

# Spiritual Warfare – Part 2

The Full Armour of God vs. the strategies of “the enemy”






# Ephesians 6:10-20

## The Whole Armor of God

- ▶ <sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles (schemes) of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- ▶ <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup> above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; <sup>18</sup> praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—  
<sup>19</sup> and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.



# Paul makes it clear who we are fighting and the weapons we have.

1. The source of our battles are not the people who oppose us or cause us stress.
2. Principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness, spiritual hosts of wickedness...are all rank and file fallen angels that work under orders of the devil.
3. We are to be careful not to get so caught up with the personalities who oppose us that we get distracted from the true enemies.
4. Remember Matt 16:23.....Jesus realized that satan was using Peter to try to oppose Jesus' plan to die for our sins. HE addressed satan directly!!!
5. People who oppose most times are not even aware that they are being used by the devil to attack us. We need discernment to see who is behind the individual opposing us.
6. The nature of the spiritual weapons Paul described indicate the schemes or "wiles" of satan against us.

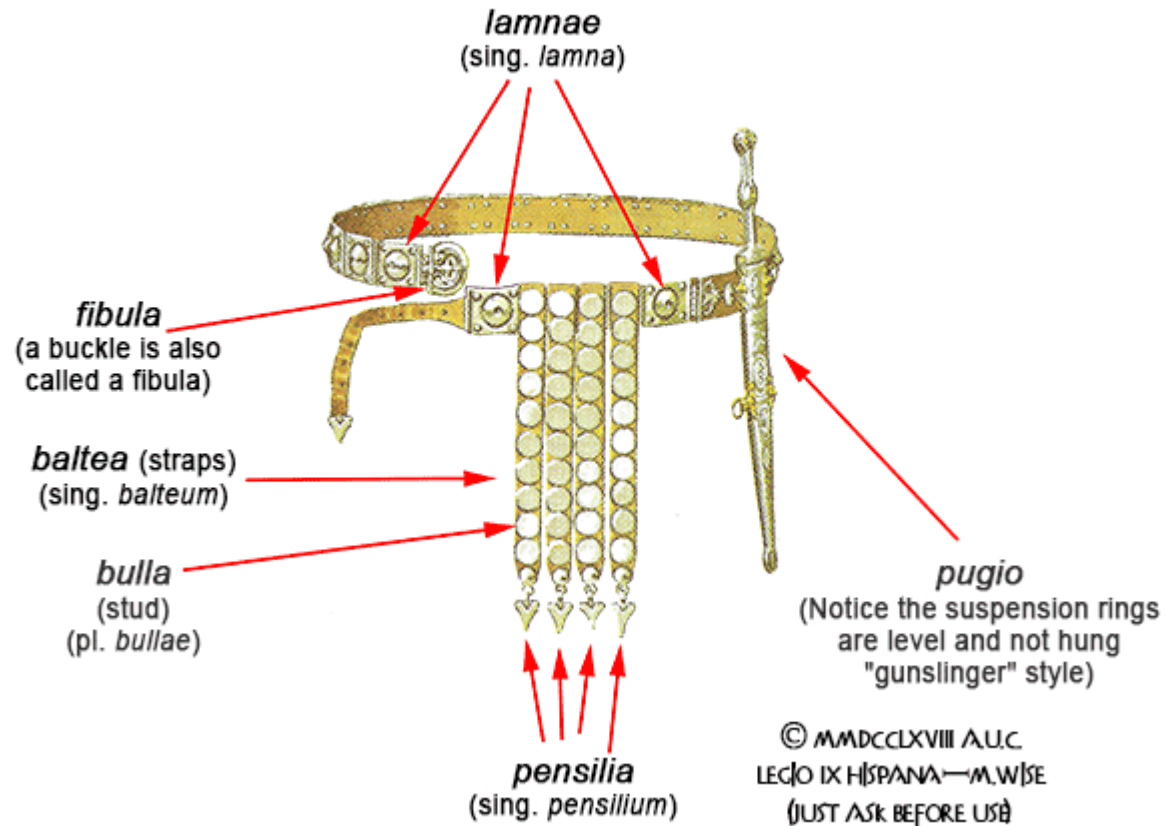


# The Schemes of the enemy... we face a very, very, very angry and frustrated devil

1. satan's prime objective is our utter annihilation.
  1. he is grossly angry at God the Father for being cast down from his lofty position in Heaven and
  2. his utter defeat by God the Son at the Cross. The WAR is already won!
  3. he and his angels and demons are restrained from doing as they please on the Earth by God the Holy Spirit.
  4. he is "over the top" jealous that we are seated with Christ in Heavenly places – the very place he wanted for himself....but will never have!!!
2. His power against us is limited and restrained yet dangerous if we are not aware of them and the authority and spiritual weaponry available to us to defeat him and his angels in the "evil days"

# 1. The "belt" of truth.

## BALTEUS NOMENCLATURE



satan is the father of lies and he is excellent at it. He can even mask himself as our thoughts which is where he prefers to attack us.

When we have been verbally abused or insulted repeatedly by satan through others, even family members, we can begin to believe his lies about us.

A firm understanding of our LORD's words about us (the truth) can counter and destroy any lie satan can attack us with.

## 2. The Breastplate of "right" living (defense)

- ▶ The **Breastplate of Righteousness** or blamelessness = rock solid integrity



- ▶ satan can also attack us by trying through people to smear us, through gossip, slander, or to openly assassinate our character.
- ▶ But when we live blamelessly (rock solid integrity) by being obedient to the Holy Spirit in how we conduct ourselves, it provides protection so that no attack of slander, gossip, or outright lies told about us will stick!!! (remember Daniel 6).

# 3. The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace (defense)

## ➤ The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace



- 3. The term “walk” in the Bible is often times a metaphor for being in a “relationship” or how we “move” through life with God and with others.
- Satan only wants us to be in strife, dis-unity, and stressed out in our relationships.
- Walking in the “Gospel of Peace” means we are practiced in the Gospel Jesus taught us about forgiveness, patience, and the “soft answer” towards others (even those who can be described as enemies) so that we defeat satan’s attempts at disrupting or sabotaging the important relationships in our lives.

## 4. The Shield of Faith

### Satan's strategies of attack

Take up the Shield of Faith (defense)



satan wants us to be fearful of the future and things we are uncertain of. he plants anxious thoughts and overblows detrimental outcomes in our minds to stop our forward progress.

An unwavering faith however in the truth that our LORD owns the future and already has our lives planned, plus the constant presence of the Holy Spirit with us, enables us to press forward despite the onslaught of the enemy.



## 5. The Helmet of Salvation

- ▶ Put on the Helmet of Salvation (defense)



- ▶ Another primary instrument of attack by satan against a believer mind is doubt (and depression) !!! Remember even John the Baptist had this attack while in prison prior to his execution (Matt 11:3).
- ▶ The helmet of salvation symbolizes an impenetrable personal experience that Jesus **is my** Saviour. HE has saved me, HE is saving me now, and will save me from whatever problems, trials, and disasters, I may face in the future. This is knowing what Jesus has done and can do in our lives against all odds against us.

## 6. The Sword of the Spirit – The Word of

Sword of the Spirit : The  
Word of God (offense)



- ▶ With the Sword of the Spirit, that is knowledge of the word of God under the guidance by Holy Spirit we can “cut through” any of satan’s strategies of deception.
- ▶ The more we study the Bible, the more The Holy Spirit can enable us to pick apart and skewer satan’s false doctrines no matter how cleverly masked they are.
- ▶ The all-powerful sword of the living God is able to cut through every defense satan can raise—down to the very division of bone and marrow.
- ▶ When wielded by a servant of God, nothing can withstand its ability to cut straight to the core of a matter and uncover the truth. As soldiers in God's army, it is our responsibility and duty to use His Word to discern the truth and then follow it.

## 7. Prayers of Supplication (intercessory)

- ▶ A malnourished soldier won't be very effective in battle even with good battle equipment.



▶ With regular and persistent prayers of supplication for ourselves and our fellow soldiers of Christ we receive the spiritual nourishment and empowerment we need to “resist the devil” so that he flees from us (James 4:7-8).

▶ Prayers of “supplication” are prayers to the Lord for the “supplies and provisions” we need for ourselves and others to stand strong against the enemy and to overcome him and his forces.

▶ Our praying in the Spirit is also something satan cannot mimic. He can try to distract us or stop us, but when we actually come to the LORD in humility with our needs, satan is powerless (has no matching weapon) against prayer