

Ephesians 6:13 – 17 - Tactical Use of the Armor of God

- 1) “Lord, teach me how to live”
 - a) Goal is for God to teach us how to live
 - b) Have God equip us for this week in a practical, tactical, Christian way
 - c) **Q: What was one difficult situation you faced this week?**
- 2) Eph 6:13-17
 - a) Shield of Faith
 - i) **Q: What is faith?**
 - (1) *Belief and trust in God*
 - (a) Trust - **Q: What are some things you can trust God for?**
 - (2) *Loyalty to God*
 - ii) Shield
 - (1) Held out in front of the body. Keep danger at arm’s length
 - b) Sword of the Word
 - i) **Q: Why is the Word an offensive weapon?**
 - (1) Stops Satan in his tracks
 - (a) Jesus used it to beat Satan back
 - c) Tactics
 - i) Soldier under attack
 - (1) Shield blocks, sword counter attacks
 - ii) Soldier of Christ
 - (1) Faith blocks (your trust & loyalty), Word strikes back
 - (2) Practical
 - (a) This week, when facing challenge (ex. Difficult co-worker, unexpected set back, anger, fear, etc.)
 - (b) Use your faith to shield your mind, heart, & body
 - (c) Use the Word to defeat the attacker
 - (d) Notes
 - (i) Might be a long “bout” (multiple defensive and offensive moves)
 - (ii) Enemy is not man Eph 6:12
 - d) Breastplate of Righteousness
 - i) **Q: Another Christian-ese¹ word, what is righteousness?**
 - (1) Moral integrity – firm standing in what is right
 - (2) Remember, Christ makes us righteous – external armor
 - (3) Christ is over our hearts
 - ii) Tactical
 - (1) If we can’t get our shield of faith in place in time to block the attack, the breastplate is there to protect our heart and chest.
 - (2) Protects feelings/emotions
 - (3) Example, (use one from the intro question) – else:

¹ Christian-ese – Christian vocabulary used to summarize spiritually significant concepts. The true meaning and weight of these words is often lost on non-Christians and Christians alike. Examples include: *Savior, personal Lord, born-again, filled with the Holy Spirit*. Christians who wish to educate and encourage others about who Jesus Christ is, should do so using terminology and language the audience can understand.

- (a) Co-worker called me a lousy leader
 - (b) Faith wasn't in place in time – couldn't immediately block it, went for my chest
 - (c) Breastplate took the hit – Christ promises that he makes me righteous, remembered
 - (i) God puts people in leadership positions – he put me there
 - (ii) I'm growing and learning
 - (iii) This was an attack intended to cripple me, not build me up
 - (iv) Faith didn't immediately contradict, but Christ was over my heart
 - e) Helmet of Salvation
 - i) **Q: *What is salvation?***
 - (1) Webster: Free from ignorance or delusion – word is about protecting the mind
 - ii) Helmet protects mind & attitudes
 - f) Shoes of peace
 - i) **Q: *What does "shoes of peace" refer to?***
 - (1) Preparation
 - (a) To do God's work
 - (b) Firm footed stability - traction
 - (c) Promptness – good running shoes
 - ii) Tactical
 - (1) Infantry's ability to move quickly and endure depended a lot on proper footwear
 - (2) ...
- g) Belt of Truth
 - i) Tactical
 - (1) Hold the armor together for you even if you can't
 - (2) Truth of Christ overcomes all your challenges and moments of weakness