



Being A Battle-Ready Christian

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Colossians 3:23 NIV

²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,

A BATTLE-READY CHRISTIAN

Ephesians 6:10-18

INTRODUCTION: The believer's life is a battlefield. Immediately upon receiving Christ, the believer finds himself in a constant struggle. He is engaged in an unceasing fight, an unending war.

He is a combatant, a soldier in conflict. There are foes within and foes without. Christian believers must diligently heed what we need to do as it pertains to being ready for the battle and concerning our armor.

There is no other way to conquer the enemies who stand so violently opposed to the Christian believer.

Believe it or not, everyday we're alive affords us the opportunity to deal with the battles of this world. We may not completely realize it, but we're soldiers in the army of the Lord because what we deal with on a day-to-day basis is not physical, but it's actually spiritual.

When we understand that we live in a physical world, it's easy for us to assume that everything we deal with has physical implications, but we must come to grips and understand that what we're dealing with are spiritual things under the cover of physical beings. Here's a few questions to ponder:

- How many times have you dealt with somebody about something, and you knew it was not because of who you are, but rather whose you are? That's not physical...that's spiritual!
- How many times have you had to deal with people who did not like you because of your relationship with Christ? That's not physical...that's spiritual!
- How many times have you dealt with people who treated you bad or unfairly because you have a desire to develop your relationship with Christ? That's not physical...that's spiritual!

Knowing who we are and whose we are equips us to deal with situations like these and we can handle them in a manner that is pleasing unto the Lord.

We can do so if we are “*A Battle Ready Christian.*”

BACKGROUND/TEXT: Our text is found in the Book of Ephesians. Paul here is our writer and shares with us the message of Reconciliation.

In this book, Paul deals with the problem that man is faced with and that problem is division, disunity, and disharmony.

Mankind cannot move forward completely if he is divided and Paul wanted to show how man’s division from God though disobedience could only be rectified by the power of Jesus Christ.

- In Chapter 2, Paul shows how man is divided against God.
- In Chapter 4 Christians are seen out of harmony with Christians.
- In Chapter 5, Christians are seen out of harmony with God and family members are seen divided against family members.

Here in Chapter 6, Paul begins to deal with the relationship between children and parents and between slaves and their masters, and then begins to share with us concerning the armor ever Christian needs to put on, which brings us to our text.

POINTS:

1. **You Must Have The Right Battle Mentality (verse 10).** The text here tells us to be strong in the Lord. If we want to win the battle, we must have the right mentality because a person with a defeated mindset is a person who is already defeated.

You can’t expect to win if you go into the battle thinking you’ve already lost! Not only are we to be strong, but the text tells us who we need to be strong in.

Paul tells us in verse 10 that the believer must “*be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.*” The word “*strong*” means power, might, strength.

The believer must possess power, might and strength as he walks through the course of this life. The Lord’s *power* means His sovereign unlimited power and dominion over all.

The Lord’s *might* mean strength, force, ability. The Lord is the source of the believer’s strength. There is no other source that can give man strength to overcome this world and all its trials and temptations and death.

The believer must put on the amour of God. Once the believer is strong within, then he is ready to be clothed with the amour of God.

You must be strong in the Lord before you can be clothed with the armour of God and begin to wage war against the foes of life. When you have the right battle mentality, you can stand on :

Luke 1:37, “*For with God nothing shall be impossible.*” You can operate in faith and the promise of God as was told to us in 2

Timothy 1:7, “*For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*”

You see, you can’t fight and expect to win this spiritual battle utilizing your own physical power.

Too many times, we have situations in our lives that we try to fix, take care of, or even handle on our own, only to find out that we eventually take them to God anyway.

I’m so glad that God has the patience to wait for us to come to ourselves and realize that we need His help and assistance.

The Battle Mentality helps us to understand our limitations and God's ability to go beyond our limits.

One way of looking at it is to say, *"where our limits stops is where God's ability begins."*

2. **You Must Have The Right Battle Equipment (verses 13-17).**

In order for us to be victorious, we must also have the right equipment. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 10:3-4, *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds."*

Here in Ephesians 6, Paul gives us the whole armor that we need. He tells us:

- To have our loins girt about with truth. A loin refers to a belt or something that goes around the waist. The belt was used to hold the soldier's clothing next to his body. It was also used to strengthen and support the body. What exactly is the belt of truth? Christ is the truth!

The believer is to put on Christ! Jesus said in John 14:6, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the father, but by me."*

Knowing that Jesus is the truth helps us to know that He understands what we go through concerning the issues of life.

Hebrews 4:15-16 tells us, *"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."*

So we have to put on Christ!!

- The Breastplate of Righteousness. The breastplate covered the body of the soldier from the neck to the thighs. It was used to protect the heart.

The believer's heart is focused upon the Lord Jesus Christ and His righteousness, and that focus must be protected. When a man is saved, God imputes the righteousness of Jesus Christ to him, or God counts him righteous.

The Apostle Paul wrote about Jesus in 2 Corinthians 5:21 where we find, *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”*

He also wrote in Philippians 3:9, *“And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.”*

- Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel. Having your feet shod means to have on your shoes or sandals which was a sign of readiness – a readiness to march and to do battle. Jesus said in Mark 16:15, *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”*

Now concerning us, we must always be ready to let people know our position in the Lord.

1 Peter 3:15 says, *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”*

- If somebody asked you the question, “Why are you a Christian, are you prepared to answer them?”
- If somebody asked you, “Why are you a Baptist, are you prepared to answer them?”
- If somebody asked you, why do you believe in God’s power, are you prepared to answer them?

This tells us we must always be ready and prepared to share and defend the Gospel of Jesus Christ. One key characteristic of a Christian soldier is his readiness posture, always ready to do what’s necessary for the Gospel’s sake.

- Taking the Shield of faith. According to the Sermon Outline and Sermon Bible, “*The word ‘shield’ does not mean the small round shield which the soldier held in his hand to fight off the weapons of the enemy.*

It means the great oblong shield worn by the soldier to protect his body from the fiery darts thrown by the enemy. The darts were dipped in pitch or some other combustible material and set afire. When they struck, they served the purpose of small incendiary bombs. Satan has his fiery darts—those things that can cause the believer...

1. *To question his salvation.*
2. *To question if he is worthy.*
3. *To question if he can really serve.*
4. *To question if the project can really be done.*
5. *To become discouraged, depressed, and defeated.”*

The Psalmist writes in Psalm 3:3, “*But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.*” We’re also told in Psalm 33:20, “*Our soul waiteth for the Lord: he is our help and our shield.*”

We’ve got to have our faith in God so when the fiery darts come our way, we can know that God can handle it on our behalf.

- The Helmet of Salvation. As the breastplate protected the heart, so does the helmet protect the soldier's head. This protection is necessary as it also protects his mind. Your ability to think is an important factor in determining your victory or defeat.

Paul tells us in Romans 8:6, “*For the carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*”

He also said in Romans 12:2, “*And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.*”

When your mind has been renewed and your focus is on the Lord, He promises through the Prophet Isaiah 26:4 tells us, “*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*”

You can have peace and assurance of victory in the midst of the battle when you keep your mind stayed on the Lord.

- The Sword of the Spirit (the Word of God). The sword was a weapon used for both defense and offense. It was used both to protect and to fight off and slay the enemy. Not only do we need the truth, but we need the truth of the Word of God. We need this Word for in it we obtain the power of God.

Hebrews 4:12 tells us, “*For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the hearts.*”

Once you have the right battle equipment, you've got to have the next thing!

3. **You Must Have The Right Battle Insurance (verse 18).** What most people don't know is that prayer is powerful! Great things happen when people begin to pray.

In the natural (or physical), we normally purchase insurance on things of value to us. We get insurance for our homes, insurance on our cars, insurance on our lives and valuable possessions so if something happens, we're covered.

The key to the insurance policy is that we have to make monthly or constant payments on the policy to ensure that it's current and paid up. The last thing we need is to have the policy default on us because the payments have not been made. If we want to have the assurance of victory, prayer is required.

Paul tells us in Philippians 4:6, *“Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”*

King David also tells us in 1 Chronicles 16:11, *“Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually.”* If we want to be victorious, we must be prayed up. “Are You A Battle Ready Christian?”

SUMMARY/CLOSING: So the question today is...Are You A Battle Ready Christian? When we understand that what we're in is a spiritual battle and not a physical, we've got to be ready to deal with it from a spiritual perspective.

The way we do this is to know Jesus the Christ as Lord and savior and allow Him to dwell in you. When He comes in, He brings with Him all that Heaven has to offer in dealing with the battle we find ourselves faced with.

We don't have to fight the battle, but we do need to know the One who gives us victory in the midst of the battle and that's Jesus the Christ, the son of the living God who hung, bled, and died on Calvary's cross for

your sins and mine. When you have Jesus, you have what you need for the battle!!