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So Let’s Pray

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“Everyone turn to Ephesians 6:11-18”

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**11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

**12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**

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**13 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.**

**14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,**

**15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;**

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**16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.**

**17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;**

**18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints**

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**You may of all read this before – or heard about this.**

**What do you think of these verses?**

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11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the **wiles** of the devil.

When I read **wiles** it reminded of a conversation I had just last Wednesday after a Bible study and also brought me back to my childhood when we watched all those wholesome cartoons ***CLICK***

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When you think of ***CLICK*** Wile E Coyote- he was ***CLICK*** **Cunning** – very sneaky when he was setting up his traps, ***CLICK*** he was **Crafty** – some of the things he assembled from ACME were just massive designs, ***CLICK***he knew his **trickery**, ***CLICK*** and he was very **deceitful**. And wiles in this scripture means those things… but it says “of the Devil.”

Now when we think of the devil – we may think something like this ---

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But do you think that’s what this word devil means?

The word devil here is – ***CLICK*** ***Diabolos*** (dee-ab'-ol-os); and it literally means - prone to slander, slanderous, accusing falsely

a calumniator- someone who utters malicious false statements to injure the reputation of someone else, false accuser, slanderer,

Metaphorically it is applied to a man who, by opposing the cause of God, may be said to act the part of the devil or to side with him
This word devil isn’t the devil himself but is someone who acts on his behalf.

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We move onto this verse where it says:

**12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**

This wrestling match is not against mankind- our fight is not against men and women of this world – verse 11 is proof of that when it uses that word devil…

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Our battle is against Principalities or Arche (ar-khay’); which means angels and demons

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Its against Powers or ***Exousia*** (ex-oo-see'-ah); which is power of choice- there is a song by News Boys that says –”I’ve been my own worst enemy” many times we battle against our own desires, Exousia also means spiritual potentates – now a potentate is one who wields great power or sway, like a powerful ruler.

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Against rulers or ***Kosmokrator*** (kos-mok-rat'-ore); which is the lord of the world, prince of this age, ….. the devil and his demons

Now ***Skotos*** (skot'-os) or darkness means- darkened eyesight or blindness – it is about the ignorance respecting divine things and human duties, and the accompanying ungodliness and immorality, persons in whom darkness becomes visible and holds sway.

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Against spiritual hosts or ***Pneumatikos*** (pnyoo-mat-ik-os’); belonging to a spirit, or a being higher than man but inferior to God- this spirit is one of corruption, immorality, it is wicked, filled with cruelty, evil purposes and desires.

**We have read about where our attacks come from- what we wrestle against in this world. For this week let’s all pray for the church – that they will recognize the wiles of the devil and that they will put on the armor of God and keep it on in this lifelong battle before us. Before we put on the Armor of God tonight – lets all stand up and sing praise to the supplier of our armor.**

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Today we are looking at a form of Spiritual Discipline – one that God equips us for, but we must respond to His grace – and use the tools He has given us to stay on the path toward Him. – When it speaks of armor in the New Testament – the people of the day could reflect on what the Romans wore ---- the picture on the left is from a museum – in Corbridge a Roman town which was connected to the Roman Road known as Stanegate (or stone road) and ran all the way to Carlisle. It has a display of replicated armor using the archaeological find – shown together. This banded steel with underlying leather or padded cuirass was named Lorica Segmentata in 1600 – and would have looked like the painting on the right.

**CLICK**

As we look into this armor you will see that the breastplate, we will see in scripture is more like the thorax. A two piece breastplate that had a front and a back.

Continuing with Showing Truth – we are going to Put on the armor of God piece by piece.

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14 Stand therefore, having **CLICK** **girded your waist with truth**, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Girded your waist uses a word that means to equip yourself with knowledge of truth **CLICK** (Perizonnumi (per-id-zone'-noo-mee)) but what is truth?- well another Greek word which this word truth comes from means- **CLICK** what is true in things related to God and the duties of man, moral and religious truth (Aletheia (al-ay'-thi-a))

**perizwvnnumi**

**ajlhvqeia**

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14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**,

To put on the breastplate of righteousness- **CLICK** breastplate is from the word **Thorax** (tho'-rax) and it was armor that protected you from the neck down to the middle of your body- it was normally in two pieces protecting the back and the front.

This guards your heart- **CLICK** (Dikaiosune (dik-ah-yos-oo'-nay)) righteousness here - in a broad sense means- state of him who is as he ought to be, righteousness, the condition acceptable to God, this is believing in the teaching concerning the way in which man may attain a state approved of God, it is integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking, feeling, and acting.

**qwvrax**

**dikaiosuvnh**

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**15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;**

**CLICK** First of all shod (Hupodeo (hoop-od-eh’-o)) means to underbind, to bind under one's self, - but it continues to shod your feet with the preparation of- this act of preparation is – having a readiness **CLICK** (Hetoimasia (het-oy-mas-ee'-ah)) … this readiness is knowing and being able to share the good news - of the Messiah's peace

the way that leads to peace (salvation), it is also the tranquil state of a soul when it is assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its life on earth, no matter what state it is in.

**uJpodevw**

**eJtoimasiva**

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16 above all, taking the **shield of faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

We need to catch this- it actually says above all in the Greek here… the shield of faith is very important… **CLICK** Faith is Pistis (pis'-tis);

It is the conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervour born of faith and joined with it. Relating to God – it is the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ

Relating to Christ - a strong and welcome conviction or belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God

This belief with the predominate idea of trust (or confidence) whether in God or in Christ, springing from faith, it is devotion, faithfulness.

Above all taking the shield of faith.

This is for the fiery darts- when it says quench- it also means extinguish or suppress the influence that is shot our way.

**pivstiß**

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17 And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

**CLICK** Helmet or ***Perikephalaia*** (per-ee-kef-al-ah'-yah) means a physical helmet but also means the protection of the soul which consists in (the hope of) salvation

This hope of salvation is the hope of things we do not see yet- knowing that one day we will see our Maker, our God – this protects and guards our minds –

**perikefalaiva**

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17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God;

Last take up our weapon. Everything else we have seen has been for defense and protection. This puts us on the offense. But it really isn’t our strength- that wields this sword- this sword is of the Spirit… it says in scripture that the sword of the Spirit or the word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12) – this is the Holy Spirit and the Word of God refining us. The Offense is toward ourselves. God’s word refines our character our spirit. When it says sharper- in Greek it meant very very sharp. The kind of blade that can cut a hair… This whole set of armor is for our protection but it is also for us to be more like Christ.

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Last verse 18 says

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

Even though we possess this awesome armor of God – we must pray always – pray with supplication – that isn’t just prayers for ourselves.

When it says in the spirit- it is that time you wake up at night unsure why and you have that urge to pray.

Even when we have this powerful armor and a two-edged sword we must be watchful.

My thought this week with everything going on and the God sightings and troubles I have heard - was about perseverance…. And there are many verses that state we must persevere…

I came to these verses looking for a prayer verse years back… but it became much more… it was God saying I have given you a belt of truth,

I have shown you what righteousness is – here is a breastplate that can guard your heart,

when you walk- walk in the peace that only Christ can give – here are some sandals.

Remember to hold up your shield- because there are going to be fiery darts coming your way.

I gave my only Son so that you could be with me one day – guard your mind with thoughts of salvation and that hope of the day you will be with me – here is the helmet.

I sent the Holy Spirit to be your guide – the word of God is written for you to read but only the Holy Spirit can give you understanding- wield the sword.

God wraps it up with – still be watchful and pray – not only for yourself but for other Christians.

All this armor is laid at our feet – we must put it on and utilize it into our lives.

Without the whole armor of God- without prayer – we cannot persevere.

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Remember Wile E Coyote--- he thinks he is a genius – he does have a brain and he will travel for the Devil… but when we put on the Armor of God and stay in prayer – something happens when the wiles of the devil are chasing us…

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Everyone stick your tongue out and go…. Bllll