

Ephesians 6

Paul continues his instructions about relationships and addresses children, fathers, servants and masters.

In closing, Paul again focuses on heavenly realms and warns of the warfare against "spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places" that every believer is faced with. To illustrate how to fight this battle, Paul uses the imagery of a soldier and describes the spiritual armor that a believer is to put on in order to "be strong in the Lord" and to "stand firm" against evil forces.

Understanding the strength and armor we have is key to claiming, preserving and enjoying the victory and blessings that are ours in Christ.

Day 1

Ephesians 6:1-4 NAS

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER(which is the first commandment with a promise),

3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

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Children

1. What reason is given for children's obedience? 6:1 (Compare the reason given in Colossians 3:20)

- What impact do you think there is in addressing children directly? 6:1

IT'S GREEK TO ME: **Obey** Strong's NT:5219 *hupakouo* (hoop-ak-oo'-o); to hear under (as a subordinate), i.e. to listen attentively; by implication, to heed or conform to a command or authority

2. What other reasons did Paul give for obedience? 6:2,3 (Compare Deuteronomy 5:16,33)

- This was the only one of the ten commandments (Exodus 20:12) with a promise attached. What does that say about its importance?

Digging Deeper

What attitude and behaviors, by grown children toward parents, did Jesus criticize in Mark 7:9-13?

IT'S GREEK TO ME: **Honor** NT:5091 *timao* (tim-ah'-o); to prize, i.e. fix a valuation upon; by implication, to revere
"Count as valuable" - The Study Bible for Women (1517)

"What it *means* to **honor our father and mother** may change as we grow into adulthood, but the principle always endures. The adult child does not owe the parent obedience, but they do owe the parent *honor*. 'When the bonds of family life break up, when respect for parents fails, the community becomes decadent and will not *live long*.' (Foulkes)" - David Guzik

3. What specific caution is given to “fathers?” [*fathers* = pl. *hoi pateres*; parents, both father and mother - Zodhiates (1128)] 6:4a

- What reason is given for this command in Colossians 3:21?

IT'S GREEK TO ME: “*provoke/exasperate*” – Strong’s NT:3949 *parorgizo*; to anger alongside, i.e. enrage

“**Provoke your children to wrath:** This harsh kind of parenting...gives an unnecessary justification to a child's natural rebellion.”
- David Guzik

“Parents are not to make unreasonable demands of their children...Children who are exasperated by such demands may rebel, and rebellion leads to godlessness. A child who has experienced this is very difficult to win back to the Lord.”
- Africa Bible Commentary (1437)

4. How is a father to rear his children? 6:4b (Compare Deuteronomy 6:1-7)

- What can happen when just one generation walks in disobedience? Judges 2:10

IT'S GREEK TO ME: “*bring up/nuture*” Strong’s NT:1625 *ektrepho*; to rear up to maturity, i.e. (genitive case) to cherish or train

“This ancient Greek word was originally used of bodily nourishment...But the word came to be used for the nurture of body, mind, and soul. The form here suggests ‘development by care and pains’ or as Calvin translated, ‘Let them be fondly cherished.’”
- David Guzik

Discipline/training Strong’s NT:3809 *paideia*; tutorage, i.e. education or training; by implication, disciplinary correction” [*Also used in 2 Timothy 3:16*]

instruction/admonition Strong’s NT:3559 *nouthesia*; calling attention to, i.e. (by implication) mild rebuke or warning

“Admonition means literally ‘putting in mind’; thus ‘admonition of the Lord’ implies teaching the Lord’s ways through His Word.”
- Henry Morris

“Since [children] are ‘a heritage of the Lord’ (Psalm 127:3), their training should be undertaken with a sense of responsibility to Him, so that from their early days they may learn to worship and love Him.”
- F. F. Bruce

5. Other translations of Ephesians 6:4 read: “You fathers, don’t provoke your children to wrath, but nurture them in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” World English Bible

“Fathers, do not irritate and provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to resentment], but rear them [tenderly] in the training and discipline and the counsel and admonition of the Lord.” AMP

- Why do you think the discipline and instruction of the Lord is contrasted with anger?
- What does this say about setting limits and expectations for a child and how they should be given and enforced?

Digging Deeper

What honor did Jesus give to children?
Matthew 18:1-6; Mark 10:13-16

6. What difference, if any, should there be in handling willful disobedience versus childish irresponsibility? Why?

Applying the Word: What is one of the best things your parents modeled in parenting you?

Even as adults, list some ways we can continue to honor our parents.

Day 2

Ephesians 6:5-9 NAS

5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ;

6 not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

7 With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

8 knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

9 And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Servants

7. What command did Paul give to a servant/slave? 6:5a How difficult do you think this might have been for some? (Continue to mark the phrases “in the Lord,” “of the Lord,” “as to the Lord,” “as to Christ,” and “of Christ” in Eph. 6.)

FYI: “People could become slaves in several ways. The poor who were unable to pay their debts could offer themselves as slaves (Ex 21:2-6; Neh 5:1-5). A thief who could not repay what he had stolen could also be sold as a slave... Sometimes children would be taken as slaves in payment for debts (2 Kings 4:1-7). ...Slaves were allowed to secure their freedom. Under the Jewish law, no Hebrew was to be the permanent slave of another Hebrew. After six years of service, a slave was to be released (Ex 21:2; Deut 15:12). In the Year of JUBILEE, no matter how long a slave had served, he was to be released (Lev 25:37-43)...A slave could also buy his freedom, or another person could buy his freedom for him (Lev 25:47-49).” - Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

8. Record the phrases that describe the perspective/authority which servants/slaves were to give to their work.

- 6:5c “as to _____ or (NIV “just as you would _____”
- 6:6 “as/like slaves of _____, _____”
- 6:7 “as to _____, _____”

FYI: "As to the Lord" "Grace makes us the servants of God while still we are the servants of men...it sanctifies the common duties of life by showing us how to perform them in the light of heaven." (Spurgeon)" - David Guzik

"Although Paul's instructions are directed to slaves and their owners, the underlying principles still apply to any relationship in which one person is working for another. He sees all service or work as having a divine meaning and purpose, so that is possible to say, 'whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord, giving thanks to the Father through him.' (Col 3:17)." - Africa Bible Commentary (1437)

9. List the phrases that describe the attitudes servants/slaves were to have.

- Vs. 5 "in the sincerity _____"
- Vs. 6 "doing the will of God _____"
- Vs. 7a "With good _____" (NIV "serve _____")
- Why do you think Paul kept stressing the attitude of their hearts and minds?

IT'S GREEK TO ME: Sincerity (572) (*haplotes* from **a** = negation + *pleko* = twine, braid, weave, knit) means singleness, simplicity, uprightness, mental honesty; the virtue of one who is free from pretense and dissimulation. **Haplotes** pertains to being motivated by singleness of purpose so as to be open and aboveboard, without guile, and without a hidden agenda. The idea of *haplotes* is that of personal integrity expressed in word or action." - preceptaustin.org

10. Underline other reasons Paul gave for showing a respectful attitude:

- 1 Timothy 6:1 All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be spoken against. NASU
- Titus 2:9-10 Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive. NIV

11. What other perspective would encourage them in their service? 6:8 (See Col. 3:23-24)

- Why can God judge our service much better than men can judge? 1 Thessalonians 2:4

12. How was a master to treat a servant? 6:9a What are "the same things" that would apply to a master?

- What directions are given in Colossians 4:1?

13. What perspective did a master need to keep in mind? 6:9b (See also Acts 10:34; Colossians 3:25)

- What rule would both master and slave be following by doing this? Luke 6:31

Digging Deeper

To see Paul's heart, read his letter to Philemon pleading the cause of a run-away slave

IT'S GREEK TO ME: ***Threatening*** Strong's NT:547 *apeile* (ap-i-lay'); a menace

"A threat, threatening, menace; reproach, upbraiding" - The Complete Word Study Dictionary (209)

14. How revolutionary do you think Paul's advice sounded? Why do you think Paul didn't condemn slavery outright?

FYI: "The Gospel found slavery in the world...and began at once to undermine it, with its mighty principles of the equality of all souls...and of the equal work of redeeming love wrought for all...But its plan was - not to batter, but to undermine. . . . So while the Gospel in one respect left slavery alone, it doomed it in another...the Gospel leaves its message of absolutely *equal obligation*, in Jesus Christ, upon the slave and upon the slave owner. The principle will do its work. There is no word of Revolution.' (Moule)" - David Guzik

"Christ gives worth and dignity to every human being, so that 'there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus' (Gal 3:28). The logical result of adopting such a Christlike attitude is the abolition of slavery." - Africa Bible Commentary (1437)

"Although the institution of slavery seems repugnant to us today, and certainly inconsistent with Christian ideals, it was a basic part of social order in the ancient world, impossible to eliminate without a revolutionary overturning of the entire society. Consequently, neither Paul nor the other apostles nor even Jesus Himself ever argued against it. Rather they urged true Christian behavior on the part of both master and slave, and eventually these principles would change society itself." - Henry Morris

15. What principles do you see in these verses for an employer - employee relationship? How much do you think that would change the world of business?

Applying the Word: Consider some of the most challenging or mundane tasks that you are often called to do. How do these verses address the service and attitude you should take?

Day 3

Ephesians 6:10-13 NAS

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore, 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.

Strength in the Lord

16. How are we to be strong? 6:10 (Compare 2 Timothy 2:1)

FYI: "Be strong in the Lord": "True strength lies...not in self, or on the human plane in any way. Mere human power would be less than useless against such spiritual enemies. Nothing less than the mighty resurrection power of Christ mentioned in chapter 1:19-23 is sufficient, plus the protective armor that He provides, which covers the believer from head to foot." - Stuart Allen (108)

"**Finally** here means that he speaks in light of all he has previously said.

In light of all that God has done for you.

In light of the glorious standing you have as a child of God.

In light of His great plan of the ages that God has made you part of...

In light of the filling of the Spirit and our walk in the Spirit."

In light of all this, *there is a battle to fight in the Christian life.* - David Guzik

17. What does the phrase "in His mighty power" (literally: *the power of His might*) say about the strength available to us? (What had Paul written about this power earlier in the letter? 1:19-20, 3:16, 3:20)

- How does Colossians 1:11 describe this power?

FYI: ""If all we are depending on to help us overcome Satan are our own right beliefs and accountable behaviors, then we are in grave danger. Perhaps we have discovered this when we have altered our patterns and renewed our personal resolve to master a sinful practice in our lives, only to struggle and fall again. Then what should we do? ...God's power alone enables us to pursue the patterns of godliness his Word commands. God expresses this power by embracing us and energizing us so that we can do as He requires..."

Paul's specific wording indicates that God does not merely want us to supplement our strength with His; rather He wants so to invigorate the new life He has given us **that He is our strength**...Faith that God has made us new [2:5,6], has made us His [1:4,5,13; 2:13,19] and has made us able [1:19; 2:16] are essential before we will experience God's victory over compelling and compulsive sin...The Lord hears us crying, 'I am so weak, evil, stupid, and incapable that I cannot overcome this sin.' We are lovingly corrected: 'Be strong in the Lord and His mighty power.' The One who has loved you gives you a nature that makes you capable. You must have faith in the power of His might. Your Adversary, who says that you cannot resist, lies and seeks your harm. Do not believe him."

- Bryan Chapell (139,140,143)

18. What are we commanded to do? 6:11a (For other military terms see 1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Tim. 2:3)

- For what do we need this armor? 6:11b (Cf. 4:14)

IT'S GREEK TO ME: *schemes/wiles* (6:11) – Strong's NT:3180 *methodeia*; [compare "method"]; travelling over, i.e. travesty (trickery): KJV - wile, lie in wait

methodeia "denotes "craft, deceit" (meta, "after," hodos, "a way"), "a cunning device, a wile," (translated "wiles" (of error) in Eph 4:14) - Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

"The realities of spiritual warfare remain in every spiritual condition. Consider the pressures that face modern Christians (despite centuries of refining biblical thought and fighting for biblical principles)...The accessibility and allurements of the Internet have put sexual temptation, material indulgence, gambling entertainment, personal disengagement, and ungodly communication within a mouse-click of persons of every age and social station. The expectation of business travel, the interactivity of genders in the work-place, the 'freedoms' of the pill, the isolation provided by our closed-apartment lifestyles (even when living in million-dollar homes),...the enticements of consumerism endlessly promoted by amoral Western prosperity - all combine to create a culture where sin is nearer to the door of even the most socially respectable than ever before." - Bryan Chapell (135-136)

19. Mark the titles given to Satan and the descriptions of the way he works:

- John 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. NASU
- 2 Corinthians 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. NIV
- 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. NIV
- 1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. NASU
- Revelations 12:9-10 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. NASU
- From the above verses, what would you say makes Satan's attacks so challenging?
e.g. "he masquerades as an angel of light/truth" - his lies sound like truth (they probably contain elements of truth)

20. Whom are we fighting? 6:12 (Cf. 2:2) (*How well would we do fighting these forces on our own?*)

FYI: "Mere human power would be less than useless against such spiritual enemies. Nothing less than the mighty resurrection power of Christ mentioned in Chapter 1:19-23 is sufficient, plus the protective armor that He provides, which covers the believer from head to foot."
- Stuart Allen (108)

21. What does *God's* armor enable us to do? 6:13 (*See Romans 13:12. What insight does James 4:7 give into resisting?*)

IT'S GREEK TO ME: "**resist/stand your ground**" (6:13) – *anthistemi* NT:436, "to set against" (anti, "against," histemi, "to cause to stand")... signifying "to withstand, oppose, resist" - Vine's Expository Dictionary

"Without the strength of God and the protection of spiritual armor, it is impossible to stand against the attacks of spiritual enemies... No one is ready for spiritual warfare until, in view of the nature of this Adversary, we freely confess that apart from God we cannot repel his assaults...Our armor is faith in what God has already provided for us...Our confidence is not in our ability to stand but in the *ability of our armor* to withstand assault ...We gain the confidence to rely on God's armor when, on Scripture's authority, we perceive His protection to be as real as the armor Paul observed on the soldier guarding him in prison while he penned these words. " - Chapell (145, 146,148)

"The evil day; is the present age; compare Ephesians 5:16, 'the days are evil.' The age is evil because of the evil forces which, although vanquished by Christ, are still able to exercise control over a world which will not avail itself of the fruits of Christ's victory."
- F. F. Bruce [See Galatians 1:4]

22. Underline the assurance we have about the battle.

- 1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. NIV
- Romans 8:37-39 ...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. NIV
- Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. NASU
- 2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. NASU
- Hebrews 7:25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. NIV
- Hebrews 13:5b, 6 God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." 6 So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" NIV
- 1 John 4:4...greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. NASU
- 1 John 5:18-19 he one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. NIV
- 2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. NIV

23. From 2 Corinthians 10:3-6:

- How powerful are the weapons we use? 10:3,4
- List what we are fighting to destroy. 10:4b, 5, 6 (What does this say about the power of destructive thinking in our lives?)

Applying the Word: When has the assurance of God's power and protection helped you face a spiritual battle?

Day 4

Ephesians 6:14-24 NAS

14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

19 and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

21 But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you.

22 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.

23 Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.

Armor of God

24. ("Girding" or putting on a **BELT** held a soldier's sword and kept everything in place so his legs were free and his progress was not hindered.) What does the picture of having a "belt of truth" prior to taking a stand say? 6:13a (Cf. 4:21,24)

IT'S GREEK TO ME: **Girded** Strong's NT:4024 *perizonnumi*; to gird all around, i.e. (middle voice or passive) to fasten on one's belt

"It is the belt of truth that holds all the other pieces of armor in place. Trust in the ultimate truth of Scripture enables us to keep the rest of our spiritual defenses ready."
- Bryan Chapell (270)

25. (The **BREASTPLATE** was made of metal or leather and went all the way around a soldier's body. It protected his vital organs, especially the heart, from an opponent's sword.) Of what does a "breastplate of righteousness" assure us? 6:14b (How would your stand become vulnerable if you didn't feel secure about your right standing with God through Christ?)
26. What righteousness do we have and why?
- 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - Philippians 3:8-10
27. What do the commands "put on" (6:11) and "take up" (6:13) say about our part in this battle?

FYI:**"God's Role and Our Role"**

"There is no doubt that disciplined people, both believers and unbelievers, can effect change in themselves...A major temptation in the self-discipline approach to holiness, however, is to rely on a regimen of spiritual disciplines instead of on the Holy Spirit. I believe in spiritual disciplines. I seek to practice them...But those disciplines are not the source of our spiritual strength. The Lord Jesus Christ is, and it is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to apply His strength in our lives.....[We need to be] disciplined but also dependent." - Jerry Bridges (135)

"Is there any degree of human effort in resisting sin? Yes, of course there is...Our habitual godliness is a means the Holy Spirit uses to increase our faith, inform our minds, and strengthen our will for God's purpose. Still, the core steel of our resistance... is to take up *'the shield of faith'* in what God has provided so that we can withstand the fiery darts of the Devil. 'Satan has not changed his strategies. His approach is always to insinuate that God is not good, and that He is not for us.' (Miller) Thus our primary power in spiritual warfare resides in faith...Satan wants to rob us of confidence in our acceptance by God on the basis of Christ's righteousness alone, know that the freedom, joy, and courage provided by the unyielding love of God unleashes the Spirit's power in our lives."
- Bryan Chapell (149,150)

"Do you understand that you have 'put on' Christ's righteousness if you're His child? [Romans 4:5; 2 Cor. 5:21] Pray that God will help you realize the spirit of power, love and discipline [2 Timothy 1:7] He has granted so that you will walk in victory."
- Kay Arthur (37)

28. (A soldier's feet were shod or fitted with **SHOES** that had nail studded soles which allowed him to dig in and not be moved.) What does this say about the stand we need to take with the gospel? 6:15 (See Colossians 1:23)

FYI: ""The feet, which speak of our walk, are shod with the 'preparation of peace' not only that good news of peace with God which comes from being justified by faith in Christ (Rom. 5:1) but that God-given peace between each member of the Body (Eph. 2:15) which should constantly be manifested." - Stuart Allen (111)

The preparation (readiness NIV) of the gospel of peace. This may mean either that the gospel is the firm foundation on which Christians are to stand or that the Christian soldier should be ready to go out to defend and spread the gospel."
- The Nelson Study Bible (1993)

29. (A soldier carried a large, oblong iron-clad wooden **SHIELD** which could protect his whole body.) What do “fiery darts” say about the intensity of the assaults? 6:16b (See 1 Peter 5:8)

- What does the shield of faith do to fiery darts?
- From 2 Corinthians 1:24, what does faith enable us to do?

FYI: Fiery/flaming puroo NT:4448, "to set on fire, burn up" (from pur, "fire")... "fire-tipped" would perhaps bring out the verbal force of the word. The most ancient mss. have the article repeated, lit., 'the darts of the evil one, the fiery (darts),' marking them as particularly destructive." - Vine's Expository Dictionary

"The shield envisaged here (Gk. *thyreos*) is the large body-shield, not the smaller circular shield (Gk. *aspis*)... Satan's darts, says Paul, are not only stopped but extinguished when met by resolute faith." - F. F. Bruce

"The Christian's shield offers protection against **all the fiery darts of the wicked one**. Flaming arrows could not penetrate the fireproof shield of the ancient Roman soldier, nor can the assaults of Satan penetrate to the believer who places his or her faith in God." - The Nelson Study Bible (1993)

"In ancient warfare, these **fiery darts** were launched in great numbers at the beginning of an attack. The idea was not only to injure the enemy, but to shoot at him at all sides with a massive number of arrows, and thus to confuse and panic the enemy... Thoughts, feelings, imaginations, fears, and lies - all of these can be hurled at us by Satan as **fiery darts**. **Faith** turns them back." - David Guzik

30. (A soldier's **HELMET** was made of heavy metal lined with felt or a sponge.) Why do you think salvation is called a helmet? 6:17a (Why would that protect our thinking?)

IT'S GREEK TO ME: take – Strong's NT:1209 *dechomai*; to **receive** KJV - accept, receive, take.

"The helmet [*hope*] of salvation protects us against discouragement, against the desire to give up, giving us hope not only in knowing that we *are* saved, but that we *will be* saved. It is the assurance that God will triumph. One of Satan's most effective weapons against us is *discouragement*. When we are properly equipped with the helmet of salvation, it's hard to stay discouraged." - David Guzik

31. (The **SWORD**, the only offensive weapon, is referring to a short, two-edged sword used for stabbing in combat.) What sword do we use? 6:17b

- How powerful is this weapon? Hebrews 4:12
- How profitable is this weapon? 2 Timothy 3:15-17

Digging Deeper

How did Jesus battle Satan? Luke 4:4a, 4:8a, 4:10a

How will the Lord fight in the future? Revelation 2:16; 19:13-15

FYI: "Lastly, we come to the only offensive weapon...The Lord Jesus used it against the onslaught of Satan in the wilderness temptation. His one reply to each of Satan's attacks was 'It is written' (Matt. 4:1-11) He could have demolished the evil one's craftiness by His divine power...but instead gave us all a practical exhibition of the 'Sword of the Spirit' which caused Satan to retire defeated." - Stuart Allen (111,112)

32. With what should all of our armor be covered? 6:18 (Compare Luke 18:1)

33. After the discussion on warfare, what personal requests did Paul share with the Ephesians? 6:19,20

FYI: "Paul closes this section by making himself and his own needs know to the people. He did not consider himself above temptation and knew troubles and suffering well. Paul was certainly on the front lines of battle and needed support from other Christians."
- The Study Bible for Women (1518)

"The bond of fellowship which unites the people of God is never more active than when they are praying for one another." - F. F. Bruce

"[This was] the chain around his wrist by which he was handcuffed to the soldier who guarded him. The soldier would be relieved every four hours or so; but there was no relief from his chain for Paul, only a change of soldier. Many people have wondered what it must have meant for a Roman soldier to be handcuffed to a man like Paul! A prisoner? Which of the two was the prisoner? Paul thinks of himself as the ambassador of Jesus Christ, duly accredited to represent his Lord at the imperial court of Rome - a chained ambassador, indeed, but an ambassador none the less."
- F. F. Bruce

34. Why did Paul send Tychicus? 6:20-22 (Compare 3:13)

- How had Tychicus served Paul? 6:21 (See Colossians 4:7)

35. Compare the blessings with which Paul closed his letter (6:23,24) to the opening of this letter (1:2).

- What was Paul's final thought? 6:24b (See 1 Corinthians 15:53,54)

IT'S GREEK TO ME: *Sincerity/incorruptible love/undying love* - Strong's NT:861 *aphthrsia*; incorruptibility; (genitive case) unending existence; (figuratively) genuineness:

"An unfading and undying love is meant; 'uncorruptness' is practically synonymous with immortality. Where such love for Christ is present, the grace of God can never be absent."
- F. F. Bruce

Applying the Word: *What part of God's armor do you feel is securely in place in your life? Which piece, if any, do you often fail to put on?*

Are you aware of any lies that you struggle with about yourself and/or about God that are keeping you from taking a firm stand?