

Identity 19: Ephesians 6:11-24

Fully immerse yourself in the detail and significance of every individual part of the armor of God. (Acquaint yourself with all that God's victory in Christ represents.) Just like every aspect in a soldier's armor significantly completes his battle uniform to best equip him to face every method and strategy that a fallen mind-set could possibly employ against him. [Eph. 6:11](#).

The church has reduced the armor of God to a song or action in which you put on each armor before you leave the house each day. That is fine if you want to remember, but THIS IS ALL ABOUT IDENTITY IN CHRIST!

Put on is "enduo" in the Greek and means "to envelope in, to hide in, to clothe with." The phrase "whole armor" is "panoplia" and is two words that literally means "ALL THE WEAPONS." It has the idea of a HEAVILY ARMED SOLDIER. **We, as believers, are special ops with all our gear!** The Mirror Bible reveals that we are TO ACQUIANT OURSELF WITH ALL THAT GOD'S VICTORY IN CHRIST REPRESENTS so that we can FACE EVERY METHOD AND STRATEGY THAT A FALLEN MINDSET COULD POSSIBLY USE AGAINST US! **THOUGHTS RULE THE WORLD.** The enemy knows this; therefore, if we are ignorant of or refuse to believe all that Christ accomplished in His death and life victory, then the enemy finds that crack to gain access to our minds, will and emotions to derail us. He tells us lies such as:

1. He is to be feared.
2. We are powerless.
3. Our bills will not be paid.
4. We won't be healed/we will get cancer, etc.
5. We must live with anxiety and depression.

These are all PRE-MADE STATES not for the born again Kings and Priests in Christ!

People are not the enemy and to target one another is to engage in the wrong combat. We represent THE AUTHORITY OF THE VICTORY OF CHRIST IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM. We are positioned there (in Christ); WE TARGET THE MIND GAMES AND STRUCTURES OF DARKNESS, RELIGIOUS THOUGHT PATTERNS, GOVERNING AND CONDITIONING HUMAN BEHAVIOR. [Eph. 6:12](#).

I don't like that the author took out the demonic aspect of this verse but I do like what he does target: MIND GAMES, RELIGIOUS THOUGHT PATTERNS AND STRUCTURE OF DARKNESS that govern human behavior. The demonic influence is made plain behind these activities in the NKJV.

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

We won't go into each one but instead take note of the EVIDENCE OF THEIR ACTIVITY in this passage in the MIRROR BIBLE. And if you have ever encountered someone who is religious or who uses mind games, you KNOW you are confronting the demonic influence of the kingdom of darkness!

It is most important therefore to acquaint yourself with every aspect of God's armor. You are fully fit to powerfully defeat any onslaught or contradiction on any day of confrontation, triumphantly standing your ground. The days where the LAW OF HARDSHIPS, ANNOYANCES and LABOR DICTATED YOUR LIFE ARE OVER! [Eph. 6:13](#).

I LOVE the next sentence, "God's armor represents His reputation, HIS VICTORY DEFINES YOU." **Your past, your present, your failures, your disappointments DO NOT DEFINE YOU any longer.** THE QUICKER YOU GET THIS REVELATION, THE MORE MANIFESTATION OF FREEDOM AND HIS ACTIVE PROMISES IN YOUR LIFE YOU WILL HAVE.

Take your position: you have truth (OF WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST) wrapped around your hips like a soldier's belt, holding the complete body armor together. (Know that your loins are protected from all manner of lust, gluttony and sexual sins.) Righteousness covers your heart like a bulletproof breastplate. You wear your eagerness and passion to communicate the good news like soldier's shoes. Announce peace; the battle has already been fought and won! IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO ENGAGE YOUR FAITH AS A MAN-SIZE SHIELD THAT COVERS YOUR WHOLE PERSON AND EMPOWERS YOU TO EXTINGUISH THE FLAME IN EVERY ARROW OF CONTRADICTION THAT YOU MIGHT FACE. THE ONLY VISIBLE PART OF YOU IS YOUR FAITH. Pondering redemption realities is your headgear that protects

your mind; inspired thoughts give voice to God's word--this is your spiritual sword. [Eph. 6:14-17](#).

Love love love this. Knowing truth sets you free from the lust that has corrupted the world. Lust is not just sexual. I love how he points out that OVEREATING is also a sin and a lust. Anything that is forbidden or a STRONG DESIRE is lust.

The SHIELD OF FAITH is not the small shield we see in pictures of the Roman soldier, which by the way, Paul was probably observing since he was under arrest when he wrote Ephesians. The shield Paul was speaking of covered the entire body of the soldier. In fact, the Greek for shield of faith means "door, gate." It is a SHIELDING LIKE A DOOR. **THIS MEANS YOUR FAITH IS LIKE A SHUT DOOR ON THE ENEMY'S ATTACKS!!!** He should see nothing but faith when he views you! Faith is tangible in the spirit-realm so any weak areas or missing areas will be easily spotted. THAT IS WHY BEING A STUDENT OF THE WORD, WHICH PRODUCES FAITH, IS SO IMPORTANT. And then to liken the sword of the word to the ACTIVITY OF PONDERING REDEMPTION REALITIES to protect your mind is brilliant! As you meditate on the word, your mind is renewed and transformed. So faith protects the whole man with the added protection of the mind by pondering REDEMPTION REALITIES.

I want to point out that wiles in verse 11 refers to the METHODS of the enemy. He investigates by method and comes up with a settled plan to follow craftily. I.e. he probes your shield of faith and your understanding of the word for any area in which he can DEVELOP A STRATEGY to attack you with results. This often results in conflict in the believer's life, a wrestling. YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW WHY SOMETHING IS WRONG IN YOUR THOUGHTS OR LIFE BUT YOU KNOW IT ISN'T GOD. This is the time to seek Him and get the scriptures you need for your defense. Wrestle is a very interesting word. Listen to the definition from Wuest:

In the word "wrestle," (*palē*), Paul uses a Greek athletic term. Thayer defines as follows: "a contest between two in which each endeavors to throw the other, and which is decided when the victor is able to press and hold down his prostrate antagonist, namely, hold him down with his hand upon his neck." When we consider that the loser in a Greek wrestling contest had his eyes gouged out with resulting blindness for the rest of his days, we can form some conception of the Ephesian Greek's reaction to Paul's illustration. The Christian's wrestling against the powers of darkness is no less desperate and fateful.

Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament - Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament – Volume 1.

It is because of this wrestling or battle that we MUST ACQUAINT OURSELVES WITH THE VICTORY OF GOD IN CHRIST.

Stand therefore, having girded your loins in the sphere of truth, and having clothed yourself with the breastplate of righteousness, and having sandalled your feet with a firm foundation of the glad tidings of peace; in addition to all these, taking to yourselves the shield of faith by means of which you will be able to quench all the fiery arrows of the pernicious one, and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.

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PRAYER IS AN ONGOING CONVERSATION; praying in the spirit includes every form of prayer, whether it be a prayer of request or a prayer of thanksgiving, or worship or interceding for all to realize their saintly innocence. Oh and remember, you do not have to do all the talking! Always be attentive to the voice of the Spirit. [Eph. 6:18](#).

I love this too! Often we tend to limit prayer to one specific task or aspect but prayer is FELLOWSHIP, COMMUNION, AND PRESENCE. There are times that my prayer time is worship and praying in tongues. Other times it is praying with power over specific things the Lord puts on my heart. Other times, I feel the spirit of intercession and enter into that type of prayer. But you must listen too! The original language of the NKJV that says, "praying always" is likened to the inability NOT to cough or sneeze. It gives the idea that as the need arises, you should without thinking pray!

My most urgent request is for clarity of utterance every time I open my mouth to speak. I desire that my words will be gifted with inspiration, boldly articulating the mystery of the gospel. I am an ambassador in bonds, chained to this task of confidently communicating the revelation of the gospel with the accuracy it deserves. I know this is not much of a newsletter. My urgency was not to talk about myself, but my dear friend and faithful helper Tychicus, will fill you in on the detail. (He is also the scribe of this letter.) That is really why I sent him to you, that you may be well informed about our affairs and see yourselves fully identified with us. My prayer for you is a BROTHERHOOD OF

HAPPY HARMONY, and LOVE-ENTWINED FAITH flowing from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Grace greetings to all of you who share our undivided passion for our Master, Jesus Christ. **He is echoed in your amen.** [Eph. 6:19-24](#).

Paul shows his true apostolic office by NOT WASTING TIME speaking of himself but ESTABLISHING DOCTRINE. Apostles carry so much revelation that it is often very hard for them to engage in small talk or to NOT discuss the Word. They are often CORRECTORS in identifying false mindsets and doctrine so light and truth can produce change.

His prayer might have been directed for the Ephesians but I believe is relevant for us today. And I love how he ends it with, "He is echoed in your amen." Every time you say "Amen" realize you are releasing the essence of Christ in the SO BE IT! That impartation goes out to bring to pass your prayer request!

ACTIVATION: Prayer exercises.