

Equipping for Kingdom Battles

Imagine the following scenarios:

- The NFL changed their rules so that players are no longer allowed to wear protective equipment.
- You've been invited to a 'cordless' bungee-jumping trip.
- Welders are now required to go without any protective eye equipment.
- Astronauts are no longer allowed to wear suits with oxygen.
- Police officers are no longer allowed to wear weapons.
- The military is now required to resolve all conflicts with diplomacy – no weapons or force of any kind allowed.

Would you dare enter spiritual battles unarmed?

Ephesians 6:10-12 (ESV) ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

The best news, in the battle, is that it's not up to our strength, but the Lord's!

People are not our enemies, but you better believe that the demonic forces will use all at their disposal to hit you as hard and as frequently as possible. Yet with the Lord, we are stronger.

The armor doesn't put on itself. We must choose to put on the armor - if not we are exposed.

Are you unaware that you're daily involved in spiritual battles?

Ephesians 6:13-16 (NIV2011) 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.

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.

The victorious are the ones who remain standing after battle. Through Christ, we can be victorious.

When our faith is in Jesus' finished work, our 'shield' is large enough to block the enemy's arrows.

The belt of truth identifies error. Christ's righteousness rebukes the accusations of the enemy. Sharing the gospel helps expand the kingdom.

Are you regularly growing in your spiritual defense and offense?

Ephesians 6:17-18 (NKJV) ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-

When the enemy tries to place lies in your head, remember that it is Christ who saves you not your works.

Prayer is both a defensive and offensive weapon and regardless of where we are or what time it is, the pathway to communicate with God is always open!

The primary offensive weapon we have is the word of God. It is connected to all the pieces of armor.

Take time to reflect upon your walk with Jesus. Where is the enemy getting a foothold? How can being fully equipped and alert protect you from the enemy and better connect you to the King of kings?