



### How to defeat your enemy

**Eph. 6:10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. **12** 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. **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. **14** Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. **16** In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; **17** and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

There are an array of spiritual enemies who:

1. Are utterly evil (v12)
2. Actively scheming against you. Devil rarely attacks opening- prefer darkness and scheming.
3. Are intelligent & masters of deceit and cunning (v11)

**Gen. 3:1** *Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.*

**2Cor. 11:14** *And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an **angel of light**.*

4. Are organised. (v12)
5. Have genuine power. (v12)

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

6. Use people to accomplish their objective (v12)

### **What else do we know about this enemy?**

7. We know the most about their leader – Satan (Lucifer) who we know was one of the foremost angels who was excluded from God’s presence due to his great pride. (Is. 14:12 – 16 speaks of the earthly king of Babylon but scholars believe it has a ‘dual meaning’ and also speaks of Satan)

**8. Some suggest that the rest are the ‘third’ of the angels who fell when Satan rebelled against God. (Rev 12:7)**

### **9. They attack mainly through**

- a. deception (including false teaching)
- b. gaining a foothold through our sin (Eph 4:27)
- c. gaining a stronghold through our sin (Matt 12:29)
- d. believers cannot be possessed (Eph 1:14) by evil spirits but they can be oppressed (literally ‘to have a demon’)

**10. We do know their destination – hell. In the big scheme of eternity, their time is short.**

Matt. 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting **fire**, prepared for the **devil** and his angels:

Rev. 12:12 Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

**How can we hope to survive? We are too weak, too foolish, too easily deceived. They are stronger & smarter.**

## 1. We need His strength

Those who are overconfident & try to battle in their own strength.

Paul corrects two extremes

Those who have forgotten the power of Christ in us.

**The enemy's authority has been taken by Christ and so the only authority he now has is that which we give him.**

## 2. We need the armour of God

When Paul talks about the armour of God he is not creating a new superstition – he is illustrating a 'protective' lifestyle.

	Important because:	Key Scripture	Therefore
<b>Belt of Truth</b>	Because it exposes the lies (the enemy's primary weapon) and maintains fellowship	<u>1John 1:7</u> But if we <b>walk in the light</b> , as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.	Live with integrity, authenticity, honesty
<b>Breastplate of Righteousness*</b> (not self righteousness but Christ's righteousness)	Because it defeats the enemy's second weapon of choice - condemnation	<u>Romans 8:1,33</u> There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus ... Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn?	Live from favour not for favour. Live know that any sin once repented of can be forgiven and was dealt with at the cross. Understand the difference between conviction of sin and condemnation.

\* some have made a big deal about the fact that no part of the armour covers the back and hence we should always advance. However, it's unlikely that this is a solid interpretation as the breastplate was one item that covered the back also – protecting all the vital organs.

<b>Shoes of the readiness given by the good news of peace</b>	Because in communicating the message we stay on solid ground. We declare peace with God and one another.	<u>Rom. 1:16</u> For I am not <b>ashamed</b> of the <b>gospel</b> , for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes	Live centred around the cross of Christ. Know it, meditate on it, communicate it.
<b>Shield** of Faith</b>	Because the enemies darts of temptation, doubt, rebellion, lust, fear need extinguishing with faith in God's promises of protection and provision.	<u>Prov. 30:5</u> Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.	It's not faith in our faith but faith (believe plus expectancy) in HIS goodness, HIS willingness and ability to fulfil his word etc
<b>Helmet of Salvation</b>	Because the battle for the mind is won or lost on this point – understanding what it means to be saved and live as a child of God.	<u>1 Thes 5:8</u> having put on .. the helmet of the hope of salvation. <u>9</u> For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,	The enemy attacks this one most aggressively. Come back again and again to meditate on the truth of who you are now in Christ.
<b>Sword of the Spirit</b>	Because God's word is the most powerful thing in the universe. It creates and brings life, destroys lies, heals hearts and exposes cancerous sin so that it can be dealt with.	<u>Heb. 4:12</u> For the <b>word of God</b> is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.	Discipline yourself to read it, meditate (chew it over), repeat it, teach it, love it, honour it. Never get bored of over familiar with it!

\*\*The word Paul uses denotes not the small round shield which left most of the body unprotected, but the long oblong one, measuring 1.2 metres by 0.75, which covered the whole person. It was specially designed to put out the dangerous incendiary missiles then in use, specially arrows dipped in pitch which were then lit and fired.