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Clothed and Ready

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **February 22, 2015**

Ephesians 6:10-20

Introduction: If we were to survey a large number of people and ask them what their **greatest** NEED is, we would probably get a variety of answers. Those who are struggling financially would undoubtedly see their greatest need as a secure, high-paying job or simply a large sum of money landing in their laps. Those who are facing declining health or major illnesses will likely see their greatest need as healing or improved health.

...Yet we see many **lovely families** who are **healthy** and **wealthy** but still **not content**. This reminds us that the greatest need of human beings is not material or physical or even interpersonal; the greatest need is spiritual./ Our real challenges are **spiritual** and only when we know Christ as Saviour and know the spiritual victory He brings can we have true contentment and fulfillment – even when money is lacking, or our health fails, or people turn against us. Paul's instructions in Ephesians 6 give us the key to daily victory in the **spiritual realm**. (Source: *The Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Union Press Publication-Christian Life Series*)

Ephesians 6:10, Finally, my brethren, **be strong** (deep-rooted, unshaken, unconquerable) **IN** the Lord, and **IN** the **POWER** of his might.

NOTE: be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might; ...which is directed to, partly on account of the things before exhorted to, which could not be performed in their **own strength**; and partly with respect to their many and potent enemies hereafter mentioned, against whom they had no might nor power of their own; and therefore the apostle points out the Lord Jesus Christ unto them, in whom are strength, power, and might, even everlasting strength, to **enable them to perform their duty**, and to fight against every enemy, sin, Satan, and the WORLD for though they are weak, and strength in themselves, and can do nothing of themselves, and without Christ; yet since there is strength **IN HIM**, which is communicable (that may be communicated [delivered]) to them, they may **expect** it from him, and depend upon it; and they may come at, or strengthen themselves in it... (Source: *biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/*)

Ephesians 3:16-17, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be **strengthened** with **might** by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being **rooted (become stable)** and **grounded** in love...

Matthew 13:5-6, 21, Some fell upon **stony places**, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the SUN was up, they were **scorched**; and because they had **no (lack) ROOT**, they **withered away**.

...Yet hath he not **root** (means of growth) in himself, but dureth **for a while**: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is **OFFENDED**.

Offended defined 4624, entice to apostasy (an abandonment of what one has professed: a total desertion, or departure from one's FAITH or religion.

Ephesians 6:11, Put on the whole **armour** of God, that ye may **be ABLE** to stand against the **WILES (trickery)** of the **devil**.

NOTE: Put on the whole armour of God...Not that which God himself is sometimes clothed with, and uses against his enemies; but what he has provided for his people, and furnishes them with; the particulars of which are after mentioned: and it is called "the armour of God", because it is prepared by him for his people, and is bestowed on them by him; and because it is in its own nature divine and spiritual, and **not carnal**; and because it is provided for **fighting** the **Lord's battles**, and is used in them; and because the efficacy of it is from him, and the execution it does is owing to him: and it is whole, complete, and perfect; and all of it is useful, and no part to be neglected...
...and by the USE of their armour confound his schemes, and baffle all his arts and stratagems, but are **more than conquerors** through him that has loved them.
(Rom. 8:35-39) (Source: biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/)

NOTE: Stott quoting Simpson: "The tactics of **intimidation** and **insinuation** alternate in Satan's plan of campaign. He plays both the BULLY and the BEGUILER. Force and fraud form his chief offensive against the camp of the saints."
(Source: David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible classic.studylight.org/com/guz)

Ephesians 6:12, For we **WRESTLE** not against **flesh and blood...**

Wrestle defined 3823. pale pronounced pal'-ay from pallo (to vibrate (to move to and fro); wrestle (to strive with arms extended, as two men, who seize each other by the collar and arms, each endeavoring to throw the other by tripping up his heels and twitching him off his center. 2. To struggle [use great efforts; to labor hard; to strive]).

Thought 1. The phrase, "flesh and blood" is often misunderstood to mean "human beings." And depending on the context of the verse, this can be correct. However, in this verse, the meaning is literal flesh and blood. So, Paul was saying we're not in a "PHYSICAL" wrestling match grabbing arms, etc., to pin them to the mat for the count.

But, people are "spirits" that live in "flesh and blood" bodies, who also have a mind. (1 Thess. 5:23) Not looking at this truth is why some Christians believe that "people" cannot be an "ENEMY" to us. But since people are spirits, there are scriptures that reveal that they can be our enemies.

As you probably know, the other spirits against which we wrestle are Satan, other fallen angels, and evil spirits: demons. We wrestle against them using God's word, as we reason with people to teach/preach in an effort to silence them and think or speak against, EVERY thought and argument, etc., that's NOT in obedience to Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5, For though we **walk (live)** in the **flesh (body)**, we do not WAR after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not **carnal [pertaining to the flesh]**, but mighty through God to the pulling down of **strong holds (argument [a reason offered in proof, to induce belief, or convince the mind]);**) CASTING DOWN **imagination**s, and every **high** thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every **thought** to the obedience of Christ...

Matthew 5:43-45, Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and **HATE** thine **ENEMY**. But I say unto you, **LOVE** your **ENEMIES**, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may **be (be SHOWED)** the children of your Father which is in heaven...

Matthew 10:34-36, Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a **sword (WAR)**. For I am come to set a man at **variance** (in disagreement) against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.
And a man's **foes (ENEMY)** shall be they of his own **household (relatives)**.

Romans 12:21, Be not overcome of **evil**, but **overcome evil** with **good**.

Ephesians 6:12 ...but against **PRINCIPALITIES**, against **POWERS**, against the **RULERS** of the **darkness** of this world, against **spiritual (religious) wickedness** in high places.

Principalities defined 746, arche pronounced *ar-khay'*, a **CHIEF (in various applications of order, place, or RANK):-- the first MAGISTRATE** (the principal director.) A public civil officer, invested with the executive (ruling) government or some branch of it. In this sense, a KING is the highest or first magistrate, as is the President of the United States.).

Powers defined 1849. exousia pronounced *ex-oo-see'-ah*, **delegated influence.**

Darkness defined 4355, shadiness (Of or pertaining to shade or darkness; hence dubious [false, uncertain] or CORRUPT [changed from a state of uprightness, correctness, truth, etc., to a worse state; vitiated; depraved; debased; perverted; as, corrupt language; corrupt JUDGES.]. [Colloq.] A *shady* business." *London Sat. Rev.* Shady characters, disreputable, criminal. *London Spectator*. 1913 Webs. Dict.).

Thought 1. In this verse, Paul reveals the different spiritual ranks and descriptions of the workers of evil, which include Satan, his fallen angels, demons and the people in his kingdom: the world. This begins with kings/ Presidents and the high ranking spirits that control them. Next, are the people with delegated authority from them like governors, mayors, etc. and the spirits that influence their MINDS. After this are the people and the evil spirits that control all of the corrupt, SHADY, perverted, depraved, criminal dealings in the earth. And as you saw, this also includes judges.

And last of all are the people and spirits that work to spread all of the "Religious Wickedness" on the planet. From the scriptures, we see this category has people and evil spirits in "High places." God has allowed these spirits to be seen "in the spirit", up high. This is the main group that fought God's OT Prophets, and especially Jesus during his ministry; and now, against His Body. God spoke of all four groups in Jer. 1.

Jeremiah 1:1-2, 18-19, The words of **Jeremiah...** To whom the **word** of the Lord came... ...For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the **KINGS** of Judah, against the **PRINCES** thereof, against the **PRIESTS** thereof, and against the **PEOPLE** of the land. And they shall **FIGHT** against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to **deliver thee**.

Thought 2. Furthermore, sad to say, Satan even uses Christians in his warfare against God, Jesus, and the other Christians that make up Christ's body. Due to lack of skill/growth in God's word, Satan can/is deceiving SOME Christians as he deceived Eve.

James 4:1-4, From whence come **wars** and **fightings among you?** come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

...Ye **adulterers** and **adulteresses**, know ye not that the **friendship (fondness [tender passion; warm affection])** of the world is **enmity (hostility)** with God? whosoever therefore will be a **friend (dear [LOVER; sweetheart])** of the **WORLD** IS the **ENEMY** of God.

Ephesians 6:13, Wherefore take unto you the **whole armour** of God, that ye **may be ABLE** to withstand in the **evil day**, and having done all, to stand.

NOTE: That ye may not only stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made you free, but also discomfit all your **spiritual foes**; and continuing in your ranks, maintain your ground against them, never putting off your armour, but standing always ready prepared to **repel** any new attack. **And having done all, to stand.** ...rather, *And having conquered all, stand:* this is a military phrase, and is repeatedly used in this sense by the best Greek writers. "Having in a short time *discomfited* all our enemies, we returned with numerous captives and much spoil." See many examples in *Kypke*. By *evil day* we may understand any time of trouble, affliction, and sore temptation. As there is here allusion to some of the most important parts of the Grecian armour, I shall give a short account of the whole. It consisted properly of two sorts: **1. Defensive** armour, or that which protected themselves. **2. Offensive** armour, or that by which they injured their enemies. The apostle refers to both. (Source: *The Adam Clarke Commentary classic.studylight.org/com/acc/*)

Ephesians 6:14-15, Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with **truth**, and having on the **breastplate** of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the **gospel of peace**...

NOTE: *Having your loins girt about.* The *girdle*, or *sash*, was always with the ancients an important part of their dress, in war as well as in peace. They wore loose, flowing robes; and it became necessary to **gird them up** when they travelled, or ran, or laboured. The girdle was often highly ornamented, and was the place where they carried their money, their sword, their pipe, their writing instruments, etc. The "girdle" seems sometimes to have been a **cincture (BELT)** of **iron** or **steel**, and designed to keep every part of the armour in its place, and to gird the soldier on every side.

The word here rendered "**breastplate**" denoted the *cuirass*, (Lat., *lorica*), or **coat of mail**; i.e., the **armour** that covered the body from the neck to the thighs, and consisted of TWO parts, ONE covering the front and the other the back. It was made of rings, or in the form of scales, or of plates, so fastened together that they would be flexible, and yet guard the body from a sword, spear, or arrow. It is referred to in the Scriptures as a *coat of mail*, 1 Sam. 17:5; an *habergeon*, Neh. 4:16, or as a *breastplate*. We are told that Goliath's coat of mail weighed five thousand shekels of brass, or nearly **one hundred and sixty pounds**. It was often formed of plates of brass, laid one upon another, like the scales of a fish. (Source: *Barnes' Notes on the New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bnn/*)

NOTE: breastplate of righteousness; in allusion to (Isaiah 59:17), meaning not works of righteousness done by men, though these are a fence when rightly used against the reproaches and charges of the enemy, as they were by Samuel, (1 Sam 12:3), but rather the graces of faith and love, (1 Thess. 5:8), though faith has another place in the Christian armour, afterwards mentioned; wherefore it seems best to understand this of the **righteousness of Christ**, which being imputed by God, and received by faith, is a guard against, and repels the accusations and charges of Satan, and is a security from all wrath and condemnation. (Source: *biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/*)

NOTE: *And your feet shod.* There is undoubtedly an allusion here to what was worn by the ancient soldier to guard his feet. The Greek is, literally, "having under bound the feet;" that is, having bound on the shoes, or sandals, or whatever was worn by the ancient soldier. The **protection** of the **feet** and **ankles** consisted of **two parts**: (1.) the sandals, or shoes, which were probably made so as to cover the foot, and which often were fitted with nails, or armed with **spikes**, to make the hold firm in the ground; or (2.) with greaves that were fitted to the legs, and designed to **defend** them from **any danger**. These *greaves*, or **boots**, 1 Samuel 17:6, were made of brass, and were in almost universal use among the Greeks and Romans. **With the preparation.** Prepared with the gospel of peace. The sense is, that the Christian soldier is to be **prepared** with the gospel of peace **to meet attacks** similar to those against which the ancient soldier designed to guard himself by the sandals or *greaves* which he wore.

(Source: *Barnes' Notes on the New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bnn/*)

Ephesians 6:16, Above all, taking the **shield** of **FAITH**, wherewith ye shall be able to **quench** all the **FIERY DARTS** of the wicked.

NOTE: The shield was usually made of light wood, or a rim of brass, and covered with several folds or thicknesses of **stout hide**, which was preserved by frequent **anointing**. It was held by the left arm, and was secured by straps, through which the arm passed, as may be seen in the annexed cut. The outer surface of the shield was made more or less rounding from the centre to the edge, and was polished **smooth**, or **ANOINTED** with **oil**, so that arrows or darts would glance off, or rebound.

Faith here is made to occupy a more important place than either of the other Christian graces. It bears, to the whole Christian character, the same relation which the shield does to the other parts of the armour of a soldier. It protects all, and is indispensable to the **security of all**, as is the case with the shield. The shield was an ingenious device by which blows and arrows might be **parried off**, and the whole body defended. It could be made to protect the head, or the heart, or thrown behind to meet an attack there. As long as the soldier had his shield, he felt secure; and as long as a **Christian has faith, he is safe**. It comes to his **aid in every attack** that is made on him, no matter from what quarter; it is the defence and guardian of every other Christian grace; and it secures the protection which the Christian needs in the whole of the spiritual war.

The *fiery darts* that were used in war were small, slender pieces of cane, which were filled with combustible materials, and set on fire; or darts around which some combustible material was wound, and which were set on fire, and then shot *slowly* against a foe. The object was to make the arrow fasten in the body, and increase the danger by the burning; or, more frequently, those darts were thrown against ships, forts, tents, etc., with an intention to set them on fire. They were in common use among the ancients.

....By the "fiery darts of the wicked," Paul here refers, probably, to the **temptations** of the great adversary, which are like fiery darts; or those furious suggestions of evil, and **excitements to sin**, which he may throw into the **mind** like fiery darts. They are blasphemous thoughts, unbelief, sudden temptation to do wrong, or thoughts that wound and torment the soul.

(Source: Barnes' Notes on the New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bnn/)

Ephesians 6:17, And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **SWORD** of the **Spirit**, which is the **WORD** of God...

NOTE: The **helmet** was a cap made of thick leather, or **brass**, fitted to the head, and was usually crowned with a plume, or crest, as an ornament, Its use was to guard the head from a blow by a sword, or war-club, or battle-axe. **Of salvation**. That is, *of the hope of salvation*; for so it is expressed in the parallel place in 1 Thessalonians 5:8. The idea is, that a well-founded **hope of salvation** will **preserve us** in the day of **spiritual conflict**, and will guard us from the blows which an enemy would strike. The helmet defended the head, a vital part; and so the hope of salvation will defend the soul, and keep it from the blows of the enemy. A soldier would not fight well without a hope of victory. A Christian could not contend with his foes, without the hope of **final salvation**; but, sustained by this, what has he to dread?

And the sword. The sword was an essential part of the armour of an ancient soldier. His other weapons were the bow, the spear, or the battle-axe. But, without a sword, no soldier would have regarded himself as **well armed**. The ancient sword was short, and usually two-edged, and resembled very much a dagger...

Of the Spirit. Which the Holy Spirit furnishes; the **truth** which **he has revealed**. *Which is the word of God*. What God has SPOKEN --his truth and promises. See Barnes "Hebrews 4:12". It was with **this weapon** that the **Saviour** met the tempter in the wilderness, Matthew 4. It is only by this that Satan can now be met. Error and falsehood will not put back temptation; nor can we hope for victory, unless we are armed with truth. (Source: Barnes' Notes on the New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bnn/)

Thought 1. As we speak the word of God in love to the people, wrong thinking is corrected in their minds and the spirits that have deceived them are exposed and dealt with. What is LIGHT to the people, which enlightens and improves their MINDS, is a SWORD coming against Satan, the other fallen angels, and demons to DESTROY their influence.

Acts 5:27-29 ... the **high priest** asked them, Saying, Did not we straitly **command** you that ye should NOT TEACH in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, **We ought to obey GOD rather than MEN.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17; 4:1-4, All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for **reproof (evidence)**, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be **perfect (fresh [untainted; invaluable, useful])**, thoroughly furnished unto ALL good works. I **CHARGE** thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; **PREACH** the word; be **INSTANT** in season, out of season; **reprove (tell a fault)**, **rebuke** (express disapproval of, utter words in anger), exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure **sound doctrine**; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away *their ears* **from** the **TRUTH**, and shall be turned unto **fables (fiction)**.

Instant defined 2186, be present; assault [AGGRESSIVE, attacking (*teachings/ thinking*) by words, arguments with a view to shake, impair or overthrow].

Titus 1:7-9 ... a **bishop** must be ...just, holy, temperate; holding fast the **faithful word** as he hath been TAUGHT, that he may be ABLE by sound doctrine both to exhort and to **convince** the **gainsayers** (one who contradicts or denies).

Ephesians 6:18, *Praying always with ALL (all manner of) prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints...*

NOTE: We must pray with all prayer and supplication, with all kinds of prayer: public, private, and secret, social and solitary, solemn and sudden; with all the parts of prayer: **confession** of sin, **petition** for mercy, and **thanksgivings** for favours received.

(Source: *The Matthew Henry Commentary on the whole Bible classic.studylight.org/com/mhc*)

1 Corinthians 14:15, What is it then? I will **pray** with the **spirit**, and I will **pray** with the understanding also...

Jude 1:20, But ye, beloved, **building up** (to increase and strengthen) yourselves on your most holy **faith**, **praying** in the Holy Ghost...

Thought 1. Praying in the Holy Ghost is to pray with tongues: language of our spirit.

Ephesians 6:19-20, *And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly (without timidity or fear), to make known the mystery of the gospel. For which I am an ambassador in bonds (CHAIN): that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

NOTE: **Bold plainness** of speech was the more needed, as the Gospel is a "mystery" undiscoverable by mere reason, and only known by revelation. Paul looked for utterance to be *given* him; he did not depend on his natural or acquired power. The shortest road to any heart is by way of heaven; pray to God to open the door and to open your mouth, so as to avail yourself of every opening (Jer. 1:7-9; Ezek. 3:8-9, 11; 2 Cor. 4:13)

Ambassadors were held inviolable (that ought not to be injured, polluted or treated with irreverence) by the **law of nations**, and could not, without outrage to every sacred right, be put in chains. Yet Christ's "ambassador is in a **chain!**" The *Greek* is **singular**. The Romans used to bind a prisoner to a soldier by a single chain, in a kind of free custody. Acts 28:16 (Source: *Jamieson, Fausset, Brown Commentary classic.studylight.org/com/jfb*)