

The Armour of God

△ Eph. 6 v 10 –
18

Introduction

Alice's book: Treasures in the
Darkness

In the next 7 weeks we step
through her book using the
imagery of the Armour of God

Why do we need the Armour of God?

Example

Do you have sometimes situations that
everything goes against you?

Especially when you want to do
something that God has asked you to
do

For instance, talking about your faith to
a friend?

And you cannot get out of your words

Or there are constant interruptions

Or, even worse, something happens to
you and you are more upset than
normal

And if stops you from telling your story properly

Or you give up altogether

Another example

You are convinced that God has asked you to do let go of something

Drinking alcohol, or consuming lots of chocolate

Or stronger: stopping gambling, or pornography

Or trying to be more kind to people

And every time you try to do this seriously, for one or another reason to fall back into the old habits

While feeling guilty and sorry for yourself

But not being able to 'kick the habit'?

Are we in a battle?

You may write this off as something that used happens

Or you blame yourself as not being strong enough

If feels like a battle, but as Christians we do not want to use those words

We are not in a battle are we?

We are supposed to be peaceful people

And not promoting imagery of fighting and of war

What are we fighting anyway?

Spiritual Warfare

One aspect of our Christian faith however, recognises we are in a battle

This is ultimately a battle of each human soul

God at the one hand wants to save every human being

Saving from death - by giving people eternal life

That's why he died on the cross for us

So that we could go free from death and destruction

Evil, personified in the Bible by Satan, however, wants to overpower us, and enslave us

into death, destruction, bondage to drugs, spiritualism, alcohol, money, anger, and lots more things

So that he has power over us

To destroy this world for ever

In the book, Alice gives a helpful overview how the Bible speaks about the Devil - a fallen angel

And that Jesus has won the battle for our hearts from him on the cross

But Satan and his minions is holding on to his fight

Worldview

You may say, that does not exist!

This is medieval thinking

Surely in our modern times we can explain all these things as normal illnesses, circumstances

This may be our worldview, but it stops us seeing what God sees

And denying what the Devil does not want us to see

His influence in our lives

And in the meantime he stops us from being salt and light in our communities

Our choice

Alice speaks about our own Choice in this matter

To go through the narrow gate or the wide gate

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

[^] Matt 7:13-14

The wide gate and broad road seems to be the easiest for us to follow

And the more attractive

As this is the road that satisfies our flesh and bodies, but ultimately leads away from Jesus

The narrow road can be harder, as it is when we follow Jesus. He never promised it will be easy, but he promises eternal life and that he never leaves us nor forsakes us.

To choose to live in the dark or in the light

We ourselves are also light bearers

Or can choose to be light bearers

This is why we need to protect ourselves

The Armour

Take up the whole armour of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's

schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms

Paul knew about the work of the evil one

Rules, authorities, powers, spiritual forces

In heavenly places

Not to protect us from other people!

Jesus also want to safe them!

But to protect us from Spiritual enemies

That you be able to stand

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

¹⁴ Stand therefore

The objective is not for us to win

As we have already won with Jesus

But not to loose what Jesus has already won for us

To stand then, and not to fall

The actual armour

(Having) put on the belt of truth

(Having) put on the Breastplate of righteousness

(Having) put as shoes the readiness that comes from the Gospel of Peace

Having - it is reminding us that we already have these items on, as we follow Christ already

Plus

Take up the shield of faith - to extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one

Take up the helmet of Salvation

And take up the Sword of the Spirit -
the Word of God

Praying always

with all prayers and supplication

in the Spirit

being watchful

Armour: attitude not
superstition

Put on the armour together