

THE QUEENS MINISTRY BIBLE BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP PRESENTS:

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DRESS FOR BATTLE! – The Christian Survival Gear

“Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all, to stand. Ephesians 6:13

The Bible teaches us that there are dangers and challenges that we must face. As Christians we must be prepared for battle; the Lord equips us for such times as these and wants us to be aware of what we are up against.

“God loves us and gives us all the directions and equipment we need for our survival.”

(Quote by Julia Bettencourt – Creative Ladies Ministry)

PART 1 Ephesians 6: 10 – 18

1: In verse 10 – Paul tells the readers to be _____ and _____

He reminds them that the whole armor of God is needed to be able to _____

2: Who does the author tell us we fight against?

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

3: What do you think Paul meant when says “we do not wrestle against flesh and blood?”

4: Paul tells the readers in verse 13 that having done all to _____ and to put

on the whole armor to _____ in the evil day

PART 2: The Armor of God

(list the correlating spiritual piece of the Christian armor for each of the soldier’s weapon)

6:14 Fastened with Truth: The Roman soldier’ leather belt supported and protected his lower abdomen, gathered his tunic and held his sword.

6:14 Coat of mail – breastplate: The Roman soldier’s covering for his chest area, was a heavy metal vest; protecting the front of his body – his vital organs.

6:15 Shoes for the feet: This item represented the soldier’s sturdy sandals, which gave him stability and protection in battle

6:16 Shield of protection: The Roman shield was large enough to cover the whole body; it was made of wood, covered with hide and bound with iron at the top and bottom.

6:17 Helmet of protection: Covering for the soldier head against the onslaught of the enemy. The head gear is essential in keeping the mind protected; for the proper functioning of the other parts of the body.

6:17 Sword: This is the offensive tool in the arsenal of the soldier. The Roman sword was a short and sharp instrument, designed for hand-to-hand combat

6:18 Communication: The soldier needed marching orders, direction and guidance from their commanding officers. Communication was important in carrying out the planned strategy, or planned attack

6:18 On Watch: Soldiers were trained to stay alert and watchful. Night watchmen and sentries were part of the soldier’s responsibilities and duties.

PART 3 BE OF GOOD COURAGE.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6:12

We have an enemy. We are engaged in a spiritual battle – all believers find themselves sometimes subject to the enemy’s attack because of our allegiance with God. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians, tells the readers to use every piece of God’s armor to resist the attacks and stand true to God in the midst of those attacks.

We have an enemy who seeks to distract and deny us our walk with the Lord. His position is to destroy as many as he can – before his curfew is up!

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. James 4: 7-9

“Finally my brethren be strong in the Lord and the power of His might; put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” Ephesians 6:10-11

1: What are some of the other ways that the Bible tells us that we can stand against the enemy?

2: The Bible tells us that the enemy seeks to?

We do not have to fear:

3: “God has not given us a spirit of fear:” 2 Tim 1:7

4: “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: than He that is in the world.” 1 John 4:4

5: “Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you.” Deut 31:6, 8 Heb. 13:5

6: “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, for the pulling down of strongholds.” 2 Corinthians 13:5

7: “I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart:.. John 16:33

PART 4 Other verses that identify armor

This verse talks about pieces of armor that the Redeemer would adorn – perhaps Paul was mindful of this writing when he wrote of the armor in Ephesians.

Isaiah 59:17

“He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance (judgment) and wrapped himself in zeal (passion) as in a cloak.”

Underline the pieces of armor that are similar to the ones in Ephesians.

Romans 13: 11-12

“And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here, so let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

What other piece of armor does Paul speak about in this verse?

ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

Paul’s imagery of Christians as soldiers is spelled out in the book of Ephesians. His description of the believer’s equipment for battle can be traced perhaps, to the Roman soldiers which Paul was more than familiar with. Imagine as he wrote – that he would occasionally glance at the soldiers and get from them and their weapons, a spiritual function for the Christian armor.

It is by the armor provided by God that the Christian can have hope to overcome the strategies, plot and plans of the enemy, as he endeavors to gain an advantage over the people of God.

It is with union with Christ that we withstand and are victorious. For Christ has already overcome the evil forces of this world – By the mighty strength of God, He was raised from the dead, and that same mighty power is available to believers today.

We fight in the strength and unity of the church – whose power comes from the Holy Spirit.

Summary Think about it:

Is putting on the armor of God still relevant for believers today – why?

What other tools are in the arsenal or tool chest for the believers to use?

How does Romans 8:37 tie in with the imagery of warfare?

What important truth(s) is found in the passage of 2 Corinthians 10:3