

## **Subject: Evangelism**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Lecturer: *Charlie Haddad*

## **Module 1: The Preparation of the Soul-Winner**

### **Lesson 6: Service**

Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:12-13

### **B. Service**

1. When obedient Christians/Soul-winners continue to be faithful to the things of God, they will start realizing that the Christian life is not just fun and games. They will discover that there is an enemy that opposes the Lord, and targets every serious follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

***AW Tozer said, "The Christian life is not a playground, it is a battleground."***

***Ephesians 6:12** "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."*

2. As Bible-Believing Christians, we will face three enemies:

- a. The World

- The world refers to the system/wicked culture around us that is against God. The world refers to the ungodly philosophy that accommodates *"the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life"*
- If the Christian does not learn to overcome the world they will live a defeated life.

- b. The Flesh

- The flesh is the old sinful nature that we inherited from Adam; it is a nature that is rebellious toward God, and the things of God, and in the flesh we can do nothing to please God.

- If the Christian does not learn how to restrain the flesh, then the flesh will hinder the will of God in their life.

### c. The Devil

- The devil is God's greatest enemy, and the devil desires to stop the Christian from fulfilling the will of God, like he did with Jesus.
- **The devil is the little god of this world that uses the world to tempt the Christian to live in the flesh. *James 4:4, 7***
- If Christians desire to resist the devil, then they must learn how to submit themselves to God.

*1 Peter 5:8-9 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (9) Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."*

*Warren Wiersbe: "By His death and resurrection, Christ overcame the world, and the flesh, and the devil. In other words, as believers, we do not fight for victory — we fight from victory! The Spirit of God enables us, by faith, to appropriate Christ's victory for ourselves."*

### 3. As Bible-Believing Christians, we must be always prepared for battle.

- a. As we fight against these three enemies, we need divine equipment both for offense and defense. God has provided the "whole armor" for us.

***Ephesians 6:11*** "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

***A man of God once said,*** "We dare not omit any part. Satan looks for that unguarded area where he can get a foothold."

***Ephesians 4:27*** “Neither give place to the devil.”

b. Put on the whole armour of God - Ephesians 6:10-18

*Christian Soldier's Check-List*

- Loins girt about with truth.
- Breastplate of righteousness.
- Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.
- Taking the shield of faith.
- Helmet of salvation.
- Sword of the Spirit. (The Word of God)

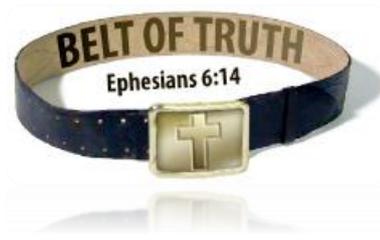


*Ephesians 6:10* “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”

c. Each piece of equipment is in a sense a picture of Jesus Christ.

- i. Christ is the Truth (John 14:6)
- ii. He is our righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- iii. He is our peace (Ephesians 2:14)
- iv. He is our faith (Hebrews 12:2)
- v. He is our salvation (Luke 2:30)
- vi. He is the Word of God (John 1:1, John 1:14).

#### 4. The Belt of Truth



**Ephesians 6:14** “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...”

- a. To “gird” can also mean “to fasten something tightly with a belt or a band” (as in “gird your loins”).

**A man of God said**, “Having your loins girt about with truth.” In the ancient garment of that day, the girdle about the loins held in place every other part of the uniform of the soldier. It was essential. To tell you the truth, if the girdle was lost, you lost everything.

- b. To gird your loins means to stand and prepare yourself for battle, and without the truth of God’s Word we have nothing to stand upon and we have nothing to be prepared for.

**Psalm 11:3** “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”

- Without the whole truth of God’s Word we can do nothing.

- c. The truth is God’s Word.

**John 17:17** “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

**Psalm 33:4** “For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.”

**I heard a story of a great battle in the past**, “...we are told, was won by a clever general who told his men to cut the belts of their enemy while they were sleeping. The next morning the enemy troops were so busy holding up their trousers that they weren't able to shoot their guns and, therefore, they lost the battle. We are told to be girded with truth in the face of the enemy. Truth is that which holds everything together. What is that truth? It is the Word of God.”

d. What should be our relationship with the truth of God's Word

i. Believe the Truth

**1 Thessalonians 2:12-13** "That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory. (13) For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

- It is one thing to know the truth, but it certainly another thing to believe and continue in the truth.

ii. Continue in the Truth

**John 8:31-32** "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

iii. Study the Truth (Doctrine)

**2 Timothy 2:15** "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

**John Philips**, "The devil is the father of lies; deception is his business. He wants us to sow error sugar-coated with truth. We must be absolutely sure before God that we are wearing the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. We must not preach opinions; we must preach God's truth."

iv. Walk in Truth (Daily Walk)

**3 John 1:3-4** "For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. vs. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

**William McDonald said**, "The first piece of armor mentioned is the belt of truth. **Certainly we must be**

**faithful in holding the truth of God's word, but it is also necessary for the truth to hold us.** We must apply it to our daily lives. As we test everything by the truth, we find strength and protection in the combat.”

**Albert Barnes said,** “A man who has no consistent views of truth, is just the man for the adversary successfully to assail.”

- Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44), but the believer will not be defeated if they are controlled by truth of God and His Word.

## 5. Breastplate of righteousness

**Ephesians 6:14** “...and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

- a. Believers have been made righteous by the blood of Christ.

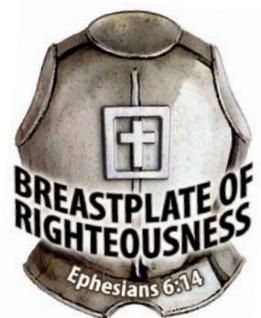
**2 Corinthians 5:21** “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

- b. However, the Christian must walk in the righteousness of Christ. Not only positional Christian standing, but practical Christian living.

**Colossians 2:6** “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:”

**Titus 2:11-12** “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, (12) Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”

**Ephesians 4:22-24** “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; (23) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; (24) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”



- c. The breast-plate protects vital parts of the body, in particular the heart.

**Proverbs 4:23** “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”

**2 Timothy 3:16** “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: **vs.17** That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

**Psalms 119:11** “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

**Vernon McGee:** “Only the righteousness of Christ can enable the believer to stand before men and before God, but the heart that is to be protected should be a heart that is not condemning the believer. It is an awful condition to have sin in the life while we are trying to carry on the battle. We can never win it that way.”

6. Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

**Ephesians 6:15** “And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;”



- a. We have made peace with God, and we are on the winning side, therefore believers must be prepared to share this peace with others.

**Romans 5:1** “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”

**Romans 8:31** “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

**A man of God said,** “The Christian soldier is to stand up against the attack of the demons, he must see to it that his feet are properly protected and equipped. The Roman soldier wore sandals which were bound by

*throngs over the instep and around the ankle, and the soles were thickly studded with nails. This would give him a firm footing in case of attack. The word "preparation" was used in in the sense of establishment or firm foundation. Thus, the Christian soldier should see to it that his feet are equipped with the sandals which will give him a firm footing, namely, the good news that speaks peace to a sinful heart, for the Lord Jesus made peace by the blood of His Cross, making a way for a holy God to reunite Himself with a believing sinner who in Adam had been separated from Him and His life."*

b. Be swift and ready to share the Gospel

**William McDonald said,** *"This is a readiness to go out with the good news of peace, and therefore an invasion into enemy territory. When we relax in our tents, we are in deadly peril. Our safety is to be found in following the beautiful feet of the Savior on the mountains, bearing glad tidings and publishing peace."*

**Isaiah 52:7** *"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!"*

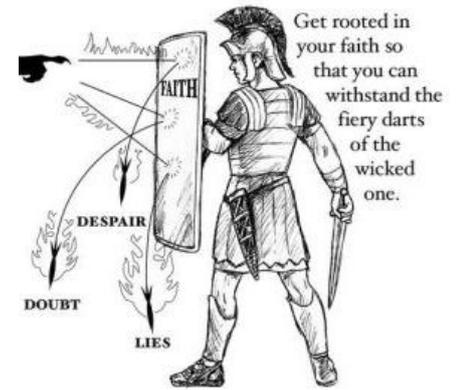
**Romans 10:15** *"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"*

Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee

—**Frances Ridley Havergal**

## 7. Shield of faith.

**Ephesians 6:16** “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”



- a. The shield was large and is used to protect the entire body. As the soldier held it before him, it protected him from spears, arrows, and “fiery darts.”
- b. Satan will try to wound, kill, or destroy the Soldier of Christ. His goal is to take believers out of the battle. Satan tries to tempt them to fall into sin.
- c. Our faith in the Lord and His Word is a defensive weapon which protects us from Satan’s fiery darts.

**Psalm 18:30** “As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.”

- d. The Christians faith in God's promise is "above all" and is absolutely essential to protect us from temptations from every sort of sin.

**Proverbs 30:5** “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.”

**Warren Wiersbe:** “Satan shoots “fiery darts” at our hearts and minds: lies, blasphemous thoughts, hateful thoughts about others, doubts, and burning desires for sin. If we do not by faith quench these darts, they will light a fire within and we will disobey God. We never know when Satan will shoot a dart at us, so we must always walk by faith and use the shield of faith.”

- e. **To quench** (extinguish, to put out) the hot temptations and blows that come our way we must have faith in God and His Word. Remember, faith obeys.

**William McDonald:** "Faith here is firm confidence in the Lord and in His word. When temptations burn, when circumstances are adverse, when doubts assail, when shipwreck threatens, faith looks up and says, "I believe God."

8. Helmet of salvation.

**Ephesians 6:17** "And take the helmet of salvation..."

- a. The helmet protects the head and is a main target in battle.
- b. Paul is encouraging saved Christians to be secure in their Salvation. Satan tries to destroy a believer's assurance of salvation with his weapons of doubt and discouragement.



**It has been said,** "No matter how hot the battle, the Christian is not daunted, since he knows that ultimate victory is sure. Assurance of eventual deliverance preserves him from retreat or surrender."

- c. Jesus is the Saviour and head of the Church. In Christ alone the believer finds power (strength), patience, security, wisdom, protection, comfort, joy and stability.

**Psalm 62:1** "Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation. Vs 2 He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved."

**Psalm 62:6-7** "He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved. vs.7 In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God."

**Psalm 118:14** "The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation."

- d. John the Baptist and Paul the Apostle were soldiers of the Cross who had their heads taken off; but they both could hold their banners of victory up high and say, “To die is gain.” **WHY?**

**Luke 10:20** “Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” – Luke 10-17-20

9. Sword of the Spirit. (The Word of God)

**Ephesians 6:17** “...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

- a. The sword was the soldier's only weapon, and for Christians, God's Word is the only weapon we need in this battle. It is extremely more powerful than any of Satan's devises.

**Hebrews 4:12** “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”



- b. An excellent example is when Jesus had a head-on encounter with Satan. Three times He quoted the word of God. **Luke 4:1-13**

## 10. Prayer

*Ephesians 6:18 “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”*

- a. Prayer is the power of God that enables Christian soldiers to wear the Armor and swing the sword correctly.

*Warren Wiesrbe “We cannot fight the battle in our own power, no matter how strong or talented we may think we are.”*

- b. When Amalek perused Israel, Moses went to the mountain to pray, while down in the valley Joshua used his sword. It took both actions to defeat Amalek — Moses’ intercession on the mountain, and Joshua’s use of the sword in the valley.

- c. Prayer is the power for victory, no prayer, no power.

### **Paul tells how to pray if we would defeat Satan. By Warren Wiersbe**

#### **Pray always.**

This obviously does not mean “always saying prayers.” We are not heard for our “much speaking” (Mat 6:7). “Pray without ceasing” (1Th 5:17) says to us, “Always be in communion with the Lord. Keep the receiver off the hook!” Never have to say when you pray, “Lord, we come into Thy presence,” because you never left His presence! A Christian must “pray always” because he is always subject to temptations and attacks of the devil. A surprise attack has defeated more than one believer who forgot to “pray without ceasing.”

#### **Pray with all prayer.**

There is more than one kind of praying: prayer, supplication, intercession, thanksgiving (Php 4:6; 1Ti 2:1). The believer who prays only to ask for things is missing out on blessings that come with intercessions and giving of thanks. In fact, thanksgiving is a great prayer weapon for defeating Satan. “Praise changes things” as much as “prayer changes things.” Intercession for others can bring victory to our own lives. “And the Lord turned the captivity of Job when he prayed for his friends” (Job 42:10).

## **Pray in the Spirit.**

The Bible formula is that we pray to the Father, through the Son, and in the Spirit. Rom 8:26-27 tells us that only in the Spirit's power can we pray in the will of God. Otherwise, our praying could be selfish and out of the will of God. In the Old Testament tabernacle, there was a small golden altar standing before the veil, and here the priest burned the incense (Exo 30:1-10; Luk 1:1-11). The incense is a picture of prayer. It had to be mixed according to God's plan and could not be counterfeited by man. The fire on the altar is a picture of the Holy Spirit, for it is He who takes our prayers and "ignites" them in the will of God. It is possible to pray fervently in the flesh and never get through to God. It is also possible to pray quietly in the Spirit and see God's hand do great things.

## **Pray with your eyes open.**

*Watching* means "keeping on the alert." The phrase "watch and pray" occurs often in the Bible. When Nehemiah was repairing the walls of Jerusalem, and the enemy was trying to stop the work, Nehemiah defeated the enemy by watching and praying. "Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch" (Neh 4:9). "Watch and pray" is the secret of victory over the world (Mar 13:33), the flesh (Mar 14:38), and the devil (Eph 6:18). Peter went to sleep when he should have been praying, and the result was victory for Satan (Mar 14:29-31, Mar 14:67-72). God expects us to use our God-given senses, led by the Spirit, so that we detect Satan when he is beginning to work.

## **Keep on praying.**

The word *perseverance* simply means "to stick to it and not quit." The early believers prayed this way (Act 1:14; Act 2:42; Act 6:4); and we also should pray this way (Rom 12:12). Perseverance in prayer does not mean we are trying to twist God's arm, but rather that we are deeply concerned and burdened and cannot rest until we get God's answer. As Robert Law puts it, "Prayer is not getting man's will done in heaven; it is getting God's will done on earth" (*Tests of Life*, [Grand Rapids: Baker, 1968]). Most of us quit praying just before God is about to give the victory. Not everybody is so constituted that he can sincerely spend a whole night in prayer, but all of us can persevere in prayer far more than we do. The early church prayed without ceasing when Peter was in prison and, at the last moment, God gave them their answer (Act 12:1-19). Keep on praying until the Spirit stops you or the Father answers you. Just about the time you feel like quitting, God will give the answer.

## **Pray for all the saints.**

The Lord's Prayer begins with "Our Father" — not "My Father." We pray as part of a great family that is also talking to God, and we ought to pray for the other members of the family. Even Paul asked for the prayer support of the Ephesians — and he had been to the third heaven and back. If Paul needed the prayers of the saints, how much more do you and I need them! If my prayers help another believer defeat Satan, then that victory will help me too. Note that Paul did not ask them to pray for his comfort or safety, but for the effectiveness of his witness and ministry.