

Part 6: Going On The Offense Pastor Grant Fishbook May 5 & 6, 2012

### Ephesians 6:10-20

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation...

- 1. Belt of Truth
- 2. Breastplate of Righteousness
- 3. Sandals of Readiness
- 4. Shield of Faith
- 5. Helmet of Salvation

## The first five pieces of armor are <u>defensive</u>.

## The final two pieces of armor are offensive.

<sup>17b</sup> ...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

6. Sword of the Spirit

<sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

7. Prayer

#### A Paraphrase of Verse 18

Have an honest conversation (listening and talking) with God all the time, about everything, that goes beyond your "list," that includes praising God for who he is, confessing when you get it wrong, and thanking him for all of his blessings.

## **Two Thoughts**

1. What if you woke up today with only the things you thanked God for yesterday?

2. The armor of God is <u>put on</u> and <u>kept on</u> through prayer.

# My Prayer Request

<sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

**Prayer & Care for the Troops:** If God has prompted you to pray "on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests," you might want to be part of our prayer team for troops. Read more on the inside right page of today's program.

Learn more about CTK's prayer community online: www.ctkbellingham.com/prayercommunity

- 1) How has your week been so far?
- 2) Do you ever wear protective gear like safety glasses, oven mitts, seat belts or steel-toe shoes? What's your motivation for wearing that protection? How does that compare with your motivation to put on the spiritual armor?
- 3) Has God ever given you a verse for someone else or through someone else? Share what happened.
- 4) How can you expand your prayer life beyond your list of wants and needs? Would you want a relationship with someone if all they ever talked about was their need?
- 5) What would you actually have today if it was based on what you thanked God for yesterday?
- 6) How can we pray for you today?