

## The Way

### Fruit of the Church: Ephesians

#### Lesson 40: Christians Are to Put On the Complete Armor of God (Part 1)

*\*We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons\**

#### Scripture

Ephesians 6:10-12

#### Review (Where We've Been)

We've been learning that Christians should be *putting off* the works of the old self in favor of *putting on* the works of the new self.

**Ephesians 4:20 (ESV)** ...to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires...**24** ...and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

“One’s calling and conduct should be in balance.” – Bible Knowledge Com.

#### BIG Idea

***Throughout Ephesians, we've learned these three facts...***

- Old self is gone (put to death in Christ's death for sin)
  - New self has new spiritual/moral capabilities (can't be known outside of Christ)
- Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)** Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.
- New self should reflect the image of God (lives in righteousness and holiness)

***Even though these facts are to be believed, LIFE is HARD. Why?***

- Controllable circumstances (bad decisions - it's our own fault)
- Uncontrollable circumstances (Jesus told His followers that life would be hard)

**John 16:33 (ESV)** In the world you will have tribulation....

*What kind of tribulation or hardship can we expect?*

- ✓ Temptation
- ✓ Trials or testings
- ✓ Persecution
- ✓ Unexpected and unsettling circumstances
- ✓ Spiritual attacks

## Information (What You Need to Know)

### How to handle tribulation...

#### ▪ Be strong in the Lord

**Ephesians 6:10 (ESV)** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

*What Paul has written to the Ephesians, so far, for them to consider...*

- ✓ What God has done for them (their standing as children of God)
- ✓ God's purpose for them to mature and grow
- ✓ The privilege to be able to walk in the Spirit

*Considering this, there are battles to be fought in the Christian life. Because you can't stand on your own, you need to **be strong in God's mighty power.***

#### ▪ Put on the armor of God to stand against the devil

**Ephesians 6:11 (ESV)** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. **13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

- ✓ Clothe yourself with God's armor (discussion next week)

*"God gives the believer a full set of equipment, and He sends us out into battle with everything we need at our disposal."- David Guzik*

- ✓ Stand against the schemes of the devil

- He is a liar

**John 8:44 (ESV)** You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

- He is an accuser

**Revelation 12:9 (ESV)** And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. **10** And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

- He is a destroyer

**1 Peter 5:8 (ESV)** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

▪ **Know who you are battling**

**Ephesians 6:12 (ESV)** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

- ✓ This is not a physical battle
- ✓ This battle is spiritual (with rulers, authorities, cosmic powers over this present darkness, and spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places)

“The four designations describe the different strata and rankings of those demons and the evil supernatural empire in which they operate. Satan’s forces of darkness are highly structured for the most destructive purposes.” – John MacArthur

- You and I don’t look this enemy in the eye
- This enemy is in a battle for the affections of your heart, mind, and soul
- The enemy wants to destroy you from the inside out

### Application

We are not responsible to overthrow Satan.

We are to stand against him, remembering that he has already been overcome.

We know that Satan has already been defeated by Jesus through His death, resurrection and ascension to Heaven. The Lord possesses all power over Satan and his demons.

Because of all that Jesus has done to defeat Satan, we can hide in Jesus as our armor, and stand against Satan – refusing to give in to or to be afraid of anything he can do.

We are not to trust in what we can do to overcome Satan, but in all the Lord has already done to defeat Satan and all his demons.

**Romans 13:12 (ESV)** The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. **13** Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. **14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.