

"Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm."  
Ephesians 6:13

"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."  
1 Peter 5:8

## Where's the Battle?

### The Armor of God- Ephesians 6

Which would you rather have if you were faced with a den of hungry lions?

- a cell phone to call 911
- a raw steak to throw to them hoping they will be filled
- a chew toy
- a whip and fedora
- a copy of *Worst-case Scenario Survival Handbook*
- a full suit of armor equipped with sword and shield

It would seem obvious, the whip and fedora. Indiana Jones I am not, so I would rather have something with a little more attack than a whip. Although the pen is mightier than the sword, I would rather have the sword in this case.

I hope I am not the first to tell you this, but you are standing in a lion's den right now!

You may not see the lion, but Scripture says that Satan is a roaring lion roaming about seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8-9). Do you put on your armor every day?

What areas do you feel like Satan has been attacking you?

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Spiritual warfare is very real in the life of the believer. However, we have not been left helpless or without defense. To be equipped for this warfare we have been given specific spiritual tools with which to fight. Our understanding of these tools is vital in battling the enemy. Here are several reasons why we need to put on the armor of God every day.

1. Satan can gain a foothold in a Christian's life (Ephesians 4:25-27).

Satan does not need much space to attack. Sometimes we wonder how that bug got into the house. It is because there was some small hole that the nasty little thing squeezed through. It did not need much, just a little bit. Satan is the same way. He searches and looks for some small hole or crack in which to squeeze through and attack (Acts 5:3, 1 Corinthians 7:5, 2 Corinthians 12:7). Paul warns us in Ephesians not to not give Satan any foothold, any space to grab. Consider some of these ways in which Satan tries to get a foothold.

Foothold entrances:

- Occultism- Deuteronomy 18:10-11, Ex 22:18
- Hereditary affliction- Exodus 34:5-7

- Victimization- footholds can come through physical, sexual, emotional abuse, fear producing experiences especially in children.
- Long term sin and disobedience to God- Ephesians 4:25-27

Does Satan have a foothold in your life in any area? List out what he has a foothold in.

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## 2. Satan is the master counterfeiter (John 8:43-44)

Satan tries to have his kingdom appear that it is God's kingdom. This has been a ploy of Satan since the beginning of time. An example of this is in the story of the Exodus. The servants of Pharaoh were able to copy some of the plagues that God sent through Moses. That fact that Satan masquerades as an angel of light brings the importance to knowing and developing a relationship with Christ to a higher degree. We must know the truth in order to discover the lies (2 Thessalonians 2:9, 2 Corinthians 11:14).

## 3. Satan's desire and intent is to destroy believers (1 Peter 5:8-9).

Satan is not a little demon that sits on your shoulder and tries to convince you his way is better. He is not content with simply causing bumps in the road. Satan wants to destroy and devour you. Peter warns us that Satan is like a ravenous, ferocious lion that is looking for more than just a bite to eat. Satan wants to devour. He plans and schemes ways of tripping up the believers in ways that will cause the most pain and heartache to the most people. He will not allow his thirst for destruction to be satisfied. (Luke 22:31, 1 Timothy 3:6-7, 2 Corinthians 2:10-11, 1 Thessalonians 2:18)

How have you allowed the enemy to rob you of your joy this past week?

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Satan CAN be resisted. You can decide to turn your back on him and high tail it the other way but only in God's strength (James 4:7). It is God who gives us the victory.

Our enemy will stop at nothing to destroy, but he can be stopped. The enemy can be resisted through the strength and power of God. It is through the armor that we place ourselves in a position to resist (1 Peter 5:8-9). Our submission to God's command is the basis for our offense. Jude explains that even the angels call upon the power and authority of God to do battle with Satan and his minions (Jude 1:9). Praise be to God, who gives us the strength to resist Satan and cause him to flee!

We cannot afford to do battle with this enemy without first suiting up. God has given us the armor. It is an armor that will protect and defend us. It will keep us in our darkest hour through His strength. It will sustain us in

*"Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."  
James 4:7*

- Satan can gain a foothold
- Satan is the master counterfeiter
- Satan's desire and intent is to destroy believers

But...

- Satan can be resisted!

the heat of battle. Only the fool would leave it and start into his day without it. Arm yourself for warfare!

In what areas of you life do you know you need to resist the devil?

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Prayer: Pray today for strength to put on the armor and resist the devil. You can say no to the devil, but it takes first saying yes to Jesus.

What do you need to do in response to this lesson?

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