (not unlike the world we live in today), these early believers needed to stay alert and equipped to stand their ground in the faith.***

APPLICATION

When we break down the armor of God, we find ourselves at the feet of Jesus. We cannot put on any one of these elements, let alone stand firm, in our own strength.

- **Belt of Truth** – Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6)
- **Breastplate of Righteousness** – our faith is credited as righteousness (Romans 4:5)
- **Feet fitted with the Readiness of the Gospel of Peace** – peace is a gift (John 14:27)
- **Shield of Faith** – We are justified by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8)
- **Helmet of Salvation** – Salvation is found in Christ alone (Acts 4:12)
- **Sword of the Spirit** (God’s Word) – The Word of God is living and active (Hebrews 4:12)

As we study the armor of God, we find ourselves back at the simple gospel. We cannot do any of this on our own. In order to put on the Armor of God and stand firm against the enemy, we must daily deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him (Luke 9:23). When we resolve to “know nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified,” then we can begin to walk in the fullness of His promises, clothed in the armor of God (1 Corinthians 2:2)