

LIKE A MIGHTY ARMY Ephesians 6:10-20

The Roman Army was the most powerful military force in the 1st Century. It was the best equipped, trained and deployed army in its day. The paradigm of warfare was a natural one for Paul to use as he equipped the 1st Century believers for the spiritual conflict they faced. (see Ephesians 6:12, 2; Corinthians 10:3-6.

I. LIKE AN ARMY, WE NEED THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT

EQUIPMENT

SPIRITUAL APPLICATION

1. BELT (14)

- Protection
- Holds weapons
- Holds robes

TRUTH

- Holds all things together
- Word of truth – Scripture -John 17:17
- Person of truth – Lord Jesus Christ - John 14:6
- Spirit of truth – Holy Spirit - John 14:7
- Pillar and foundation of truth – church
1 Timothy 3 – God’s household which is the church

2. BREASTPLATE (14)

- Chest and back protection for vital organs

RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Guard your heart – Prov. 4:23
- Completely forgiven, cleansed by blood of Jesus Christ
- Pursuit of personal holiness
- No “power” without “purity”

3. SHOES (15)

- Appropriate protection and support
cf. shoes on hot beach, boots in blizzard, flips-flops for active combat?

PROCLAIMING PEACE

- “peace” of the Gospel is the army boot which crushes Satan (Romans 16:20)
- Advancing the Kingdom of Christ requires a proclamation of peace – Isaiah 52:7; Romans 10:15
- Walk with the Lord
2 John 1:6 – walk in love

4. SHIELD (16)

- Deflects “flaming arrows” from above
- Protects in hand-to-hand battles

FAITH

F = Forgiveness of Sins
A = Assurance of Salvation
I = Identity in God’s family
T = Triumph over Satan
H = Hope of Deliverance

5. HELMET (17)

- Made of metal and leather
- Protects head and neck
Today – sports, biking

SALVATION

- Renewing our minds transform our lives
Romans 12:1,2
- Fill mind with Word of Truth – 2 Cor. 10:5
- Receive washing of the Word
- Demons can project thoughts but can not read our thoughts

6. SWORD (17)

- Long sword
- Short sword (dagger)

SPIRIT → Word of God

- Jesus used the word to resist Satan (Matt. 4:1-11)
- Not semi magical use – but familiarity and accurate understanding strategically applied.

7. PRAYER (18) a PRIMARY WEAPON (no physical comparison for this)

Victory comes not through magical incantations, amulets, crucifixes etc. BUT through simple trust in the power of the risen Christ

- Personal application - victory over my temptations and powerlessness
- Corporate application – victory over disunity and ineffectiveness in mission

**Spiritual Warfare is more “proactive” than “reactive”
“pre-emptive strike”**

II. LIKE AN ARMY, WE NEED THE RIGHT STRATEGY

1. Offensive – the Roman “Wedge”
2. Defensive – the Roman “tortoise” – “testudo”

APPLICATION

1. Put on the equipment
2. Commit to “unity” and “team”