

Sermon Study Guide

Pastor: Dr. Henry Schorr

Date: April 25-26, 15

THE MAIN THING:

The power to defeat the enemy is found in Jesus (the living Word) and in the Bible (the written Word). Each part of the 'armour of God' applies to Jesus. When you put on the armour you are putting on Jesus and taking Him with you throughout your day. To have faith in Jesus is to believe and apply His Word, trusting Him in our battles with fear and doubt.

PURSUERELATIONSHIP: *Opportunities to connect and pray as a group*

1. What do you wear daily (e.g. accessories, items of clothing, medical bracelet)? Why is it important to you?
2. What piece of the armor from last week (belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of peace) did you use this week?

PURSUE GOD: *Time that is devoted to the Word of God*

Shield of Faith

1. What are some examples of the 'flaming arrows of the evil one'? Which 'arrow' affects you the most?
2. In what ways did the Roman soldiers utilize their shields? How can this relate to believers today?
3. How does Numbers 13:26-14:9 exemplify 'fear' and 'faith'? What were the consequences in the story?

Helmet of Salvation

1. The helmet protects the head/mind. What guidance is given in Romans 12:2; 2 Cor 10:4-5, Phil 4:8, James 1:8 about the use of the 'helmet' for the believer?
2. How do the shield and the helmet work together in the believer's life?

Sword of the Spirit

1. Pastor Henry said, 'The sword of the Spirit is that specific word that God gives us by supernatural revelation...' Tell of an experience when you have had a Scripture verse, song or prayer prompt you to be alert to and expose the enemy's presence?
2. Heb 4:12,13 illustrates how the Sword of the Spirit is an offensive weapon against our enemy. Look up other verses (concordance at the back of your Bible) under 'word' or 'words' and read them out loud as a declaration of the power of His Sword. Challenge one another to memorize one of those verses through the week.

PURSUEMISSION: *Seek to be the community of God's people in your community as you live out His Word*

1. What happens when any one piece of your armour is missing?
2. What ways have you identified the enemy's influence/attack on your life? What armour piece will speak to that? Pray for one another as the pieces are listed.

Scripture Memory Challenge. May 23 (Saturday)

9-12 noon. More info: <http://www.cschurch.ca/resources/classes-workshop/>

THE WORD (NIV)

Numbers 13:26-14:9

Ephesians 6:10-17

Psalm 56:3

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

Psalm 119:11

I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.

Romans 12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Philippians 4:8

⁸Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Hebrews 4:12 - 13

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

James 1:6-8

But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

Sermon Study Summary

Every time we find ourselves wrestling with making choices between integrity and dishonesty etc., realize there are unseen forces at work. They are seeking to deceive us into making the ungodly choice. Have you ever questioned whether an answer to a question was from God? Or felt useless or incompetent or thought 'What's the use?' Jesus said there would be trouble in this world (John 16:33) but stated that He has overcome the world. How can we win the battle and live in victory through Christ? The answer is found in Eph 6:10-17. Many of the thoughts we have had, or the tug toward ungodly choices have been signs of the devil's activity. We are in the midst of a cosmic battle wherein Satan will try to deceive, distract or discourage us. Putting on the spiritual armour that Paul speaks of is the key to victory over the assaults of the enemy.

By putting on the 'belt of truth' we are saying that Jesus is the truth and that we are aligning our life with His life and mission. In putting on the 'breastplate of righteousness' we are declaring that we are righteous and acceptable to God only because we are in Jesus who is perfect and righteous and acceptable to God. Because of that we will live a God-pleasing life. When we put on the 'shoes of peace' we are saying that Jesus is the source of our peace and because of Him we can be an instrument of His peace.

When we take up the 'shield of faith' we defend ourselves against the 'flaming arrows' of the evil one. These arrows try to convince us that God and His Word cannot be trusted and rob us of faith in God leaving only doubt and fear. The Roman shield was made of iron and covered with layers of leather that were soaked in water prior to battles to extinguish any flaming arrows that came at them. Taking up the 'shield of faith' means we are making two declarations:

1. That God and His Word can be trusted and that in all things He has our best interests at heart whether there is evidence of it or not. Such faith is not faith in faith or positive thinking or a formula of some kind. It is not faith in ourselves but in God. He is the object of our faith. Yet we cannot easily trust someone we don't know. The more we trust God and His Word the larger our shield of faith will be to absorb the flaming arrows of the enemy, and vice versa. We grow in our faith by knowing and living out the Word of God (Rom 10:17) — in hearing, meditating and acting on it. (Fear comes from hearing, meditating and acting on the lies of Satan.) Additionally, we grow in faith when we step out in obedience to the leading of God (Heb 11:6). God wants us to not simply believe in Him, but to trust and call on Him always. God does this by setting up a challenge and asking us to trust Him and step out in faithful obedience. Then when we pray, step out and see His faithfulness and power at work first-hand, our shield and faith grows (Numbers 13). In Numbers the people did not step out in faith and believe God but lost their faith and held back. As a result they wandered in the desert for the next 38 years. This is a sober reminder of what happens when we refuse to trust God and play it safe in life. We miss God's best for us and avoid a deepening relationship with Him by wandering in the wilderness. Don't miss the adventure God has for us by living for lesser things and playing it safe. Will it be scary? Yes, but faith is moving ahead in spite of fear and doubt (Ps 56:3). Fear and doubt are serious problems when they stop us from doing what God wants us to do.
2. That we need the support of other Christians in our lives. The edges of the Roman shield could be interlocked to march toward the enemy like a solid wall. Linking our lives with other Christians, we resist the enemy and protect, support and encourage one another (Heb 10:24-25). The Lord and His Church are our shield. They are only effective if we stay close to them. Many wander away into enemy territory despite all warnings then return much later not knowing why their life is a mess. Jesus is our shield of faith but we need to take hold of it and stay close to Him and His bride — the Church.

Just as a Roman helmet protected the head, the 'helmet of salvation' protects our mind from injury. Whoever has control of the mind controls the person (James 1:8). Believing lies or only parts of the truth is to be double-minded. Satan is ever trying control our minds. The helmet of salvation can give us victory over him. Salvation is a person — Jesus (Acts 4:12). By putting on the helmet we are putting on the mind of Christ. It means that as we give over control of our lives to the Holy Spirit we are letting Him renew our minds (Rom 12:2). By reading, meditating on, memorizing and studying the Bible we will increasingly think like Christ, see things from God's eternal perspective and discern the lies of the enemy. The best way to keep Satan's thoughts out is to keep Jesus' thoughts in. We do this by aggressively controlling what takes up residence in our minds

(2 Cor 10:5) and filling our minds with God-pleasing thoughts (Phil 4:8). Our minds are bombarded constantly with ungodly messages. Whom we associate with and what we expose our minds to impacts our thinking and convictions in life. While we can't avoid these messages we can keep them from moving into our minds and taking up residence. Test them using Phil 4:8 as our guide. If they don't pass the test, refuse to entertain them any further.

The 'sword of the spirit,' or the Word of God, is both defensive and offensive. The 'Word' spoken of here is the rhema, or spoken, word — not the written Word. It is the word that God speaks to us by supernatural revelation to fight off the accusations of the enemy. To take up the sword is to commit ourselves to reading, meditating on and memorizing the Scriptures to be able to declare them against the enemy when he attacks (Ps 119:11). The more we know the Scriptures the more effectively God can bring them to mind. It is important to know and believe God's truth, but it is critical in spiritual warfare to speak it aloud. Satan may be able to guess what we are thinking but he can't read our minds. To confront his lies and accusations with Scripture we must do it out loud (Heb 4:12). What will you choose to be your authority in life? The world or the Word of God? The power to defeat the enemy is found in Jesus, the Living Word, and the Bible, the written Word. You cannot defeat the enemy if you don't know Jesus or His Word. Get to know Jesus and other Christians well, challenging one another to do what the Bible says.