

## Spiritual Warfare

Ephesians 6: 13- 18

1/26/03

### Intro

- Mid-week service coming in February.

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We are in the last section of Ephesians 6 where Paul is giving us important insights into the battle that every Christian has against “the world forces of this present darkness.”

None of us is able to stand up against the enemy alone, as Martin Luther wrote in one of his hymns, “On earth is not his equal.”

But we don’t just have to hope for the best, we have been given armor for defense and weapons for warfare.

**II Corinthians 10:4** “The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but are divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.”

And we are expected to put on the armor that God has provided for us, if we are defeated we should consider whether we have done our part in putting on the armor of God,

**In the message today then, we will discover insights into the helmet of salvation so we can stand in the evil day.**

**Illus – Today is a good day to consider the helmet because it’s Super Bowl Sunday. Imagine an NFL player going out to play without his helmet – No way!!**

**We also are in an epic battle of much greater proportions; there are giants, and cowboys, and raiders, and lions...**

**Imagine a football game where the opponent is huge, and they use every dirty trick in the book; people are being carried off the field on stretchers. But at the last play of the game... Then you will want grass hanging from your face mask!!!**

**If you’re helmet is shiny you’re sitting in the bench.**

## I. Why do we need a helmet?

### A. To protect the head – the mind.

- A wound to the head could be fatal.
- Israel was not the first to invent helmets and when they first encountered an army with a helmet, they sustained great losses.

### B. There is a great battle for the mind.

- To control the mind is to control the person.
- “As a man thinks in his heart, so he is.”

**Illus – There is an assault on our society through music, because music opens the mind as well as the heart.**

Sometimes the assault is a frontal attack that blatantly targets Christianity e.g.) Marilyn Manson.

Sometimes the assault is more subtle e.g.) George Harrison’s “My Sweet Lord.”

### C. The helmet of salvation is effective.

- We are to filter everything through our salvation.

**Illus – If you’re wearing a Buccaneer’s helmet that determines whose team you’re fighting on, what direction you run on the field, and who you huddle with!**

- I’m on His team!!

I need to consider everything in my life through the reality of who I am!! “Wait a minute, what am I doing? I’m on His team!!! I’m an adopted son of God, I’m a priest and ambassador of God.”

**Illus – Like airport security inspects and won't let damaging material through; i.e.) traveling to Russia with Jordi.**

## II. What is the nature of the battle?

### A. Deception.

- Before every fall there is delusional thinking.
- Then there is spiritual deception.

**Example: “If God is unlimited then couldn't He appear as Buddha, Krishna, or even Shirley McLain?”**

### B. Doubt.

- Some doubt their salvation.
- Some doubt God's nature. “Why doesn't God do what I think He should do?”
- Doubting makes us withdrawn from God.

### C. Discouragement.

- Satan loves to point out our sin, failures, lack of faith, and lack of self-discipline.
- “Who am I to think I can make a difference?”
- “I'm worthless to God.”

## III. How does victory come?

### A. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

- **Romans 12:1-2** “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

- **Philippians 4:8** “Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.”
- **2 Cor 10:4-5** “For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”

### B. Be confident in your salvation.

- Confront the doubts.
- Ps 27:1 “The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?”

### C. Make a difference.

- Matthew 28:18-20

## Conclusion

**May we say with Paul, “Fight the good fight, take hold of eternal life to which you were called.”**