

## Spiritual Warfare

Putting on the Armor —p.4

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### Ephesian 6:10-18 Main Text

When we are reading from Paul's letter in Ephesians, we are not just reading from any other author. We're not just getting some advice from a new military recruit going through spiritual-boot camp. Instead, we're gleaning understanding and wisdom and truth from one of the most decorated Christians of all time. Paul was a seasoned veteran in spiritual warfare.

When Paul talked about taking up "God's Armor", perhaps no other person except Jesus had more insight into this matter.

**Verse 16—** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Take up the Shield of Faith**

How important is your faith? \_\_\_\_\_

The first two words in Ephesians 6:16 give us a clue on how important FAITH should be. You can almost see Paul blowing a bullhorn or shouting from a megaphone to get our attention. **Why was Paul so adamant about the importance of faith?**

To answer this, we must realize what kind of warfare Paul was talking about. Paul believed faith was necessary at all times, but particularly when the battle took on 2 characteristics.

**When the battle is intense—** \_\_\_\_\_

Notice the shield is the only piece of armor for which Paul chose to spell out its function. Paul left no doubt what the shield was used for. \_\_\_\_\_

When the battle is "fiery" or intense, we need this weapon.

**When the battle requires endurance—** \_\_\_\_\_

Shields defend against the offensive. Paul expected a satanic attack for an undetermined amount of time. Faith was going to be crucial weathering the storms coming his way.

Now— I love storms. Not storms of bad circumstances, but just storming weather. Matter of fact, I watch them coming in from the distance. Seeing clouds build up and get darker. Watching lightning and hearing thunder.— But that is it. When it starts to rain or hail, I hate it. When the lightning strikes and blows out transformers and my power goes out which affects my tv, internet, refrigerators, clocks, etc...well, the storm is a real pain. —But two things about it—— 1) I can see it coming a mile away 2) It never lasts forever.

—And this is how I began to look at “the spiritual and earthly circumstances” in my life. —Faith has become the refuge — the promise—the rainbow —- the umbrella of satanic attacks of hell that fall from out of know where.

Four times in 3 verses Paul told believers to stand ( we saw this from last study 11,13,14) He had in mind defending, not attacking; resisting, not retaliating. Paul obviously was referring to the kind of warfare that requires endurance.

**Hebrews 11:6** \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew 15:21-28 persistence faith** \_\_\_\_\_

Important note: Satan is not omniscient. He doesn't know the outcome before the testing. Hence Job. He only knows that the kingdom of God will be advanced or hindered based on whether we stand in faith. Therefore, in endurance trails, all his testing and temptations target your ability to preserve. **Isa.7:9** \_\_\_\_\_

**From Satan's perspective, the only hope of victory for him is for the believer to cave in, get discouraged or depressed, and give up—— lose faith.**

**James 2:17** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Cor. 15:58** \_\_\_\_\_

**So, where in your life do you need more faith in?** \_\_\_\_\_