

BATTLE READY

A Study in the Book of Ephesians

The Stand we Take

Ephesians 6



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Paul wrote to expand the horizon of his readers, so that they might understand better the dimensions of God's eternal purpose and grace and come to appreciate the high goals God has for the church.

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I. The Armor We Wear 6:13-17

Ephesians 6:13-17 (NIV) ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

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¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

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I. The Armor We Wear 6:13-17

Truth –

The master plan of God revealed in the scriptures.

Psalm 119:105 (NIV) ¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

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I. The Armor We Wear 6:13-17

Righteousness –

Rightness before God through Jesus Christ.

1 John 3:21 (NIV) ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God

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I. The Armor We Wear 6:13-17

Peace –

The absence of conflict within.

Colossians 1:19-20 (NIV) ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,
²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

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I. The Armor We Wear 6:13-17

Faith –

An assurance and trust in that what God has revealed and promised.

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV) ¹ Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

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I. The Armor We Wear 6:13-17

Salvation –

A confidence that our soul has been rescued from death, now and forever.

1 Peter 1:8-9 (NIV) ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

⁹ for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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I. The Armor We Wear 6:13-17

Spirit-

The phrase “of the Spirit” means that the Holy Spirit is both the source of God’s word, and the one who gives effectiveness to its cutting edge

It is the “proclaimed word” (ῥῆμα, rhēma) of God, the gospel.

The College Press NIV Commentary

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II. The Grace we Proclaim

Ephesians 1:2 (NIV) ² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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II. The Grace we Proclaim

Seeking Grace

Ephesians 1:4-6 (NIV) ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

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II. The Grace we Proclaim

Saving Grace

Ephesians 2:4-9 (NIV) ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

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II. The Grace we Proclaim

Saving Grace

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

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II. The Grace we Proclaim

Sanctifying Grace

Ephesians 3:16-19 (NIV) ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

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II. The Grace we Proclaim

Sustaining Grace

Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV) ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

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II. The Grace we Proclaim

Sufficient Grace

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV) ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

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II. The Grace we Proclaim

Sufficient Grace

Ephesians 6:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

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