

STUDY 10

Battle Armor

EPHESIANS 6:10-18; 1 PETER 5:6-11

Some Christians are so self-confident that they think they can manage by themselves without the Lord's strength and armour. Others are so self-distrustful that they imagine they have nothing to contribute to their victory in spiritual warfare. Both are mistaken.

—JOHN STOTT, *God's New Society*

Soldiers who go into battle without weapons are foolish, and they are often wounded or killed before they have the chance to understand the consequences of their foolishness. Christians are just as foolish if we do not make use of the weapons God has provided for us when we face Satan's attacks.

Just as important as *having* these weapons, however, is knowing how and when to use them. The weapons God has given are not to be fired occasionally and then stored for future need. Rather, they involve daily, disciplined use lest we be overcome by the tricks and traps of the Enemy.

1. How can ignorance of our spiritual weaponry hurt us as Christians?

READ EPHESIANS 6:10-18.

2. How are we to be strong in the Lord (verses 10,13)?

3. How does Paul describe our spiritual battle (verses 11-12)?

How have you experienced this reality in your own life?

4. What are some implications of the fact that many of our struggles are not against flesh and blood?

Does Paul's statement mean that Satan is behind *everything* bad that happens to us? Discuss.

5. Identify the spiritual weapons we have at our disposal.

✎ 6. Explain how you think each weapon can be used by Christians to enable them to stand against Satan's attacks.

7. How does prayer hold all of these together?

8. What does Paul tell us to pray about (verse 18)?

How does this relate to spiritual warfare?

READ I PETER 5:6-11.

9. Peter tells us to humble ourselves before God. Why is this so difficult for people to do?

✎ 10. What are some ways we can resist Satan (verses 6-9)?

11. What is one area of your life in which you need to discipline yourself (verse 8)?

12. What do we learn about God in verses 10 and 11?

Which aspect of these verses is most meaningful to you right now? Why?