

The Armour Series: Week 1 Devotions

In week 1 of the Armour Series we explored the Armour of God. For this week the daily devotions will help us understand the Armour of God and why we need it.

Day One

Read:

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.” (Ephesians 6:10-11)

Amour:

‘Something worn to protect the body in battle and defend it from attack.’

Reflection:

Life is full of battles, am I right? I know my life is full of battles, every day I have things I am fighting and things I am fighting for. Most of the daily battles are quite small but from time to time I enter a full on war! I have never seen a soldier enter a battle, much less a war, without any armour on and so I don't see how our lives are any different. Take a moment now to think about the challenges you are facing, the battles you are fighting. Are you equipped to fight them or do you still feel every blow and have to stumble to your feet again? Life is hard and storms are rough, temptations are real and despair can easily set in, but what if you were equipped to walk into a battle unharmed and win, to walk into a war and not turn away because you were empowered by the victory bringing King Jesus.

Truth:

You are never alone in the battles you face and this term is going to be an epic one of equipping you to fight your battles armed with the armour Jesus knows will make you successful in your fight! A fun fact to start this journey with is that none of the armour of God is something that would protect your back. You are covered up front, but your back is bare. Why? Because Jesus never intended for you to retreat. You were made to be victorious, the victory is already yours, and in Christ you have power over the enemy and troubles you'll face. Jesus has got your back, now let's start this journey of suiting up and putting on the armour Jesus has provided for our victory!

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank you that you have equipped me for every battle I will face. Help me to take what you provide and put on your armour. Thank you that you fight for me. In Jesus Name, Amen

Day Two

Read:

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12)

Reflection:

Often times we skim over this part of Ephesians 6, and get to the part about the armour, the thing we want to equip ourselves with. I was reading the passage the other night though and this part just jumped out at me. I realised this is a really key part of the passage and adds a lot to our understanding of why we should put on the armour of God. Do you ever feel alone or like the battle is overwhelmingly big, more than something you could fight or face? Well, that’s probably because it is. The battles we face, especially as Christians are bigger than what we can handle, they are bigger than simply what we can see and the physical. Ephesians 6:12 says that our battle is not against flesh and blood, its not against this world, but against rulers and authorities and the powers of darkness over the world. It’s not against the physical world but against the spiritual forces that empower the evil we face. If we are fighting a realm outside our own then we are not equipped to fight it on our own, and the only way we can prevail is to take on the armour that God has provided and instructs us to use.

Truth:

Although this battle is bigger than us and although it is in a realm we do not fully understand and one that is stronger than us, it can only prevail if we stand alone. We are never alone when we are in Christ because He promises to fight for us and that He is on our side. In Christ we are much stronger than the forces that come against us, because it is not our strength against the evil we are facing, but the strength of the King of Kings, the Lord who has already defeated all darkness when He conquered death on the cross. This is the God that empowers us and offers us the armour we will need to fight the battles we face, never alone but with Him before us and beside us all the way!

Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You that You are on my side and are bigger than the battles and darkness that I face. Thank You that You will equip me as I take on Your armour but that I never fight alone and have victory over all when I m in You, because in You all things are conquered. I love You Lord, Amen.

Day Three

Read:

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.” (Ephesians 6:10)

Reflection: I love that this passage about suiting up in God’s armour and getting ready for the fight is prefaced by this verse. “be strong in the LORD and in the strength of HIS might.” Isn’t that a comfort?! Often when I see another life storm in the distance and feel the wind blowing before it hits, I feel afraid. Afraid because the order I had finally found is about to be messed with, afraid because it looks too dark for me to handle, afraid because I don’t know if I can fight another battle, but I forget and have to remind myself that actually, I am not in this alone and the fighting of the battle is not up to me alone.

Truth:

We have the King of Kings on our side and we are never alone! Before God tells us any of the armour we have to put on or gives us any instructions on how to fight and have victory He tells us to be strong in HIM. We do not have to simply be strong or face the storm out of our own strength, but rather can simply look to Jesus and be strong in HIM and in the strength of HIS might. To be strong or have strength means to have the ability to withstand great force, pressure, or wear and to have might means to have great or impressive power and strength. As we enter the storms life brings we are first and foremost instructed to be strong in the LORD, and is HIS strength and might we can have victory.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank You that in You I am never alone and that my greatest victory comes when I am safe within Your strength and might and trusting in YOU! Help me to look to You before anything else for my help and safety and strength in my trials. I love You Lord, Amen

Day Four

Read:

“Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.” Ephesians 6:13

Reflection:

Life can often seem dark and evil, the battles we face and the things we go through overwhelm us with feelings and hopelessness. Honestly, I often wonder at if I will be able to handle and hold up under the pressures and storms life throws at me, like are my legs really strong enough, is my back really able to carry it all?

Truth:

In the verse above we are called to take up the whole armour of God, and when we do we will be able to able to withstand the things of the evil days we live in and even after that, be able to stand. I love that promise that even after withstanding evil and fighting our battle we will be able to stand victorious, not defeated, not finished, but standing firm, equipped by the armour of God and our Saviour beside us.

Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, Thank You that even after I have fought my battles I can stand strong because I do not fight them in my own strength but with You by my side, Your help going before me, Your safety around me. Hold me in Your arms of strength. I love You Lord, Amen

Day Five

Read:

“Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,” (Ephesians 6:18).

Reflection:

In this fight that we are in, being suited up with armour is all good and well but if we are not backed up by the Holy Spirit we are going to fail. We cannot win this fight by ourselves, our strength is not enough, as we mentioned in the devotionals earlier this week. Our strength is no match for the spiritual realm we are fighting but with God on our side no weapon can stand against us, no evil thing can defeat us because we already have the victory in our death defeating King.

Truth:

When we talk to Jesus He hears us every time. He is our ever present help in times of trouble and so as we call out to Him for help in our storms He will always be right there. In verse 18, after all the armour has been listed, we are instructed to finally pray to the Lord as the final thing to empower us and bring us victory. Our victory is in Christ alone, no matter how much armour we have, and He is always listening and understanding our hearts!

Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, Thank You that You are my help in times of trouble. Thank You that in You alone I have strength and victory and with You by my side, as I listen to Your words, I will never fail. I love you Lord, Amen

Day Six

Read:

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me,” (Revelation 3:20).

Reflection:

Letting people into our storms and into our ‘brokenness’ is really hard. We often find it easier to fight it alone, wait it out, and move on. When we invite Jesus into our pain and the storm we are facing though, He comes in with all the love, truth, hope, and peace we are needing. Jesus is standing at the door and knocking to come in.

Truth:

This verse is usually used in a salvation message, where Jesus knocks at the door to your heart, asking to come in. But I feel that there is more than just the main door to our heart. Opening our heart to Jesus is a journey that we walk every day. Every situation, feeling, and storm is an opportunity to let Jesus in and let Him be God. Will you? Often we pin our past hurts and insecurities onto Jesus, thinking He’ll let us down just like everybody else. But no, He will never let you down and is knocking to come in and be all that you need!

Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You that You didn't just come into my heart, but You also daily pursue it. Thank You that You walk this journey with me, no matter what storms come up, and will never leave me nor forsake me. I trust You and love You Lord, Amen!