

Message Guide

This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on these messages given by Charles Price.

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord that may not have been immediately obvious.

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 3 – Disarming The Darkness Part 1 – Know Your Enemy Scripture – Ephesians 6:10-12

1. Read Ephesians 6:6 - 10
2. In these verses there are 3 things that are considered to be 'essentials in warfare' that we are exhorted to know. Can you remember what they are?

3. What kind of warfare are we caught up in?

4. Who, specifically, is our enemy? Read Matthew 25:41

5. If our struggle is not against 'flesh and blood', then who or what is our struggle against?

6. Why are these whom we struggle against considered to be 'formidable foes'?

7. List some of the names or means by which we identify The Devil.

8. To consider just who the Devil is we must look at two things: His Past and His Present. Read and consider Ezekiel 28:12 – 29

9. Did God then create something evil? What happened?

10. Read and consider Isaiah 14:12 - 15

11. To see what has happened, and is happening to Satan now, read and consider:

- i. Ezekiel 28:17b
- ii. Isaiah 14:12
- iii. Luke 10:18
- iv. Revelation 12:9

12. God and Satan are NOT two equal forces. Consider why this statement is true.

13. What about the 'fallen angels' that we read about in Revelation 12? Where are they now?

Final Thoughts

C.S. Lewis wrote.

*There are two equal and opposite errors into which we can fall about the devils.
One is to disbelieve their existence,
and the other is to exaggerate their powers.
The devil is pleased with either error.*

The big question for us is: **what are WE to do in this battle?**

The answers are found in the Word of God. Read and practice the following verses:

Stand	Ephesians 6:11 Ephesians 6:13 and 14
Sit	Ephesians 2:6 Ephesians 1:3 [This is our 'position in Christ']
Walk	Ephesians 4:17 Ephesians 5:2 Ephesians 5:8 Ephesians 5:15 – 16

We are not called to take on the demonic powers in this world.

When these powers come against us we are called to 'stand our ground'
But before we can 'stand' we must learn to 'sit' -
to rest in Christ,
and to 'walk' in daily dependence on Him.

So, in closing, please read again,
perhaps with a new understanding Ephesians 6:14 - 15

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 3 – Disarming The Darkness Part 2 – The Belt Of Truth Scripture – Ephesians 6:14

1. Please Read Ephesians 6:1 - 18
2. In our last study we established that there are 3 things that a soldier in combat needs to know
 - i. His Enemy
 - ii. His Equipment
 - iii. His Strategy
3. It may seem strange to be talking about a 'belt', but consider, what does a 'belt' do for a soldier?

4. In this context, consider what could be meant by 'the belt of truth'.

5. Read and consider what can happen according to John 8:44

6. What is the native language of Satan? and what is the consequence of speaking that language?

7. See if you can remember what the 'Seven Levels of Lying' are.

8. What does the Bible say about lying? Read and consider: Exodus 20:16 and Psalm 51:6

9. Now that we have dealt with 'Inward Truthfulness – ETHICS, let us deal with "Biblical Truth – DOCTRINE. Read and consider the following scriptures: 1 Timothy 3:15; Psalm 119:30; John 8:32

10. In the Bible what is the main tactic of Satan?

Final Thoughts

If we compromise the truth we give the devil a foothold!
Lying is one of the most fundamental character failures.
When we lie we create an alternative world based on deceit.

Parents should make it the highest priority with your children
that you NEVER, EVER tolerate lying.
Reserve the hardest discipline for lying.
If you do this your children will grow up to be honest,
real and transparent.

No matter what the enemy throws at you,
put the Belt of Truth around your waist.

When you speak the truth based on scripture
it is not that there is some power in quoting the Word of God;
it is that this is God's last word.

God has spoken, and He has spoken Truth.

Stand on it! Live by it!

**There can be nothing more important
than having the truth of God
as the foundation of your life.**

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 3 – Disarming The Darkness Part 3 – The Breastplate Of Righteousness Scripture – Ephesians 6:14

1. Read Ephesians 6:10 – 18. Why was Paul kept in prison?

2. Read 2 Corinthians 11 and list some of the things that Paul endured.

3. Despite listing these formidable physical attacks, what strange thing does Paul say is the source of his struggle? [v.12]

4. If our struggles are against 'powers of this dark world' and 'spiritual forces of evil' [v.12] how do you explain Paul's comments?

5. Read verses 10 and 11, and ask yourself what two things do we need to know from these verses?

6. So today we take a quick look at one of the 6 pieces or armour.
The Breastplate of Righteousness v.14b

When you think of the word 'righteousness' what images does that bring to mind?

7. Paul, however, uses the word 'righteousness' many times especially in the book of Romans, and he defines it in two ways.

a. To identify the first of these two ways read and consider:
2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 3:5 and 10:3; Romans 1:17 and 3:21

b. Read: Romans 5:17; Romans 4:24; Romans 4:22

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8. This involves two things.
A New Status which is _____

- A New Nature which is _____

9. Looking at our 'new status – our standing before God – what is our natural standing before God? Read and consider Romans 3:10 and Isaiah 64:6.

10. When we ask 'Can a mortal be righteous before God?', as it is asked in Job 4:17, 9:2 and 25:4, what answer is given in 2 Corinthians 5:21?

11. And what does our 'imparted' New Nature mean? Read and consider Matthew 5:6

Final Thoughts

It was His great exchange on the Cross
when Christ became all that we are –
He was made sin, -
so that we might become all that He is – **righteous.**

Extra optional reading: Philippians 1:11 & Isaiah 32:17

Remember always: As we talk about our need for spiritual armour
we must never forget that God works best in those who know their weaknesses.

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 3 – Disarming The Darkness

Part 4 – Feet Fitted With Readiness

Scripture – Ephesians 6:15

1. As we continue with Charles' look at the armour that Christians need to 'put on', let's start by asking: why do we need to put on any Christian armour?
Read and consider 1 Timothy 6:12 and Ephesians 6:12

2. Do you recall how many pieces of armour there are, and can you name them?

3. Today we look at 'Feet Fitted With Readiness' so read and consider Ephesians 6:14–15. What do you think this means?

4. Identify and discuss the two kinds of 'warfare'.
What kind of warfare are we involved in?
What kind of warfare was Jesus involved in?

5. So, we are not fighting FOR victory; but rather FROM victory.
And what are we told to do? Read verses 11, 13 and 14.

6. But now Paul speaks of 'feet fitted with readiness'
Readiness for what? Does not 'readiness suggest mobility, action?
Read and consider the first part of Isaiah 52:7, quoted by Paul in Romans 10:17

7. Why did Isaiah not mentioned the 'mouth', or the 'mind', or the 'personality'?

8. So, there are two things our feet can do; we can GO, or we can STAND.

Here are some scriptures regarding our feet GOING.

Genesis 12:1, Exodus 3:10, Judges 6:14, Isaiah 6:8 – 9, Jeremiah 1:7 & Ezekiel 3:4

9. Do you notice anything similar in each of these examples?

10. If you think that bringing people to Christ is something that YOU have to do, you have got it all wrong. Read and consider John 6:44, 16:8 and 1 Corinthians 12:3

11. If one way in which we use our feet is to 'go', how do we interpret how and when we use of feet to just 'stand'?

Read and consider 1 Philippians 1:16

Final Thoughts

When considering spiritual warfare
it is important that we understand that our role is,
in essence, **defensive**.

The weapons of our warfare
are to enable us to maintain and consolidate the victory
that Christ has already gained over sin and Satan

There is no new territory to gain,
but we live in a territory already gained with a victory already won.

Sometimes our feet need to go in obedience to wherever the Lord wants us to go;
and then sometimes we have to 'stand' and witness
in whatever place the Lord has put us.

What we need to do is keep our eyes and hearts open
and be in tune with the Lord wherever he requires us to be.
It may well be back to the same home, the same street,
the same place of work, the same friends.

Remember: how beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those
who bring good news.
Are your feet fitted with readiness that comes from the gospel of peace?

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 3 – Disarming The Darkness Part 5 – The Shield Of Faith Scripture – Ephesians 6:16

1. As a recap can you remember what are the 3 previous pieces of armour that we looked at?

2. For the next piece of armour read Ephesians 6:16. What does it do?

3. The Devil will attack at any time, in any place, and in a variety of ways. In his message Charles mentions 5 of these. Can you recall them?

4. The idea of a 'shield' is that it provides a 'refuge'

It would be good to read, consider and be encouraged by the following scriptures:

A Refuge Psalm 18:30; Psalm 119:114; Psalm 18:2

A Shield Psalm 3:3; Psalm 7:10; Psalm 33:20; Psalm 84:11 and Genesis 15:1

5. We need to consider now, what is the function of a shield? From the scriptures that we have looked at, the 'shield' functions in 2 distinctly different ways. Can you identify these?

6. Let us look then at – **A Shield as a place of Refuge.** In his message, Charles explained this by using Job as an example. But does a shield prevent an attack? If not what does it do?

7. What, then, about the **Shield of Faith?** Read and consider Hebrews 11:1

8. Read and consider what Job said in Job 23:11.

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9. It is good for us to identify those areas where we can feel under attack.
Can you recall the four areas that Charles has mentioned?
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Final Thoughts

Much of our praying is centered on asking the Lord to take away our problems,
take away the attacks that we face;
but the Lord's promise is not necessarily to take the problem away,
or to take us out of the situation, but rather that He will never leave us.
He will always be with us **IN** whatever our situation,
giving us patience, grace, understanding and/or strength,
whatever the particular situation requires.

And the 'shield' in this case provides us with a place to hide in the midst of attack.

It is not a case of God taking us **OUT** of our difficulties,
but rather
a case of us bringing God **INTO** our difficulties.

Sometimes He does intervene dramatically and bring deliverance,
but at other times,
'the outer man can waste away, but the inner is being renewed'.

Please always remember that no matter what you are going through
[even though He is not the originator]
God is **ALWAYS** doing something that will lead to His glory,
and to your good.

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 3 – Disarming The Darkness

Part 6 – The Helmet Of Salvation

Scripture – Ephesians 6:17

1. We continue in this theme of looking at the armour that is available to Christians. As a recap see if you can remember the four pieces of armour that we have already discussed.

2. Read and consider just the first 5 words of Ephesians 6:17. What is the noun and the adjective that form the basis of this partial verse?

3. What is the condition that we call 'salvation'? Read and consider 1 Timothy 1:15

4. When we refer to a person as being 'saved', is that salvation in the past, present or future tense? In other word, are you saying:

- i. I have been saved
- ii. I am being saved, or
- iii. I will one day be saved?

5. To better understand these 3 tenses let's first look at the 'past tense' by reading and considering Ephesians 2:4 & 8

6. Now read and consider the following verses:
1 Corinthians 1:18, 2 Corinthians 2:15 and Romans 5:10

7. Now read and consider: Romans 13:11, 1 Peter 1:3 – 5, and Hebrews 9:38

8. Now that we have determined what 'salvation' is, we need to ask 'How does salvation serve as a helmet to protect us?' Read and consider the following verses:

1 John 5:13, Ephesians 2:8 – 9, Romans 8:38 – 39, John 10:27 – 29
2 Timothy 1:12, Philipians 1:4 – 6, Romans 8:29 – 31, Romans 8:16 - 17

9. Look again at 1 John 5:13

10. Look again at Ephesians 2:8 - 9

11. Look again at Romans 8:38 - 39
 12. Look again at John 10:27 - 29
 13. Look again at Philippians 1:4 - 6
 14. Look again at Romans 8:29 - 31
 15. Look again at Romans 8:16 - 17
 16. How does this 'testifying with our spirit' happen?
Read and consider Romans 5:5 and then 2 Corinthians 5:17
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Final Thoughts

Salvation is an on-going process.

The **death** of Christ saved us - past tense – from the **Penalty of sin**.

The **risen life** of Christ saves us – present tense – from the **Power of sin**.

The **coming Christ** saves us – future tense – from the **Presence of sin**.

So, keep the helmet of salvation on your head to protect your mind when you go through dark times of doubt and attack.

Rest in your security that is based on God, not on yourself.

Enjoy the life God has given you.

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 3 – Disarming The Darkness Part 7 – The Sword Of The Spirit Scripture – Ephesians 6:17

1. Read Ephesians 6:17 – 18
The last piece of armour that we discussed was ‘the helmet of salvation’. Identify the final 2 pieces of armour, and what is different about one of them from the rest?

2. List again the 5 pieces of armour previously discussed; and what ‘type’ are they?

3. What does this tell you about our role in this spiritual warfare?

4. What is unique about the only actual weapon in our armour?

5. What then are the two important ‘edges’ the Holy Spirit has with the Word of God?

6. Read and consider 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:21
What do these verses tell us about the Word of God?

7. Read and consider 1 Corinthians 2:12 – 14.
What is the second edge of this ‘two-edged sword’?

8. Now read and consider 2 Peter 1:3 - 4
9. We have looked at (a) **The Inspiration of Scripture**, and (b) **The Interpretation of Scripture**, and finally we will take a look at (c) **The Application of Scripture**.
First read and consider Colossians 3:16
10. Read and consider Psalm 119:97 and Joshua 1:8

11. Read and consider James 1:22 - 25
12. Finally read and consider Joshua 1:8, Deuteronomy 6:6 – 7 and Isaiah 50:4

Final Thoughts

The Bible is not authoritative because of its **content**;
it is authoritative because of its **origin**.
It is not what it says that makes us read it,
but rather **WHO** is saying it.

The scriptures originate from the **mind of God**.

The Christian Life is not our responsibility,
but rather, **our response to His ability**.

So – from Ephesians 6 we learn
that the only WEAPON in our armory is:

The sword of the Spirit – which is the Word of God.

We need to be familiar with it,
and we need to use it personally,
and in battle.

Message Guide & Questions

Ephesians Series 3 – Disarming The Darkness Part 8 – Praying In The Spirit Scripture – Ephesians 6:18-20

1. As we come to the last study from the 3 Ephesians series please read and consider Ephesians 6:18 - 20

2. See if you can identify the 5 times Paul speaks of prayer in these verses.

3. Do you remember the 5 articles of protective clothing mentioned in this chapter?

4. Now in verse 17 – 18 Paul talks about the **weapons** that we are to use. Can you name two of them, and what is the common denominator in both?

5. What is the purpose of the prayers in this instance?
Read and consider 2 Thessalonians 3:1 – 2.

6. This is the front line of battle, and as we battle with Satanic powers we need prayer in five areas in order to conquer.

For the first area please read and consider Ephesians 2:2

7. Read and consider Matthew 13:19.

8. Read and consider 2 Thessalonians 2:9 - 10

9. Read and consider Matthew 24:24.

10. Read and consider 1 Thessalonians 2:18

11. So then, how do we combat Satan? Read and consider 2 Corinthians 10.

Final Thoughts

In the United Kingdom, being made up of 4 nations,
it is said that the gospel is acceptable because:

The **English** love it because they can **talk** about it.

The **Welsh** love it because they can **sing** about it.

The **Irish** love it because they can **fight** about it.

And ...

The **Scots** love it because it is **free**.

That may be a little light light-hearted about a serious matter,
but in North America, if we are not careful,
we can be guilty of creating our own Jesus.

Despite the fact that Jesus said:

*If anyone would come after me he must deny himself,
take up his cross and follow me'*

... because that is not culturally acceptable,
some people create a 'tailor-made' Jesus that places a high value on

Material Prosperity.

Comfort and ease.

Security.

**In the last days there will be many false Christ's
who will deceive believers with some impressive signs and wonders.**

Be on guard - Pray in the Spirit, but remember this:

**Prayer is not powerful,
it is God who is powerful.**

Message Guide

This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need for the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' while also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 3 – Disarming The Darkness Part 1 – Know Your Enemy Scripture – Ephesians 6:10-12

1. This is the third and final series in the book of Ephesians.
2.
 - a. Know your enemy.
 - b. Know your equipment
 - c. Know your strategy
3. Our warfare is not earthly, but rather 'cosmic'; against 'spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms'
4. The devil and his angels.
5. Our struggle is against:
 - i. The authorities [not those of this earth]
 - ii. The powers of this dark world.
 - iii. Spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
6.
 - i. As spiritual forces, they are not tangible or visible.
 - ii. They consist of actual 'authorities' who wield real 'powers'.
 - iii. They operate in the 'heavenly realms', but affect earth.
7. Lucifer, Satan, Morning Star, Beelzebub, Prince of This World, God of This Age, Dragon, Angel of Light; and sometimes by no actual name at all, but referred to as a 'serpent'.
8. The devil, or whatever you want to call him, has the distinction of being called 'the most beautiful of all God's creation'.
9. That which God created was perfect, therefore could not be evil.
BUT, because of his beauty, wisdom and splendor, the devil became proud.
10. Identify the 5 things the devil said he would do [I will] all in verse 13.
But then look at verses 12 & 15 to identify what actually happened.
11. We learn from this that although Satan originated in heaven, his sphere of operating is earth.

12.

GOD – has no beginning.
Read Genesis 1:1

GOD is Omnipresent.
He is in all places, all the time.

SATAN – was created.
Read Ezekiel 28:15

SATAN is not omnipresent.
Read Job 1:7
Revelation 2:13

13.

Some have been sent to Hell. Read 2 Peter 2:4; Jude verse 9
Some have been sent to earth. Read Revelation 12:3 – 4 and v.9

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 3 – Disarming The Darkness Part 2 – The Belt Of Truth Scripture – Ephesians 6:14

1. Remember from our last study that we are in a 'battle'.
Focus on verse 12, and read and consider also 2 Corinthians 10:3 - 4
2. Last time we looked at 'The Enemy'; today we shall look at his equipment.
3. For a soldier its primary use is not to hold up his pants.

The belt carries weapons, tools, navigation equipment, plus many other important items to enable a soldier to fulfill his tasks and responsibilities.
4. This could mean 1 or 2 things:
 - i. Inward Truthfulness – ETHICAL
 - II. Biblical Truth - DOCTRINAL
5. If we surrender truthfulness we give the devil a foothold.
6. The native language of Satan is 'lying'; and if we adopt his native language we will adopt his native character.
7.
 - i. You tell a lie.
 - ii. You lie to protect the lie.
 - iii. You develop a habit of lying.
 - iv. You self-deceive. You begin to believe the lies that you tell.
 - v. You rationalize about your lies. You justify them.
 - vi. You start to lie everywhere – including at home, in your family.
 - vii. It becomes your duty to lie.
8. It can be hard, but even if your boss asks you to lie, or expects you to lie on their behalf, you should not do it. You can tell your boss that if you will not lie FOR him/her, then they can be confident that you will not lie TO him/her.
9. Don't ever make your stand on the basis of speculation, theories, experience or culturally relevant ideas. Make your stand ONLY on non-negotiable Biblical truth!
10. In the Bible the main tactic of Satan is to challenge the Word of God.

Read and consider these verses:

Matthew 4:3

Matthew 4:5 – 6

Genesis 3:4 – 5

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 3 – Disarming The Darkness Part 3 – The Breastplate Of Righteousness Scripture – Ephesians 6:14

1. Paul was kept in prison because he would not pay a bribe to Rome.
2. Paul Received:
 - i 39 lashes
 - ii Beaten with rods 3 times
 - iii He was stoned
 - iv In danger from bandits
 - v In danger from his own countrymen
 - vi In danger from Gentiles
 - vii In danger from false brothers.
3. Although his struggle featured these physical attacks, Paul says that our struggle is, in fact, not against flesh and blood.
4. The enemies' forces are spiritual, but they often present themselves in the form of flesh and blood.
5. Verse 10 states that we need to know where our POWER comes from.
Verse 11 speaks of our need to put on our ARMOUR.
6. When you think of the word 'righteousness' it can make you think of
 - i. Something that sounds to be impossibly demanding.
 - ii. Or we think of 'self-righteousness' which has connotations of being judgmental.
7.
 - a. In Relationship to God
These verses refer to God's MORAL CHARACTER - Who God is.
 - b. In Relationship to People
With people 'righteousness' is credited to us - it is received.
8. A New Status is our 'standing before God' which is 'imputed' to us – credited to us.

A New Nature which is our 'living before God', which is 'imparted to us.
9. These scriptures are very discouraging. So we ask, "Can a mortal be righteous before God?"
10. He was made sin, and WE are made righteous.
11. If righteousness is the moral character of God, then the gospel restores something of the character of God in us
As Matthew 5:6 says, we have a new appetite for righteousness, and this is the mark of a genuine Christian.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 3 – Disarming The Darkness Part 4 – Feet Fitted With Readiness Scripture – Ephesians 6:15

1. Timothy reminds us that, like it or not, we are in a fight.
And Paul tells us we are in a constant battle [struggle], and he is very specific in telling precisely whom that struggle is against.
Yes – we need as much help [armour] as we can get.
2.

1. The Belt of Truth	2. The Breastplate of Righteousness
3. Feet Fitted with Readiness	4. The Shield of Faith
5. The Helmet of Salvation	6. The Sword of the Spirit
3. It is important to understand that this 'readiness' comes from 'the gospel of peace', not from our own worthiness.
4. There are two kinds of warfare; defensive and offensive.
Primarily our warfare is **defensive**: we have got the ground already and we seek to keep it.
Read Colossians 2:15 and you will see that the Lord Jesus Christ was involved in **offensive** warfare.
5. Our 'feet' have already been positioned defensively so we **STAND**.
6. For the answer, now read and consider all of Isaiah 52:7.
7. It would suggest that the first part of our anatomy that God requires is our 'feet', because God wants our MOBILITY.

'Having our feet fitted with readiness' means, being ready to move with the Gospel.
8. These verses give examples of people taking the opportunities presented to them.
And this reverberates into the New Testament in Matthew 28:19 – 20 & Mark 16:15.
9. In each example of God saying "GO" every one of them felt they could not do it!
That is true, if we try to do it in our own strength.
10. It is the work of God.
Remember, our task is to be 'workers together with God. [2 Corinthians 6]
11. The circumstances that led to Paul being incarcerated in a Roman prison were not good, but read what Paul says in Philippians 1:12 - 14

Something had gone *wrong* with Paul's agenda and plans, but something had gone *right* with God's plans and agenda.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 3 – Disarming The Darkness Part 5 – The Shield Of Faith Scripture – Ephesians 6:16

1. The **Belt Of Truth** ... buckled around your waist.
The **Breastplate Of Righteousness** ... in place.
Feet Fitted with Readiness ... that come from the Gospel of Peace.
2. With the **Shield Of Faith** you can extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one.
The shield protects!
3.
 - i. Temptation to sin. Even Jesus was tempted in this
 - ii. Personal attacks. Paul speaks of a messenger from Satan sent to taunt him.
 - iii. False accusations against us
 - iv. Condemnation
 - v. Lies – Satan is the father of lies

No-one is exempt from these attacks

4. After reading those verses it clearly shows that we will be under attack, and that we need a shield.
5.
 - i. The Shield as a refuge – a place to find comfort and protection.
 - ii. The Shield that plays an active role in extinguishing the flaming arrows of the evil one.
6. No, a shield does NOT prevent an attack; in fact it presupposes that there will be attacks. **A shield is a place to hide in the midst of attack.**
7. What this does NOT mean is that 'I can't see it, but I hope for it, so I will believe it'.
8. Job is saying here, 'I have walked closely with God. I have lived by His Word, and treasured the words of His mouth'.

This is the way in which we 'live by faith' and that shield will turn aside all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

9.
 - i. **Personal Life** – Health issues, Finance
 - ii. **Family** – Children, Marriage
 - iii. **Work Life** – our relationship with our bosses and colleagues.
 - iv. **Battles in your own heart.**

The protection of the Shield of Faith comes from a disposition that relates every circumstance – good or bad - to God.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 3 – Disarming The Darkness

Part 6 – The Helmet Of Salvation

Scripture – Ephesians 6:17

1.
 - i. The **Belt of Truth**, buckled around your waist.
 - ii. The **Breastplate of Righteousness** in place.
 - iii. Your **Feet Fitted with Readiness**, that comes from the gospel of peace.
 - iv. The **Shield of Faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.
2. The noun 'helmet' describes an object that provides protection.
The adjective 'salvation' describes our position.
3. With Salvation through Jesus Christ the following can occur:
 - i. Human beings can be reconciled to God.
 - ii. Spiritual Deadness can be replaced by Spiritual Life.
 - iii. Our Guilt before God can be replaced with forgiveness.
 - iv. The eternal state of perishing can be replaced with eternal life.
4. All three tenses are correct.
 - i. Past tense - We **have been** saved. This is justification
 - ii. Present tense - We **are being** saved. This is sanctification.
 - iii. Future tense - We **will be** saved. This is Our Glorification.
5. By these verses we understand that we have **been** saved [past tense] from the penalty of sin – we call this **Justification**.
6. By these verses we learn that we **are** saved [present tense] from the power of sin, And this we call **Sanctification**.
7. By these verses we learned that we **will be** saved from the presence of sin. This is a coming event in the future that we call **Glorification**.
8. Through these verses we learn of 6 reasons by which we can know we are saved.
9. We can **know** that what God has begun in us, He will bring to completion.
10. **The Grace of God.**
You did not earn your salvation by performing well, so you cannot lose your salvation by performing badly. Salvation is neither initiated nor sustained by good works.
11. **The Love of God**
Our salvation is as strong as His love.
No circumstance, trouble or power can ever separate us from the love of God.
12. **The Power of God**

There are two hands holding on to us; that of Jesus and the Father.
It is Jesus who holds on to us, not the other way around.
If it was us holding on to Him we would surely slip and fall.
To question the security of our salvation would be to question the keeping power of God. Read again 2 Timothy 1:4 - 6

13. **The Purpose of God**

God always finishes what He starts.

The past tense of salvation guarantees the future tense, and that guarantee is based on the work of God, not our own work.

14. **The Predestination of God**

Once you are 'in Christ' you are predestined to go all the way - predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His son; and to be glorified.

There are future aspects of our salvation yet to be realized!

15. **The Spirit of God**

To know you are a Christian is, in the first place, a work of the Spirit.

He testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.

16. There is a deep inner consciousness of belonging, being loved, and of knowing God. This brings with it new appetites that we never had before as we begin to literally *hunger and thirst for righteousness* as we realize that our nature has changed.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 3 – Disarming The Darkness Part 7 – The Sword Of The Spirit Scripture – Ephesians 6:17

1. The final two pieces of armour are:
 - i. The Sword of the Spirit
 - ii. Pray in the Spirit.

The "Sword of the Spirit" is the only weapon in the list.

2.
 - i. The belt of truth. Clothing
 - ii. The breastplate of righteousness. Clothing
 - iii. Feet fitted with readiness. Clothing
 - iv. The shield of faith. A Shield
 - v. The helmet of salvation. Clothing

So, 4 articles of clothing, one shield, and only one actual weapon.

Read Hebrews 4:12

3. Ours is mainly defensive action.
Our fight is not to gain ground, but rather to hold and defend the ground that Christ has already won for us.
4. It is a sword that is double edged.
5.
 - i. The Holy Spirit **Inspires** scripture.
 - ii. The Holy Spirit **Interprets** scripture.
6. The Word of God is a **Human** book and a **DIVINE** book.

Human: in that it was written by over 40 authors, in 3 different languages, over a 1,600 year time span.

But it is also a **DIVINE** book in that it is God speaking to us through human writers who were **carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

It deals with hundreds of hot topics such as: Marriage, divorce, sexuality, parenting, wealth, poverty, sin, judgment, Heaven and Hell.

It is full of controversy, and yet it contains an amazing unity and harmony all the way through.

**This is the Holy Spirit Inspired Word of God
that is sharper than a two-edged Sword.**

Therefore how we respond to its message will be totally different to a message based on the speculation of some supposedly wise and smart people.

When **GOD** speaks, what He says is **authoritative!**

Read again Hebrews 4:12

From scripture we learn that the 'soul' is the part of us with which we are born containing the ingredients of our personality; whereas the spirit is the part of us that is designed as the dwelling place of God.

7. From these verses we learn that while the Holy Spirit **inspired** the writing of the scripture, it is also the means by which we **interpret** the scripture.

We were born spiritually dead – a condition inherited from The Fall.

We retain **spiritual capacity** [awareness], but we have no life.

When we become a Christian – are Born Again – **we receive spiritual life.**

8. All that we are to do flows out of what God has already done and continues to do.

9. We must **READ it!**

Going to church and hearing sermons is essential, but it is not enough.

It has to **get into** you, before it can **dwell in** you.

10. You need to **Meditate on it.**

Exercise the mind in contemplation! Take time to think about it! Chew it over!

11. You can dance around this issue as much as you like, but we cannot avoid the fact that we must **Obey it! All of it – not just the parts that suit us.**

12. We need to **SPEAK it! We learn things when we talk about them!**

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ephesians Series 3 – Disarming The Darkness Part 8 – Praying In The Spirit Scripture – Ephesians 6:18-20

1. As Paul has been talking about being equipped for battle and 'Disarming The Darkness' we now come to that all-important aspect of prayer.
2.
 - i. **Pray** in the Spirit.
 - ii. With all kinds of **prayers** and requests.
 - iii. Always keep on **praying** for all the saints.
 - iv. **Pray** also for me
 - v. **Pray** that I might declare [the mystery of the gospel] fearlessly as I should.
3.
 - i. The **belt** of truth.
 - ii. The **breastplate** of righteousness.
 - iii. Your feet [**shoes**] fitted with readiness.
 - iv. The **shield** of faith.
 - v. The **helmet** of salvation.
4. We are to: Take the sword of **the Spirit**.
Pray in **the Spirit**.

The weapons of the Word of God and prayer go together.

5. These prayers are for **the furtherance of the Gospel**, which is the mission of the church to the world.
This is the substance of our **Praying in the Spirit**.

6. **1. Satan Has a Grip on People** *Ephesians 2:2*

This is the natural state – the devil is at work in people's lives.

Read also and consider Revelation 12:9

Leading the world astray is the devil's business.

It is prayer that combats this realm of Satanic activity.

7. **2. Satan Prevents People Understanding the Gospel** *Matthew 13:19*

We plant the seed, Satan snatches it away.

He is doing that in this verse, and if you do not resist he will continue to do it today.

Read also and consider 2 Corinthians 4:4 Satan blinds people's minds.

It requires a supernatural work to open people's eyes.

8. **3. Satan Prevents the Gospel from being Effective.** *2 Thessalonians 2:9 - 10*

Don't be naïve about miracles, signs and wonders or assume that, by definition, they must be of God. In these last days this is part of Satan's weaponry, to deceive.

Read also and consider Matthew 13:38 – 39

Everything God does, Satan counterfeits to deceive.

9. **4. Satan Presents Alternatives to the Truth** *Matthew 24:24*

Many alternative 'Christ's' are being offered in our world.
It is easy to present and believe in a Christ who fits into our value system.

Read also and consider 2 Timothy 2:25:26
Satan **will** orchestrate attacks on the servants of God.

10. **5. Satan Opposes Ministry** *1 Thessalonians 2:18*

Satan can get in the way and stop us from doing what we should.

Read and also consider Revelation 2:10
Here the devil is credited with putting some people in prison.

11. We **stand** in the victory of Christ.
We **fight** with the sword of the Spirit.
We **pray** in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.