

New Morning Magical

The world's greatest checklist

Today, we look into the last section of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians. This is all about what Paul calls, "*the panoply [or complete armor] of God.*"

Obviously, the picture Paul paints is a figurative one, but it's more than that, because, as you'll see, each implement of the armor is essential for you and me to negotiate this wicked eon as human beings, until the Lord returns.

Even though you and I are in Christ today, we are under assault because we are yet awaiting our completion – our deliverance – out from our mortality and corruptibility, and into our immortal bodies and incorruptibility.

So, let's read this final section together, and then I'll share with you part of our Light Up the Scriptures study of the panoply, so you can gain a clear understanding of this essential equipment.

Here is the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 6, beginning with verse 10:

10 For the rest, brethren **[and sisteren]** mine, be invigorated in the Lord and in the might of His strength.

11 Put on the panoply of God, to enable you to stand up to the stratagems of the Adversary,

It's a bit strange, isn't it, to be instructed in two such different ways:

1. Be invigorated in the Lord and in the might of His strength
2. Put on the panoply of God

Why would you need a complete suit of armor when you're being "*invigorated in the Lord and in the might of His strength*"? Well, as odd as it sounds, "*the might of His strength*" enables you to "*put on the panoply of God,*" and then use it "*to stand up to the stratagems of the Adversary.*" "*The might of His strength*" doesn't do for us what is ours to do; it's to impart the strength we'll need.

12 for it is not ours to wrestle with blood and flesh, but with the sovereignties, with the authorities, with the world-mights of this darkness, with the spiritual forces of wickedness among the celestials.

I'll just add a few considerations for you to ponder about wrestling with spirits:

1. Dealing with spirits is real; this isn't fiction or hyperbole. The spirit realm is as real as you are. Don't make the mistake of discounting spiritual influence over people and their activities. At the same time, remember Who is invigorating you, because He outranks and out-powers all others, never mind setting the scope and limits of their activity.
2. You can't teach a spirit – If you run into someone who is antagonistic and intractable in their beliefs or behavior, don't think you can correct them or negotiate with them.
3. Dealing with spirits is a skill you develop over time, to the point that you can spot their activity in plenty of time to avoid it altogether.
4. There is a place of walking with the Father, in Christ, where nothing can touch you. Barbara taught me that many years ago and I heard the words, I liked the idea, certainly, but I didn't grasp the meaning until much later.

Let's continue now with the Panoply of God:

13 Therefore take up the panoply of God that you may be enabled to withstand in the wicked day, and having effected all, to stand.

14 Stand, then, girded about your loins with truth, with the cuirass [double breastplate] of righteousness put on,

15 and your feet sandaled with the readiness of the evangel of peace;

16 with all taking up the large shield of faith, by which you will be able to extinguish all the fiery arrows of the wicked [***there is no "one" at the end of wicked***].

17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is a declaration of God.

Well, there you have it, so let's begin our study of the panoply, joining the teleconference now in progress. There are no notes for this study, but you'll be able to follow along pretty well in Chapter 12 of the book, *Rescuing God From the Rubble of Religion*.

So, until next time,

May Yahweh bless you and keep you;

May Yahweh light up His face toward you
and be gracious to you;

May Yahweh lift His face to you
and appoint peace for you.

AMEN