

METAPHOR OF THE SOLDIER: PREPARATION FOR CONFRONTING SPIRITUAL WOLVES

I Timothy 6:11-21 (ESV) / April 30, 2022

Introduction: Preparation for Spiritual Warfare

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **stand** against the schemes of the devil.

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.

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.

1. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and
2. having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and,
3. as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.
4. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and
5. take the helmet of salvation, and
6. the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,
7. praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. (Ephesians 6:10-20, ESV)

1. TRAIN TO PREPARE FOR BATTLE (6:11)

- But as for you, O man of God, flee these things.

Flee: Run away from (Different Doctrines, Division, Covetousness)

- Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.

Pursue: Lifelong passion and pursuit
Righteousness: Justice and fair dealings with people
Godliness: Holiness
Faith Faithfulness and Integrity
Love Sacrificial love
Steadfastness: Endurance
Gentleness: Meekness

2. FIGHT TO DEFEND THE TRUTH (6:12a)

- Fight the good fight of the faith.

Fight: "Agonize the good agony"
Faith: Doctrine, The Truth

3. FOCUS ON THE MISSION OF ETERNAL LIFE (6:12b)

- **Take hold** of the *eternal life* to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

4. OBEY GOD’S ORDERS OF JESUS’ COMMANDMENT (6:13-16)

- I **charge** you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to **keep** the commandment unstained and free from reproach
- until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—
 - he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,
 - who alone has immortality,
 - who dwells in unapproachable light,
 - whom no one has ever seen or can see.
 - To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

5. LEAD OTHERS TO BE GENEROUS, NOT GREEDY (6:17-19)

- As for the rich in this present age, **charge** them
 - not to be haughty,
 - nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches,
 - but (to set their hopes) on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.
 - They are to do good, to be rich in good works,
 - to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

6. PROTECT THE VALUABLE DEPOSIT OF THE GOSPEL (6:20-21a)

- Timothy, **guard** the deposit entrusted to you.
- **Avoid** the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge,” for by professing it some have swerved from the faith.

BENEDICTION: GRACE (6:21b)

- Grace be with you.

The Sheep Keep the Shepherds Accountable

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

- Share in **suffering** as a **good soldier** of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.
- An **athlete** is not crowned unless he competes according to the **rules**.
- It is the **hard-working farmer** who ought to have the first share of the crops. (2 Timothy 2:1-7, ESV)