

EPHESIANS 6:10-24 Study (NLT) "EVIL" October 10, 2010

The personal application of this Scripture: When you have a troubled spirit, consider your thoughts. Is this my thought? Is this something my parents would say? Is this something Jesus would say? If it is not, consider that the "prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2) may perhaps be beaming lies into your brain and negative emotions into your feelings in the same way radio and TV signals are sent to TV and radio receivers. Paul says that "Satan hindered us." (I Thessalonians 2:18) "I was afraid the tempter had gotten the best of you." (I Thessalonians 3:5) We act by saying (aloud is best), "If there is any presence or influence in my life that is not subject to Jesus, I say, Jesus, according to your precious life's blood shed to take away my sin and destroy the works of Satan, set me free now!"

- **6:10-12 There is a war going on that we may not be seeing.** We are being called in this Scripture to wake up to understand that the spiritual world not only includes God and angels who seek our good but that it includes the Devil and demons who mean us harm. Therefore, recognizing that there are some battles we are not equipped to fight and win, we seek to be _____ with the _____ mighty power. **Armor:** We understand our need for protection against germs, toxins and radiation and foreign armies that assault our bodies. But we also need protection from evil spirits attacking our inner person -- whispering lies in our minds --stirring up lusts and passions, fears and hatreds in our emotions, depressing and oppressing us to take the fight out of us. We prepare to _____ firm against these attacks -- the _____ and _____ of the Devil.
- "For we are not fighting against _____ made of _____ and _____, but against (1) the evil _____ and authorities of the _____ world, (2) against those _____ powers of _____ who rule this _____, and (3) against wicked _____ in the heavenly realms (where our thoughts, emotions and will live).

UNSEEN ENEMIES - not flesh and people. It is almost impossible to win over an enemy we may not think exists. . The Word of God clearly says there is a Devil and demons. • Much of the church in the western world does not accept the reality of a spiritual kingdom with its inhabitants of God and devils, angels and demons as being present among us and being the root and activity behind all that is good and evil. Though human kind created in God's image has fallen into self-centeredness and sin, the evil in our world is far beyond the capacity of a fallen soul.

- Things Christians are called to do to confound the works of evil in our world:
 - (1) To see that we are living in the midst of a war between unseen spiritual powers.
 - (2) To use the "gift of discernment of spirits" to separate evil into -natural and spiritual...what is being done by people and what is being done by evil powers.
 - (3) To "stand against" evil, not live with it. We don't have to put up with evil spirits.
 - (4) To pray in Jesus name. Prayers to invite the participation of God and good.

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Prayers speaking the name of Jesus over evil affecting people and situations and commanding every power and influence not subject to Jesus to "go!"

- **6:13 Put on spiritual armor to stand while the Lord fights this battle for us.** Because we have no power over the evil powers in the spiritual world, the Son of God fought and destroyed their power. Our responsibility is to put on every piece of God's _____ so that we will be able to _____ the _____ in the time of _____, so that when the _____ is finished, we are _____, having our health and goods, our sound mind and joy.

DAYS OF EVIL: Because the Devil is the "god of this world," he will assault people. Much sickness and disease should be identified as the assault of the Devil. The Enemy may have his hand in our jobs and certainly amplifies every negative thing that happens in our family. However, his greater effort is to compound suffering and create hopelessness and misery. His greatest victory is to get us running around in circles and forgetting about Jesus who has all power over Satan. In these evil days when it seems that we are assaulted in every way, we can put on protection - the armor of God.

- **ONLY ARMOR:** Jesus came to destroy the works of the Devil (I John 3:8) and He has succeeded. However, it was accomplished in the courtroom, not the battlefield. The problem was that the Devil owned us and our world because he owns sinners and their world. "I am sold into slavery with sin as my master." (Romans 7:14) The Devil became the father of human kind. Jesus said, "You are of your father the Devil." (John 8:44) Sin is undone in our life by capitol punishment -by our death. Jesus paid the ransom. His death was in place of ours, which forced the Devil to set us free. "Because God's children are human beings-made of flesh and blood, Jesus also became flesh and blood by being born in human form. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the Devil, who had the power of death." (Hebrews 2:14)
- **The Armor of God.** It is helpful to see Jesus himself as the armor.
 - THE BELT of _____. God Jesus said, "I am the Truth (reality)!" John 14:6
 - THE BREAST PLATE of (body armor) of _____. Jesus made right standing with the Father possible. "We are made right in God's sight when we trust in Jesus to take away our sins." (Romans 3:22)
 - THE SHOES OF _____. The peace that comes from believing the Good _____ that Jesus saves, and sharing Jesus as we move among people. Jesus is the "*Prince of peace.*" Isaiah 9:6
 - THE SHIELD OF _____. As the shield is placed between the enemies' weapons and our body, Jesus has put his body between us and the enemy saying you cannot pass. "But you, O Lord, are a shield for me." Psalm 3:3 He stops the _____ arrows aimed at us by Satan -- His temptations to pride-lusts-desires. His discouragements-fears & hopelessness.

--THE HELMET OF _____ to protect our head, our mind and to confound the lies of the Devil in the battlefield of our mind by powerful thoughts. I am saved from everything by Jesus. *"We have the mind of Christ."* 1 Corinthians 2:16

--THE SWORD OF THE _____, which is the _____ of God. By God's speaking good things are created and evil things are undone. *"A sharp two-edged sword came from his (Christ's) mouth."* Revelation 1:16 Jesus is the *WORD of God become a human being.*" John 1:1,14

--PRAY IN THE POWER OF THE _____ at all _____ and on every _____. *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* Phil. 4:13

• **6:19-24 Closing Words:** Paul asks his Christian brothers to _____ for him that I might have the _____ words as he explains God's once _____ plan that the Good News that Jesus saves is for the _____ too...which is why he got in trouble and is _____ in prison. He is God's _____, a spokesman for the Kingdom of God. Paul is sending _____, a much loved _____ and faithful _____ in the Lord to tell them how he is getting along and will also _____ them. Paul concludes with a blessing, *"May God give you _____, dear brothers and sisters, (and give you) _____ with _____, from God the _____ and the _____ Jesus Christ. May God's _____ be upon all who _____ our Lord Jesus Christ with _____ love."*

WHAT DOES THIS SCRIPTURE MEAN TO YOU? _____