

TAKE UP THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD
EPHESIANS 6:10-20
MARCH 22, 2009

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. Why do you think Paul essentially repeats the same admonition in verses 11 and 13? What practical implications does this have for your life?
2. Why do you think Paul repeats the word "stand" four times in verses 11-14? What does this tell us about the will of God for Christians in battle?
3. Pastor Charlie said that the two possible meanings of the phrase "the whole armor of God" are that (a) God owns the armor or that (b) God himself is the armor. He said that he tends to think the second option is the right one because of what Paul said in verse 10 and because each piece of the armor finds its ultimate meaning in God himself. What do you think? What evidence would you give to support your opinion? What are the implications of your opinion?
4. Pastor Charlie said that putting on the armor of God is a profoundly relational matter, that it's not so much about taking a series of steps as it is about learning to draw near to God. Read Psalm 27:1-5 carefully and ponder this fact.
5. In the Greek language, the word for "having done all" (v. 13) means "to thoroughly work at something." Paul uses this word again in Philippians 2:12-13. Read both passages and reflect on your life. Are you "doing all" that the Lord has called you to do? How can you grow in your diligence for the Lord?
6. Pastor Charlie pointed out that nine times Paul addresses his readers as a body not as individuals. He said that this means we were not designed to put on the armor by ourselves but rather in community with others. How are you doing with this? Do you tend to live in isolation from other believers? Do you tend to look out for the needs of others as well as your own? Do you have a few close friends who can lovingly speak correction into your life? How can you grow in these things?