

Introduction: The South Pacific after World War II was won

- Pockets of guerilla warfare continued on hundreds of islands.
- The victory had been won, but battles continued and lives were lost; the bullets were real.
- The same is true spiritually:
 1. Satan was **defeated** at the Cross.
 2. Sin's **penalty** was paid for all people for all time.
 3. Sin's **power** was broken.
 4. Yet, Satan and his host of fallen angels engage in guerilla warfare to discourage, deceive, divide, and destroy God's people and God's program.
 5. Believers are commanded to **equip** and **prepare** themselves in the strength of the Lord and in His mighty power to stand firm against the enemy's schemes, repel his multi-faceted attacks, and engage and defeat him in specific battles.

Ephesians 6:10-12

The Question: How does this work?

The Answer: Four keys to spiritual victory

1. We must become **AWARE** of the Invisible War. (session 1)
2. We must learn to **APPROPRIATE** God's protection for daily living. (session 2)
3. We must learn to **ENGAGE** the enemy with supernatural weapons. (session 3)
4. We must utilize God's means of deliverance when spiritually attacked. (session 4)

How can you prepare yourself for satanic attack?

¹³Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; . . .

Ephesians 6:13-15

Ephesians 6:13

- Our commander (Jesus Christ) “**urgently**” commands us to “pick up” our spiritual armor and put it on.

Why? = For the purpose of being **fully prepared** and **enabled** to withstand the grave and difficult “dark times” when the enemy attacks.

Ephesians 6:14a

- After picking up our armor in preparation for battle, we are then commanded to **consciously** and **vigorously** make a **decisive act** (or succession of acts) to stand our ground firmly and fearlessly against the enemy’s assaults as he seeks to deceive, accuse, and discourage us.

Ephesians 6:14b-15

- Using the metaphor of a Roman soldier’s armor (which protected him in battle), we are given three specific pieces of spiritual armor that must be “put on” by us as believers as a **prerequisite** to standing firmly and fearlessly against demonic attack.

1. “Having girded your loins with **TRUTH**”

- Metaphor Explained
 - “**Truth**” = Candor, sincerity, truthfulness rooted in the objective reality of the truth of God’s Word, but here refers to the subjective practical application of openness and honesty in all things with God and men.
 - Satan’s first attack on mankind was **deception**, which was followed by man’s hiding, denial, and blame-shifting.
 - The belt of truth is the man or woman whose “mind will practice no deceit and attempt no disguises” in their walk with God. – Kenneth S. Wuest
- **Application:** Psalm 139:23-24

2. “Having put on the breastplate of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**”

- Metaphor Explained
- “**Righteousness**” = Uprightness, right living, integrity in one’s lifestyle and character – conforming of our will with God’s will. Although rooted in the object righteousness that we already possess in our standing before God through the work of Christ, this breastplate of righteousness (that guards and protects our heart) is the **practical application** of the truth to our lives – i.e. Lordship of Christ.
- Satan’s attacks are not merely deception, but accusation (resulting in guilt and condemnation) of the believer. When we willfully turn away from what we know is God’s will, we open ourselves to demonic influence in our lives.

~ Old Testament = Saul
~ New Testament = Peter

- **Application:** “Therefore to the one who knows what is right to do and doesn’t do it, to him it is sin.”
James 4:17

Personal area to address = _____

3. “Having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of **PEACE**”

- Metaphor Explained
- “**Preparation**” = Establishment – the means of a firm foundation; also conveys the idea of readiness to share the Gospel which brings peace between man and God.
- Satan not only uses **deception** and **condemnation** to neutralize believers, but also specializes in **casting doubt** on the very basis of God’s goodness and the means by which we have received it – the Gospel.

Attacks Grace – How?

2 Corinthians 11:3-4

➤ **Application:**

1. **Know** and **understand** the content of the Gospel.
1 Corinthians 15:1–5; Ephesians 2:1–9
2. Know the basis for your **eternal security** and the **assurance of your salvation**.
Security – Romans 8:38–39; Ephesians 1:13–14. Assurance – 1 John 5:11-13
3. Faith is based on **facts**, not feelings.
4. Sharing your faith is one of the most powerful faith-builders available – Often “the best defense is a good offense.”

Conclusion:

God has objectively defeated Satan and his agenda. He has delivered us from sin’s penalty and power and ultimately will deliver us from sin’s very presence. In the interim, we are involved in guerilla warfare with demonic forces.

As believers, we have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of light with all the rights, privileges, and position that being a child of God entails.

The spiritual battle we fight involves a responsibility on our part to “put on” the spiritual protection that God has provided for us. We can and will resist the enemy’s attempts to “deceive”, “accuse”, and “cast doubt” when we stand firm against him by:

1. Being honest with God, ourselves and others as a prerequisite to all spiritual battle.
2. Responding to the truth that God shows us about His will for our lives – righteous living.
3. A clear understanding of “the Gospel” and the habitual sharing of this message of grace.

The great majority of spiritual warfare need never go beyond the regular practice of living out our position in Christ by faith. Our practice of Paul’s metaphor of the spiritual armor protects us from Satan’s ongoing attempts to break our fellowship with Jesus and, as a result, greatly minimizes any impact by the enemy.

There are times however, when we must move beyond “standing firm” and engage the enemy in actual combat. This will be the topic of our next study, Ephesians 6:16–20.

3. The ministry of deliverance

- **Its Validity**

- Jesus regularly exercised this ministry. Mark 1:27, 39
- The apostles regularly exercised this ministry. Luke 10
- The early church regularly exercised this ministry. Acts 16
 - ~ Justin Martyr (c. 100-165)
 - ~ Tertullian (c. 160-203)
 - ~ Origin (c. 185-254)
 - ~ Athanasius (c. 296-373)
- The New Testament writers provide clear direction concerning this ministry. James 4:1-10
- Contemporary, balanced deliverance ministries do exist and help many people.

- **Its Problems**

- Extremism and fanaticism tend to negatively color this ministry.
- Confusion concerning demon possession versus oppression of believers cloud this ministry's validity among Christians.
- Fear and ignorance have caused many to simply ignore this ministry.
- Those who engage in this ministry are often tempted by pride or become so singularly focused they fall into theological error.
- Assigning blame of all one's problems to demonic influence versus assuming personal responsibility and using biblical common sense call this ministry into question.