

Title: God's got you covered!

Text: Ephesians 6:11-18

Target: Putting on the armor of God is more than a drawing, it is an everyday, multiple times throughout the day, decision.

We are commanded in Faith and Devotion to:

1. **Wake UP:** "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the **schemes** of the devil." (Vs.11)
2. **Take UP:** "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." (Vs.13)
3. **Buckle UP:** "Stand therefore, having **fastened** on the belt of truth" (Vs.14a)
4. **Cover UP:** "...and having **put on** the breastplate of righteousness" (Vs.14b)
5. **Lace UP:** "...as shoes for your feet, having put on the **readiness** given by the gospel of peace." (Vs. 15)
6. **Hold UP:** "In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can **extinguish** all the flaming darts of the evil one;" (Vs. 16)
7. **Heads UP:** "and take the helmet of **salvation**" (Vs.17a)
8. **Turn UP:** "the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word of God**" (Vs. 17b)
9. **Prayed UP:** "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," (Vs.18)

Takeaway: The Armor of God is always available. Will we activate it is the question?

Discussion Questions: Go back and read verse 12 again. If you are like me, you know that verse. You have read it numerous times and you can probably quote it. We most likely never really consider the spiritual battle constantly being fought in the heavenly realm because we can't "see" it. We fixate on what's in front of us, because that is the perspective we have always had. However, when we understand the seriousness of these battles and imminence of the next battle it changes our perspective. Who would go into battle dressed for dinner unless they couldn't see the war waging in front of them? If you knew a battle was coming, wouldn't you gird yourself and take up your weapon? That's what Paul is urging the Church at Ephesus to do in this passage.

When was the first time or last time that you recognized that we wrestle not against flesh and blood? Do you wake up each morning prepared for battle? If not, what can you do to change this? Is there one area or element of the armor you need help with? How can you get better with that one piece? Make a conscious decision today to put on the whole armor of God daily whether you are facing a battle that day or not. Because as Pastor Ed says, "If you stay ready, you don't have to get ready."