

Full Armor of God Intro

- Introduction to the Full Armor of God
- Understanding the spiritual battle and divine protection
- Explore each piece of God's armor
- Learn how to stand firm in faith



The Armor of God: Ephesians 6:10-18

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, **15** and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. **16** In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.



Context for Ephesians

6:10-18 -

- Paul wrote this letter (along with Colossians and Philemon) while he was imprisoned, most likely in Rome, around A.D. 60-62. He refers to himself as "a prisoner of Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 3:1, 4:1, 6:20).
- This personal circumstance adds weight to his exhortations to "stand firm" and "fight the good fight," as he was literally experiencing spiritual warfare from within a physical prison.



The City of Ephesus



- Ephesus was a major, wealthy, and influential port city in the Roman province of Asia (modern-day Turkey). It was a hub of commerce, culture, and, significantly, **paganism**.
- It was home to the massive Temple of Artemis (Diana), one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, which was a center for idolatry, occult practices, and even sexualized rituals. The city was deeply steeped in belief in various gods, spirits, and magical practices.
- Paul had spent a significant amount of time in Ephesus (about three years, as recorded in Acts 19), establishing a strong church there. He had a deep personal connection with the believers.

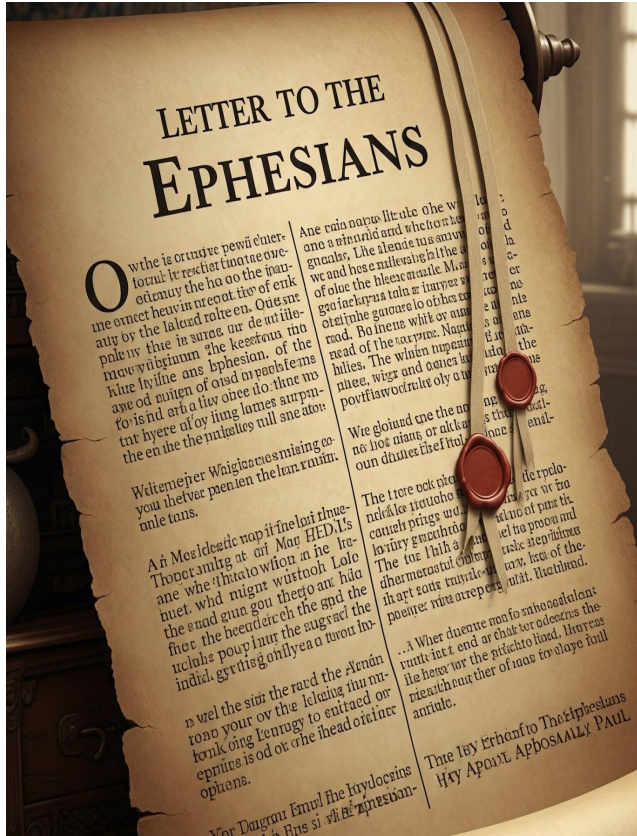


Mostly Gentile Audience

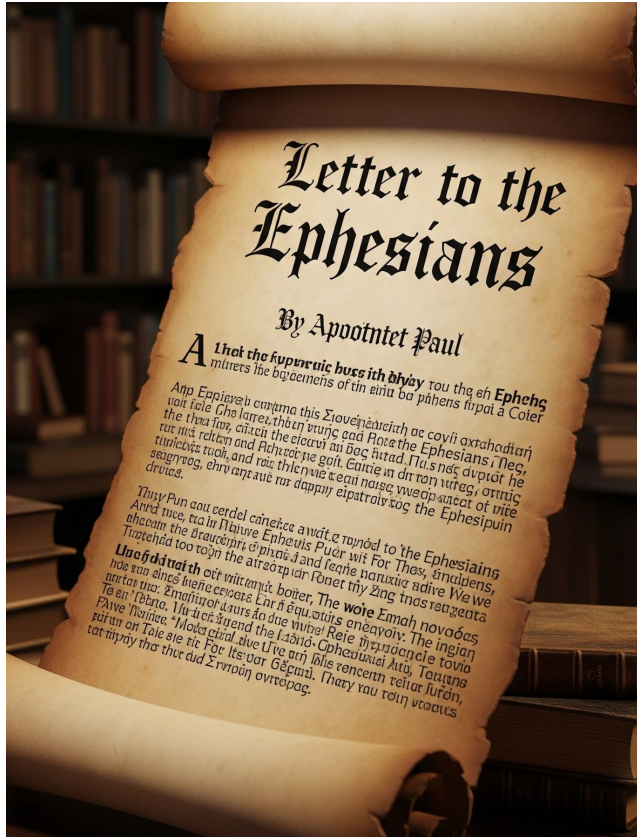
- Primarily Gentile converts embraced the Christian faith
- Learning to live righteously in a pagan culture
- Needed guidance on their new identity in Christ
- Faced cultural opposition to their newfound beliefs

Key Themes & Purpose of the Letter to the Ephesians

- Unlike some of his other letters where Paul addressed specific heresies or moral problems (like in Galatians or Corinthians), Ephesians is more of a **general, foundational teaching** on the nature of the church and Christian living.
- **Unity of Jew and Gentile in Christ:** A major theme is the groundbreaking truth that in Christ, the dividing wall between Jews and Gentiles has been broken down, and they are now one body, the church (Ephesians 2:11-22). This was a revolutionary concept for many.
- **God's Cosmic Plan and Spiritual Blessings:** Paul unfolds God's eternal plan to unite all things in Christ, emphasizing the incredible spiritual blessings believers have in Him (chapters 1-3).



Cont. Key Themes & Purpose of the Letter to the Ephesians



- **Living Out Our New Identity:** The second half of the letter (chapters 4-6), where the "armor of God" is found, focuses on the practical implications of this theological truth. Paul urges believers to "walk worthy" of their calling, living in unity, holiness, love, and wisdom. This includes practical instructions for relationships within the family and community.
- **Spiritual Warfare:** Given the pagan spiritual climate of Ephesus, it's no surprise that Paul emphasizes the reality of spiritual opposition. The "armor of God" passage directly addresses this, calling believers to recognize that their struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of evil.

The Belt of Truth:

This isn't just about knowing facts; it's about living authentically in God's truth. Living in truth is foundational to everything else. It guards against deception and holds all other pieces together.

- The belt of truth represents God's word and God's Will
- It holds everything together securely
- Truth is essential for spiritual stability



Use Truth Daily

- Apply God's truth to daily life
- Combat deception with biblical knowledge
- Live authentically with integrity
- Find stability in God's unfailing word



Breastplate of Righteousness:

This protects your vital organs—your heart, mind, and emotions. It's not about our own perfect righteousness, but the righteousness of Christ that covers us when we believe in Him. It shields us from the accusations and attacks of the enemy.

- Guards heart, mind, and emotions
- Christ's righteousness protects us
- Shields from enemy's accusations and attacks



Apply Righteousness Daily

- Guard your heart with Christ's righteousness.
- Live righteously through faith in God.
- Guard against accusation and spiritual attacks.
- Walk in integrity, reflecting God's character.



Gospel of Peace Shoes:

This signifies readiness to share the good news of Jesus. Just as a soldier needs firm footing, we need the peace of God to stand strong and to be prepared to bring His peace to others, even in challenging situations.



- Gospel of Peace prepares us to share Christ
- Feet fitted for spreading good news
- Readiness to walk in God's path

Apply Gospel of Peace

- Be prepared to share the Gospel
 - Live out the Gospel message daily
 - Actively seek opportunities for peace
 - Stand firm in God's peaceful presence
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Shield of Faith:

This is our defense against the "flaming arrows of the evil one." It's our trust and confidence in God and His promises that extinguishes doubts, fears, and temptations the enemy throws our way.



- Faith extinguishes all flaming arrows
- It protects against evil attacks
- Faith is essential for spiritual defense

Apply Faith Daily

- Extinguish doubt with unwavering faith
- Trust God's promises in all situations
- Use faith to block evil's attacks
- Remain strong, standing firm in belief



Helmet of Salvation:

This protects our minds. It's the assurance of our salvation in Christ that guards our thoughts from despair, false doctrines, and the lies that try to undermine our identity in Him. This is so crucial for veterans, those struggling with addiction, and anyone seeking purpose.

- Guards the mind, thoughts, and attitudes
- Salvation provides confidence and security
- Hope of salvation protects from doubt





Apply Salvation Daily

- Guard thoughts with salvation's assurance
- Maintain confidence in Christ's protection
- Find purpose in your identity in God
- Overcome despair with the hope of salvation



Sword of the Spirit:

This is our offensive weapon. It's about knowing and wielding God's Word with power. Just as Jesus used scripture to overcome temptation in the wilderness, we use God's Word to fight spiritual battles and declare His truth.

- Represents the Word of God
- It is an offensive weapon
- Use scripture to combat evil
- Actively engage in spiritual battle

Apply Spirit's Sword Daily

- Effectively use the Word of God
- Combat evil with scriptural truth
- Actively engage in spiritual battle
- Declare God's truth with authority





Prayer and Perseverance:

Prayer as an essential part of wearing the armor effectively, praying "in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests."

- Prayer is essential for spiritual strength
- Persevere in prayer on all occasions
- Be alert and pray for all saints
- Constant communication strengthens our walk