

### Ephesians 6:10-17 (NIV)

#### The Armor of God

<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 and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

### Ephesians 6:10-17 (HCSB)

#### Christian Warfare

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics<sup>[a]</sup> of the Devil. <sup>12</sup> For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens. <sup>13</sup> This is why you must take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand, therefore,

with truth like a belt around your waist,  
righteousness like armor on your chest,  
<sup>15</sup> and your feet sandaled with readiness  
for the gospel of peace.<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>16</sup> In every situation take the shield of faith,  
and with it you will be able to extinguish  
all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

<sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation,  
and the sword of the Spirit,  
which is God's word.

#### Footnotes:

- a. [Ephesians 6:11](#) Or *schemes*, or *tricks*
- b. [Ephesians 6:15](#) Ready to go tell others about the gospel

## Holman Christian Standard Bible - Study Bible<sup>1</sup>

### Ephesians 6:10-17

**6:10-13** Three times Paul called for believers to **stand** against the Devil's schemes, the spiritual battle that takes place against **the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens**.

**6:14-16** The defensive armor that Paul describes in these verses includes five components. Paul called for believers to put on the "full armor" ([v. 13](#)), which points to its divine nature more than its completeness.

**6:17** The offensive armor included only one weapon, a short **sword** used in close combat. The "sword" symbolized God's word.

**6:17** Because of its design, content, and origin, Scripture (**God's word**) can be described as "trustworthy" ([2Tim 2:11](#)), "confirmed" ([Heb 2:3](#); [2Pe 1:19](#)), and "enduring forever" ([1Pe 1:24-25](#)).

hrema

**Greek Pronunciation** [HRAY mah]

**HCSB Translation** word

**Uses in Ephesians** 2

**Uses in the NT** 68

**Focus passage** [Ephesians 6:17](#)

*Hrema* most frequently appears in the narrative literature of the four Gospels and Acts (a total of 52x). In the NT, *hrema* (*word*) is used with two different senses. The term is first used with the sense of *that which is said or expressed*. Here the word focuses on what has been *communicated*. For example, Jesus speaks of men having to give account for every careless *word* they speak ([Mt 12:36](#)). In this sense, *hrema* may also refer to any one of many different types of *communication*. For example, *hrema* can refer to a *prophecy* or *prediction* (e.g., [Mk 9:32](#)), to a *speech* or *sermon* (e.g., [Rm 10:18](#)), to the *gospel* or a *confessional statement* (e.g., [1Pe 1:25](#)), or to a *commandment* or *order* (e.g., [Heb 11:3](#)). However, *hrema* does not always focus on what has been *communicated*. It may refer simply to a *thing*, *object*, *matter*, or *event*. For example, Paul speaks of every *word* (i.e., *matter* or *event*) being confirmed on the testimony of two or three witnesses ([2Co 13:1](#)), and the angel Gabriel reminds Mary that nothing is impossible with God ([Lk 1:37](#)).

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1. Jeremy Royal Howard, ed., *HCSB Study Bible*, (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2010), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Ephesians 6".

## English Standard Version - Study Bible<sup>2</sup>

### Ephesians 6:10-17

**6:10-20** *The Whole Armor of God.* Paul concludes his exhortations with instructions for all Christians. His imagery is a sustained portrayal of the Christian life as spiritual warfare using the Lord's resources. There are three subsections: [vv. 10-13](#), [14-17](#), and [18-20](#).

**6:10-13** *The Lord's Strength.* Paul introduces the armor of God by focusing on the strength it gives.

**6:10** **be strong.** Because Christians cannot stand on their own against superhuman powers, they must rely upon the **strength** of the Lord's own **might** (see [1:19](#)), which he supplies chiefly through prayer ([6:18](#)).

**6:11** The Greek word for **whole armor** (*panoplia*) refers to the complete equipment of a fully armed soldier, consisting of both shields and weapons like those described in [vv. 14, 16-17](#). Paul's description here draws primarily on OT allusions, yet the terms used also overlap well with Roman weaponry (esp. the terms for the large, door-shaped shield and the short stabbing sword). Visible portrayals of such weaponry can be found on the numerous military reliefs (esp. on sarcophagi) throughout the Roman Empire. **schemes.** Here the diabolical origin is exposed, regarding the "deceitful schemes" of those teaching false doctrine ([4:14](#); see also [1 John 2:18, 22](#); [4:3](#); [2 John 7](#)).

**6:12** This list of spiritual **rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers** (see [3:10](#)) gives a sobering glimpse into the devil's allies, the **spiritual forces of evil** who are exceedingly powerful in their exercise of cosmic powers **over this present darkness**. And yet Scripture makes clear that the enemy host is no match for the Lord, who has "disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him" ([Col. 2:15](#); see also [Eph. 1:19-21](#)).

**6:13** **Therefore.** Because the Christian's enemies are superhuman spiritual forces, he cannot rely upon mere human resources but must **take up the whole armor of God** (see note on [v. 11](#)). The divine armor and "sword of the Spirit"—which belong to the Lord himself and to his Messiah in [Isa. 11:4-5](#) and [59:17](#)—are made available for believers. **withstand.** Along with "stand" in [Eph. 6:11](#) and **stand firm** later in [v. 13](#), Paul portrays Christians as soldiers in the battle line holding fast against the enemy's charge. **evil day.** In [5:16](#) Paul identifies this whole age as "evil days," yet the outbreak of the Satanic onslaught against Christ's people ebbs and flows throughout this era until the final day when the Lord of Hosts will return in power and great glory ([Luke 21:27](#)) to rend the heavens and rescue his people forever.

**6:14-17** *Standing Firm.* Paul reiterates the charge to stand in the face of dreaded spiritual enemies because the Lord has not left his people defenseless. They have the complete armor of God from head to foot, which consists of the belt, breastplate, shoes, shield, helmet, and sword. These are metaphors for the spiritual resources given to them in Christ, namely, the truth, righteousness ([v. 14](#)), gospel ([v. 15](#)), faith ([v. 16](#)), salvation, and the Word of God ([v. 17](#)). As mentioned in the note on [v. 13](#), these are aspects of God's and the Messiah's own character and work (as depicted in Isaiah) with which Christians are now equipped. For example, the Lord saw no one to deliver his oppressed people, so he put on his own "breastplate [of righteousness]" and "helmet of salvation" ([Isa. 59:17](#); cf. [Eph. 6:14, 17](#)) before coming in wrath against his enemies.

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2. Lane T. Dennis, ed., *ESV Study Bible, The: English Standard Version*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Bibles, 2008), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Ephesians 6".

**6:14** With the simple, rousing order, **stand**, Paul urges the Ephesians to withstand the enemy (cf. [vv. 11, 13](#)), and not give in to fear.

**6:15** Believers must always be ready to proclaim the gospel.

**6:16-17 flaming darts.** Burning arrows were designed to destroy wooden shields and other defenses, but the **shield of faith** is able to extinguish the devil's attacks. **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.** The spiritual nature of the church's resources is nowhere more plain than in its reliance upon God's Word, which is the only offensive weapon mentioned in this list of spiritual armor. The Word of God is to be wielded like a sharp two-edged sword, in the mighty power of his Holy Spirit (see [Heb. 4:12](#)).

### NLT Life Application Study Bible<sup>3</sup>

#### *Ephesians 6:10-17*

**6:10-17** In the Christian life we battle against rulers and authorities (the powerful evil forces of fallen angels headed by the devil, who is a vicious fighter, see [1 Peter 5:8](#)). To withstand their attacks, we must depend on God's strength and use every piece of his armor. Paul is not only giving this counsel to the church, the body of Christ, but to all individuals within the church. The whole body needs to be armed. As you do battle against the "mighty powers in this dark world," fight in the strength of the church, whose power comes from the Holy Spirit.

**6:12** These who are not "flesh-and-blood enemies" are demons over whom the devil has control. They are not mere fantasies—they are very real. We face a powerful army whose goal is to defeat Christ's church. When we believe in Christ, these beings become our enemies, and they try every device to turn us away from him and back to sin. Although we are assured of victory, we must engage in the struggle until Christ returns, because Satan is constantly battling against all who are on the Lord's side. We need supernatural power to defeat Satan, and God has provided this by giving us his Holy Spirit within us and his armor surrounding us. If you feel discouraged, remember Jesus' words to Peter: "Upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it" ([Matthew 16:18](#)).

A Principle to Live By  
Ephesians #15: Walking in God's Strength

*from Ephesians 6:10-20*

**To walk worthy of our great calling in Christ,  
we must rely on God's strength and protection.**

In the opening paragraphs in this letter, Paul explained that in Christ we have access to God's "immeasurable . . . power" and "vast strength" ([1:19](#)). He is "able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think" ([3:20](#)). However, when Paul concluded this wonderful treatise, he reminded all believers of their responsibility. In order to receive God's "vast strength" ([6:10](#)), it is our task to take and use the spiritual equipment God provides ([v. 11](#)), which Paul described piece by piece ([vv. 14-17](#)). He concluded this section by underscoring the importance of praying for one another ([v. 18-19](#)).

We can be victorious over Satan and his evil cohorts. God has provided all that we need to be able to walk worthy of the great calling we have in the Lord Jesus Christ. While drawing on His strength, we are able to respond in obedience—another reflection of His sovereign grace.

**Reflection and Response**

**Practically speaking, how do we put on the "full armor of God" ([v. 11](#))?**

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4. Gene Getz, *Life Essentials Study Bible*, (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2011), *WORDsearch CROSS e-book*, 1635.