

Fighting Life's Battles by Putting on The Whole Armor of God

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When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, *and* a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the LORD thy God *is* with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.” Deu 20:1

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Repairers of the Breach; Restorers of Paths to dwell in SDA

2024

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Introduction

The Bible tells us that there was war in heaven.

That war was against God's character, His angels, and the foundation of mercy and justice that comprises the Throne of Heaven. As a result, Satan and his angels were defeated, and they were cast down here on earth (Rev 12:7-9).

With his arguments presented in heaven, Satan with subtlety, caused Adam and Even to sin, and by them believing His lies, they sinned against God, resulting in sin passing upon all men (Gen 3:1-5; Rom 5:12).

Therefore, two classes of people were then developed – those who believe in God and those who believe in Him not. The two classes are referred to as:

- a. The children of darkness (Jn 8:33-47; 1Jn 2:11; 1Thes 5:5).
- b. And the sons of God or the Children of God (Jn 1:12; 1Jn 3:1).

These two types of people that exist in the world today cannot unite, for they both have different commanders and are in different armies. (2Cor 6:14 – **Be ye not**

unequally yoke with unbelievers; for what fellowship have righteousness with unrighteousness, and what communion hath light with darkness.”)

Brethren, the battle is ongoing here on earth and there cannot be any true unity between the two parties for there is no agreement between God and Satan (11 Cor 6: 15,16; Amos 3:3).

Therefore, one must be careful with whom you want to unite. Satan will appear as an angel of Light and so his subtleties cannot and should not be lightly regarded or foolishly overlooked.

Satan and his cohorts and all those who allow themselves to be used by him and have accepted his arguments against God are therefore on this earth, fighting against God’s people as he roars like a lion, seeking whoever he can devour. We therefore need to be sober and vigilant and do not join hands with unbelievers or even sit among them with a God given purpose and mandate (1Pet 5:8; Ps 1:1-2; Eph 5:11;)

Therefore, for us to gain the victory we must understand the nature of this War. So, there are three major points we need to grasp and understand.

Firstly, we must understand:

a. Why are we fighting?

- b. What are we fighting Against?
- c. And how we should fight?

Why Should We Fight?

Brethren, some of us are not fighting, but getting complacent, easygoing, lukewarm, sleeping, and careless, and have lost the reasons and the need to fight or to continue to fight.

The enemies come up against us and we get defeated so very often. But why does this happen and how to prevent this from happening over and over again?

You see, Brethren, as the faults in character, come up, some do not know by practice the dynamics of how to overcome sin, and therefore there seems to be no way of gaining victory. Hands are also raised in despair and desperation. Discouragements and disappointments seem to be the norm in life, as life's trials and circumstances overcome us instead of us overcoming them.

But the Bible tells us that we have a Savior – Christ Jesus who has walked the same path before us and He proclaims to us in John 16:33 **“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye shall have peace. In**

the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

So, today I will emphasize and remind us all, why we should keep fighting so that we can enlist ourselves again in the army of God and rededicate our lives to His service.

You should fight because:

- a. You are not of this world while being in it. (Jn 15:19; Jn 17:14.16; 1Jn 2:15).
- b. You are children of Light and not of darkness (Jam 4:4).
- c. You have a heaven to gain and a hell to shun. Therefore let no one take away your crown (11Tim 4:8; Jam 1:12; Prov 4:9; 1Cor 9:25).
- d. Victory over sin, self, and Satan can only be gained with fierce battles (1Pet 5:8-10; 11Tim 2:3,4).
- e. God has set us an example and assurance that victory will be ours (Jn 16:33).

I quote:

“Satan assailed Christ with fierce and subtle temptations, but he was repulsed in every conflict. Those victories make it possible for us to conquer. Christ will give strength to all who seek it. No man without his own consent can be overcome by Satan. The tempter has no power to control the will or force

the soul to sin. He can cause distress, but not defilement. The fact that Christ conquered should inspire His followers with courage to fight the battle against sin and Satan.” **The Great Hope** pg 6:3

What We Are Fighting Against

The Bible tells us that we “wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” (Eph 6:12).

Brethren, it is not anything that we can see with human eyes or hear with human ears, that we are fighting against. This war is not against things we can see. Therefore, we cannot fight with human weapons to gain this victory.

This battle that is going on is between good and evil, light and darkness, truth and error, righteousness, and unrighteousness. It is a fight of and with faith.

According to 1 Tim 6:12, which says **“Fight the good fight of faith, laying hold on eternal life”**.

So, Satan has his army. And God has His army. The question is therefore asked, which army do you belong to? For there are only two sides in this war and there are no bystanders. We must make sure that we are on

the winning side, which is the side of God and His angels.

Within this war, many battles will have to be fought, to maintain the TRUTH OF GOD and His principles of victory in the heart.

Only Truth can bring success and victory. Josh 1:8,9

So, when people come up against us, it is not them we should focus our attention on, but the enemy Satan who is using them to get at us to cause us to sin.

So, the first step in overcoming is to be aware of your weaknesses and the sin that so easily besets you. (Heb 12:1).

You need to know where and how sin exists.

a. Sin exists in the **thoughts or imaginations of the heart**. So, we must guard our thoughts and cast down every imagination (11Cor 10:5).

Man, therefore, lusteth after the things of the flesh (**Gen 6:5**; Ps 56:5; Isa 55:8; **Mk 7:21**; Ps 81:12; Pro 6:25; Matt 5:28).

b. Sin can exist in the **emotions** due to having wrong thoughts. **The Bible calls it the body of sin** (Rom 7:5; Matt 5:28; Rom 1:24-28; Rom 6:12; Gal 5:24)

c. Sin is **also seen in the works** (1Sam 8:8; 2Kgs 22:17; Neh 9:35; **Isa 59:6**; 2Pet 2:15).

So, since sin first exists in the heart, it is where the battle starts and it can only be defeated by the knowledge of truth or Righteousness. (Ps 119:9-11).

So, we have learned why we should fight and what we are fighting against, so the only thing that remains for us is to learn how we should fight.

How We Should Fight

The Bible tells us that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but it is mighty through God to the pulling down of ALL strongholds (11Cor 10:4).

We are therefore admonished to put on the whole **ARMOR OF GOD** for the enemy not to defeat us.

THE ARMOR OF GOD



Therefore, today, Brethren, we are going to learn how to FIGHT. It is not a boxing match where the winner wins due to his human ability or strength.

The winner of his or her battles and by extension, the WAR, will be won by you and I who know, not only how to wear the ARMOR OF GOD but how to use it to destroy every stronghold within ourselves as well as without.

Brethren, the first sign of gaining victory, is when you willingly **PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR**. It is your consent that you want to be enlisted in the army of God.

This ARMOR is of and from the Lord and when you and I put it on, the whole of heaven is on our side and I have never seen the Lord defeated in a battle.

So, when you and I are defeated, it is because you do not have the **WHOLE** armor of God. You cannot expect to win the battle if you do not have the **entire armory**. **Having on some of the pieces is to lack ALL. For each piece of armor relates to the other.**

The Armor of God is the spiritual weaponry of victory, and one needs to have on ALL to resist and defeat the enemy.

So let us read Ephes 6:10,11,13-18.

- a. Loins girt about with truth – girted loins.
- b. Breastplate of Righteousness
- c. Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.
- d. Shield of Faith
- e. Helmet of Salvation
- f. Sword of the Spirit
- g. Prayer

Firstly, we need to STAND. While this is not an armory it is a need when you are going to war. So, it represents a spirit of readiness or an experience of awareness that you are in a battle without fear; knowing that God is with you. You cannot be sitting, lying down, or stooping, or least concerned about what is around you.

This is why God had to send home from 31,700 men that thought they were going to fight, from 32,000 but only 300 ready soldiers in the time of Gideon were chosen.

Girted Loins with the belt of truth

One must be girted with strength, faithfulness, and righteousness (Prov 31:17; Isa 11:5; 1Pet 1:13).

Your loins are girted up by a belt. The belt is truth (John 17:17). One must have experience of sanctification. If you do not have the belt that holds up the garments/pants, the pants will fall to the ground, and you will walk naked. (Rev 16:15).

With no gospel truth, you are exposed. Try fighting with your pants down, or not having the truth as your defense against error. You will be conquered.

Breastplate:

This breastplate protects the vital organs. And the bible tells us that this breastplate is Righteousness. (Isa 59:17; 1Thes 5:8) Righteousness is God, because it is God's Righteousness dwelling in the heart (Jer 23:6).

So, if God is not with you and me in our battles, defeat will surely be your experience. For in every battle that you and I face the enemy is right there ready to pounce

on our weaknesses and it is only God and God alone with us that can help us to overcome.

Feet Shod

(Isa 52:7; Rom 10:15; Ps 119:59; 1Cor 15:25) Wearing of the proper shoes and readiness to go anyway to preach the gospel. A pure undefiled religion or glad tidings are what the Saints of God carry with them wheresoever they go and their enemies will be under their feet.

Shield:

(Ps 91:4; Ps 28:7; Ps 119:114; Ps 3:3; 2Sam 22:3; 1Sam 17:45). This shield is a shield of our faith that will quench the fiery darts of the enemies. This cannot be believing. It is words that are use to conquer, even as how Christ – Himself conquered.

This faith, which can be as small as a grain of a mustard seed, is sufficient to move mountains of difficulties. For that Faith has a Divine Origin, a Divine Content, and a Divine purpose. (Heb 11:1; 1 Tim 4:6; Rom 10:8).

It is this we always use to defend against enemy attacks. It is said of Joseph in Gen 49:23,24 - that the

archers have surly grieved him and shot at him and grieved him but his bow abode in strength..”

Helmet:

This Helmet is a helmet of Salvation. It is the experience of the saving grace of God in your life. You must have salvation. (1Thes 5:8; Isa 59:17).

The helmet was the last piece of armory to be put on, on going to war. It protected the head, and it was the most vital piece of the armory for all the enemy has to do is to hit the head and the entire body becomes helpless even unto death.

So it is, without an experience that God is saving you from sin, you will be easily defeated. Furthermore, then one will have to question, which side are you on.

Sword:

The Sword of the Spirit is the only weapon of offense that we can use to attack our enemies. All the rest are weapons of defense.

The Sword is the word of God – spoken. (Heb 4:12; Rev 2:16;) The Greek word for the word, “word” is Rhema, which refers to that which is spoken.

How sharp your sword is, the quicker you will be able to defeat your enemies without suffering any injury or getting a blow. That is why the word of God must be in our hearts continually. Practice memorizing verses of scriptures so that the word will be readily available in your heart through your mouth.

We have seen a perfect example of how to use the sword by Christ – Himself while He was in the wilderness (Matt 4:4-10; Luk 4:4-12)

Prayer:

Prayer is the last that I want to talk about, for while it is not something that you wear, it is that which opens heaven's storehouse for us on the battlefield. (Eph 6:18,19; Ph 4:6; Col 4:2; 1Tim 4:5; 1Pet 4:7, Rom 12:12).

A prayerful heart makes us even more watchful; it will give us the strength we need.

I want to close off the study with some mindful quotations from Sis White.

“We must have on the whole armor of God and be ready at any moment for a conflict with the powers of darkness. When temptations and trials rush in upon us, let us go to God, and agonize with Him in prayer. He

will not turn us away empty, but will give us grace and strength to overcome, and to break the power of the enemy. Oh, that all could see these things in their true light and endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus! Then would Israel move forward, strong in God, and in the power of His might” **Christian Experience and Teachings** pg 103,3

“Every temptation resisted, every evil overcome, every word of tender pity expressed, is faithfully chronicled. And every act of sacrifice, every suffering and sorrow endured for Christ’s sake, is recorded.” —**Great Controversy** pg 481.

“God sees many temptations resisted of which the world, and even near friends, never know; temptations in the home, in the heart; He sees the soul’s humility given its weakness, the sincere repentance over even a thought that is evil; He sees the whole heart’s devotion to the upbuilding of the cause of God, without one tinge of selfishness; He has noted those hours of hard battle with self, battles that won the victory—all this God and angels know.” —**Letter 18, 1891.**

“Our great enemy is preparing for his last campaign. All who follow Jesus will be in conflict with this foe. The more nearly the Christian imitates the divine Pattern,

the more surely will he make himself a mark for the attacks of Satan.

“We have an enemy to meet, who is vigilant, who is not off his guard one moment.... If hardships are borne and trials endured by the soldiers fighting on behalf of their country, how much more willingly should the soldiers of the cross endure privation, self-denial, and any taxation for Christ's sake.” —**MS. Gospel Workers** pg. 199,1

“God has provided abundant means for successful warfare against the evil that is in the world. The Bible is the armory where we may equip ourselves for the struggle. Our loins must girt about with truth. Our breastplate must be righteousness. The shield of faith must be in our hand, the helmet of salvation on our brow; and with the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, we are to cut our way through the obstructions and entanglements of sin” — **Acts of the Apostles** pg 502.2

May God add His many blessings to you, dear listeners and readers.

AMEN.