

MAIN POINT

God provides every tool His people need for spiritual battle.

INTRODUCTION

What steps does an army take to prepare for battle?

Why is it important to have the right tools for battle prior to entering conflict?

Without the proper tools and equipment, one will not last long in battle. In physical battle, military units employ tools both for offensive and defensive purposes. The need for preparation and the right tools is no less relevant in spiritual battle. In fact, it may be even more critical, as we often find ourselves in spiritual battle without realizing it. Thankfully, God has provided every tool that we need for spiritual battle. We are called to equip ourselves in advance and fight these battles for His glory.

DISCUSSION

> READ EPHESIANS 6:10-18.

Why is it important to recognize our own inability to stand spiritually by ourselves? What happens to us when we think we have the ability to withstand temptation in our own power?

What have you seen that affirms Paul's teaching that our battle is not against flesh and blood? How should that awareness influence how and who we fight? How would you face each day differently if you recognized you were always under attack?

What did Paul tell Christians to put on? How does God provide these pieces of armor for us? How do we receive them or take them up?

How are we transformed when these qualities or possessions infuse our lives? How do these pieces of our armor protect us against the assaults of the enemy?

How might putting on the pieces of God's armor be inconvenient? Why would it be foolish for a Christian to neglect putting on even one piece of armor?

What does Paul's emphasis on and repetition of the words "all" and "every" in verse 18 communicate to you?

How can we pray all the time? What helps you remain alert as you pray?

APPLICATION

Which piece of armor do you need to focus on the most? How can you grow in that area this week?