**Locked and Loaded: Equip Yourself for Victory!**

*Spiritual Armor – Equipped for the Battle*

**(Ephesians 6:10-12) J.B. Phillips New Testament (JBP)**

*Finally, you must be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all God’s armor so that you may be able to stand against the clever attacks of the devil. For our fight is not against any physical enemy: it is against organizations and powers that are spiritual. We are up against the unseen power that controls this dark world, and spiritual agents from the very headquarters of evil.*
**(Ephesians 6:13-17)** VOICE:

*And this is why you need to be head-to-toe in the full armor of God: so you can resist during these evil days and be fully prepared to hold your ground. Yes, stand—truth banded around your waist, righteousness as your chest plate, and feet protected in preparation to proclaim the good news of peace. Don’t forget to raise the shield of faith above all else, so you will be able to extinguish flaming spears hurled at you from the evil one. Take also the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.*

**(Ephesians 6:18-24) J.B. Phillips New Testament (JBP)**

*Pray at all times with every kind of spiritual prayer, keeping alert and persistent as you pray for all Christ’s men and women. And pray for me, too, that I may be able to speak the word here boldly, to make known the secret of that gospel for which I am, so to speak, an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may speak out about it as my plain and obvious duty. Tychicus, beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will tell you personally what I am doing and how I am getting on. I am sending him to you on purpose to give you news about us and to comfort your hearts. Peace be to all Christian brothers, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! Grace be with all those who sincerely love our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Power for the Struggle – Recognizing the Real Fight**

📖 *Ephesians 6:10-12 (JBP)* – *"Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power... For our fight is not against any physical enemy: it is against organizations and powers that are spiritual."*

* **Greek Word:** *Exousia (ἐξουσία)* – Authority, jurisdiction, power to act.

**Supporting Scriptures:**

* **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** – *"Though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh."*
* **1 Peter 5:8-9** – *"Be sober, be vigilant; your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, seeks whom he may devour."*
* **Romans 8:26-27** – *"The Spirit helps us in our weakness."*

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**Bible Study Questions:**

1. What are some “invisible battles” you’ve faced in your spiritual journey?
2. How can recognizing the real enemy change the way you handle conflict?
3. What practical steps can you take to strengthen your spiritual endurance?

**Provisions for the Struggle – The Full Armor Breakdown**

📖 *Ephesians 6:13-17 (VOICE)* – *"Be head-to-toe in the full armor of God... truth banded around your waist, righteousness as your chest plate, feet protected, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and sword of the Spirit."*

* **Greek Words:**
	+ *Aletheia (ἀλήθεια)* – Truth, reality.
	+ *Dikaiosynē (δικαιοσύνη)* – Righteousness, divine approval.
	+ *Pistis (πίστις)* – Faith, conviction of truth.
	+ *Sōtēria (σωτηρία)* – Salvation, deliverance.
	+ *Rhema (ῥῆμα)* – Spoken word, utterance (Sword of the Spirit).

**Supporting Scriptures:**

* **2 Corinthians 10:4-5** – *"The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God."*
* **Isaiah 54:17** – *"No weapon formed against you shall prosper."*
* **Hebrews 4:12** – *"The word of God is quick, powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword."*

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**Bible Study Questions:**

1. Which piece of the armor do you need to strengthen in your life right now? Why?
2. How can you practically “put on” the armor of God each day?
3. Why is it dangerous to go into spiritual battles without the full armor?

**Prayer for the Struggle – The Power of Prayer**

📖 *Ephesians 6:18-24 (JBP)* – *"Pray at all times with every kind of spiritual prayer... Pray that I may speak boldly, to make known the secret of the gospel."*

* **Greek Word:** *Proseuchomai (προσεύχομαι)* – To pray earnestly, worshipfully.

**Supporting Scriptures:**

* **Romans 8:26-27** – *"The Spirit intercedes for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."*
* **James 5:16** – *"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous person avails much."*
* **Matthew 18:18-19** – *"Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven."*

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**Bible Study Questions:**

1. Why do you think the enemy tries to keep believers from praying consistently?
2. How can you develop a stronger and more consistent prayer life?
3. Share a time when prayer changed a situation in your life. What did you learn from it?