

appnotes

DAY 1 READ HEBREWS 4:12

1

The first piece of God's armor is the belt of truth. So why is the Bible so central to spiritual warfare? It's the tool by which we come to know God and believe His truth. The Bible is much more than a book; it is the story of God—a story that has existed before the earth was created. When we read God's word we are changed and renewed, no other book has that kind of power. As we begin to know it well, we will actually become a threat to the devil's plans. Not only does knowledge of God's word allow us to not be afraid of the devil, it makes him afraid of us.

DAY 2 READ PROVERBS 11

2

The breastplate was a central part of the Roman soldier's armor. It provided protection for the torso, which contains vital organs like the heart and lungs. Without a breastplate, a soldier would be asking for death, as any attack could instantly become fatal. With a sturdy breastplate, the very same attacks become ineffective and useless, as blows glance off the armor. When we put on right living, we are simply listening to God and doing what He says. To be righteous is to do what is right in God's eyes. Righteousness and character are the means to justice and victory against the invisible war we fight everyday.

DAY 3 READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

3

The armor of God also includes having our "feet fitted" with the "gospel of Peace" (Ephesians 6:15). This peace of armor is essential for every Christ follower. The gospel is the life-changing message that Jesus took our place so that we could have a restored relationship with God. Paul says that this message is foolishness to those who are losing the battle, but the power of God is given to those who believe. We need to continually believe the good news of the gospel and share it with others. As we keep this message central to our everyday lives we will be able to stand up to the cunning ways of Satan.

DAY READ HEBREWS 11

4

Another piece of our armor is the shield of faith (Ephesians 6:16). Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. In the invisible war we fight, the enemy is constantly trying to get us to doubt God's goodness and character. When we live by faith, confidently trusting in God's character we can "extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one." The writer of Hebrews gives us an extensive list of heroes of faith throughout the ages. They didn't consider themselves a hero they simply trusted God to come through rather than relying on their own strength. Do you have confident hope that God is who He said He is and that He will do what He said He would do? If we live with that confidence we will always be on the winning side.

DAY READ ROMANS 8:31-38

5

The last pieces of armor mentioned in Ephesians 6 are the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit. The helmet of salvation is a symbol of protection and victory. Our greatest victory is the gift of salvation we have been given through Christ's sacrifice. When Jesus rose from the dead, He conquered sin and death, winning the battle long before we ever got involved. Because of Jesus we are no longer slaves to sin and death. Once we are in a relationship with Christ we need to use the sword of the Spirit, which Paul tells us is the Bible. One of the greatest habits we can develop as Christ followers is consistent Bible reading. God has given us everything we need to live a life that is pleasing to Him (2 Peter 1:3). The question is, are we suiting up?

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

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