



**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

When we see evil winning in our world, we shouldn't give in or try to fight it in our own strength. Instead, we're to resist evil by putting on "the full armor of God"

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Help me to remember, God, to walk and serve by faith and in Your power

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

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

(Eph 6:12 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Dec 29, 2020)

**Series: From Darkness to light**

**UNIT 1: God's Preparation**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Zacharias Hears from God (Luke 1:8-20)**

## God Gives Tools for Our Protection Eph 6:10-18

### Lesson Background and Introduction

We have reviewed some familiar truths. We must not forget that Satan and his hosts seek to attack us every day. What are some ways they do that? We need to be prepared to stand against these attacks by putting on all the pieces of the Christian armor. Let us think through each piece of the armor.

- **Truth** - In what ways do you need to increase the presence of truth in your life?
- **Righteousness** - How can you give righteousness a greater role in your life?
- **Peace** - What steps can you take to increase the level of peace in your life?
- **Faith** - Do you need to have greater confidence in the Lord to help you stand?
- **Salvation** - Are you resting in the Lord's eternal and temporal deliverance from Satan?
- **Scripture** - Do you need to increase your intake of Scripture so that you can stand more securely?

Being prepared to stand against the wiles of the devil requires us to limit our personal pleasures and give our attention to important spiritual matters.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)*

Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians when he was especially conscious of the stakes in the battle between good and evil. Most of his letters addressed specific issues within a congregation. Ephesians is unique, however, in presenting the gospel more generally, without taking on any specific problems this church faced. This may be due in part to Paul's intention that this letter begin circulating from Ephesus into the wider territory, what is now Turkey. Having planted churches across the Roman world over the course of more than two decades, the apostle had been arrested in Jerusalem during a riot (Acts 21:26-35). A corrupt governor refused to resolve his case (24:27); so after sitting in jail for two years, Paul appealed to Caesar. This appeal resulted in a trip to Rome to stand trial (25:1-12). Paul then spent two years under house arrest in Rome, waiting for a hearing before the emperor (Acts 28:30). During this time (about AD 61-63) Paul wrote letters to his churches in cities back east, including the one in Ephesus. Doubtless the circumstances of his arrest and the daily frustrations of his imprisonment led Paul to greater awareness of Satan's schemes and the preparation necessary for defeating them. God's people are always under attack from the adversary. Made new in Christ, our lives are at odds with the world around us, the world that Satan steadfastly tries to align with his evil ways. We always feel the tension of living in a world battered by evil forces; we feel the pressure that the forces of evil press on us. It is easy and natural to feel weak when it seems that darkness surrounds us. But by God's provision we are strong. There are no flaws in His armor, no gaps in the protection it supplies. Reviewing all that God has provided, we have renewed strength to stand firm in every circumstance. Though the spiritual battle may often seem bleak, we know that God holds victory in His hand. He will choose the moment to overturn all that opposes him and his people. What seems slow to us is the patience of our Lord, giving each person time to accept the gospel and turn from the darkness of their previous lives. So put on your armor! And remember who the real enemy is. Then, knowing your enemy, do no harm to anyone who is not your enemy—namely every creature that bears the image of God. Instead, recruit those who need God's armor. Offer them the protection that comes from accepting the truth about Jesus. Pray for those who join you in the fight. And keep praying for all who choose to remain defenseless against the devil's attacks.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Tools with Power for the Struggle (6:10-12)**

#### *Strength of God (10)*

- Strength that allows us to do all things (Phil 4:13)
- Strength through the Holy Spirit (Zech 4:6)
- Strength that is manifested in our weaknesses (2 Cor 12:10)
- Strength that is greater than anything in the world (1 John 4:4)

#### *Armor of God (11)*

- Armor of light to be clothed with (Rom 13:12, 14)
- Armor of divine power (2 Cor 10:4)
- Armor that God fights our battles with (Deut 20:3-4)
- Armor that is our fortress and stronghold (Ps 144:1-2)

#### *Recognition of the enemy (12)*

- Recognition of the prowling lion (1 Peter 5:8)
- Recognition by being watchful (Luke 21:36)
- Recognition by being on guard and firm in the faith (1 Cor 16:13)
- Recognition by testing the spirits (1 John 4:1)
- Recognition by watching and praying (Matt 26:41)

### **Tools with Provisions for the Struggle (6:13-18)**

#### *Truth (13-14)*

- Truth sets us free (John 8:32)
- Truth that Jesus is the way of life (John 14:6)
- Truth that the Holy Spirit guides us into (John 16:13)

#### *Righteousness (14)*

- Righteousness that we should thirst for (Matt 5:6)
- Righteousness that we should seek first (Matt 6:33)
- Righteousness from God is lived by faith (Rom 1:17)
- Righteousness that we must offer our bodies to (Rom 6:13)
- Righteousness that we must pursue (1 Tim 6:11)

#### *Gospel (15)*

- The gospel is all about the reconciliation of man (Eph 2:15-17)
- The gospel should bring about belief and obedience (Rom 16:25-26)
- The gospel through which we are saved (1 Cor 15:2)
- The gospel that we should provoke confession and service (2 Cor 9:13)

#### *Faith (16)*

- Faith that keeps us from being afraid of what man can do to us (Ps 56:3-4)
- Faith so that we can stand firm (2 Cor 1:24)
- Faith that inwardly renews daily (2 Cor 4:16-18)
- Faith allows the overcoming of the world (1 John 5:4-5)

#### *Salvation (17)*

- Salvation that provides endurance through dying to sin (2 Tim 2:10-11)
- Salvation that provides ministering angels to us (Heb 1:14)
- Salvation that we must never ignore (Heb 2:2-4)
- Salvation that is made perfect through struggles and suffering (Heb 2:10-11)
- Salvation that is the goal of our faith (1 Peter 1:9)

#### *God's Word (17)*

- God's Word that we should live by (Matt 4:4)
- God's Word that we must accept as the actual Words of God (1 Thess 2:13)
- God's Word that everything is consecrated by (1 Tim 4:4-5)
- God's Word that we are born again through (1 Peter 1:23)
- God's Word must and does live in us (1 John 2:14)
- God's Word cleanses us (Eph 5:26)

#### *Prayer for the saints (18)*

- Prayer that the Holy Spirit helps in our weaknesses (Rom 8:26-27)
- Prayers should be made for everyone (1 Tim 2:1)
- Prayers that aids in deliverance (Phil 1:19)
- Prayers for others that lead to thanks to God (2 Cor 1:11)