

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV)

A Sword

Do you want to have a sword that fights in you, with you, for you and through you? Do you want to be able to stand against the devil and his evil schemes? Do you want to be able to stand your ground when days of evil come against you? I am assuming that all my questions can be answered by a yes from you. You know me. You know my thoughts. You know my hopes and dreams and desires. You know the prayers of my heart. You know what I have been and will continue to ask of you. **Yes, I know you better than you know yourself.** So yes, is my emphatic answer to all your questions. **That is very good.**

What must I do if I want to have a sword that fights in me, with me, for me, and through me? What must I do to stand against the devil and his evil schemes? What must I do to be able to stand my ground when days of evil come against me? **You know that you must put on the full armor of God.** Yes, that I do know. **Today, we are talking about one piece of that armor. We are talking about my word. You are correct in thinking that there is something that you must do with my word if you want the Holy Spirit to use my word like a sword to fight in you, with you, for you, and through you. Tell me what you think. Tell me what you know.** I must hide your word in my heart if I want the Holy Spirit to use it like a sword in my life. I must meditate on your word day and night if I want it to be ready to be used to fight off the devil's evil schemes. I must build my life on the solid foundation of your word if I want to be able to stand my ground when days of evil come against me. I must allow your word to guard and guide my life. Every thought of my mind must be taken captive and made obedient to you and your word. Then the Holy Spirit will be able to use your word like a sword in my life. **You have answered well. Will you allow my word into your heart and mind and life in all these ways? Yes, I will. Then my Spirit will use my word like a sword in your life to fight in you, with you, for you and through you.**

Holy Spirit, help me to put on the full armor of God. Make me able to withstand any attacks and evil schemes of the devil. Use God's word like a sword to fight in me, with me, for me and through me. Make my faith like a shield that protects me from attack. Amen

The Spirit Empowered Life *Sword Of The Spirit*

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

NIV Ephesians 6:10-18

The Spirit Empowered Life *Sword Of The Spirit*

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

NLT Ephesians 6:10-18

The Spirit Empowered Life *Sword Of The Spirit*

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

NRSV Ephesians 6:10-18

The Spirit Empowered Life *Sword That The Spirit Wields*

In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides]. Put on God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil. For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly [supernatural] sphere. Therefore put on God's complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place]. Stand therefore [hold your ground], having tightened the belt of truth around your loins and having put on the breastplate of integrity and of moral rectitude and right standing with God. And having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace. Lift up over all the [covering] shield of saving faith, upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked [one]. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God. Pray at all times [on every occasion, in every season] in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints [God's consecrated people].

AMP Ephesians 6:10-18

The Spirit Empowered Life *Sword Of The Spirit*

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

NASB Ephesians 6:10-18

The Spirit Empowered Life *Sword Of The Spirit*

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 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. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 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 6:10-18 (ESV)

ESV Ephesians 6:10-18

The Spirit Empowered Life *Sword Of The Spirit*

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

NKJV Ephesians 6:10-18

The Spirit Empowered Life *God's Word Is An Indispensable Weapon*

And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels. Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an *indispensable* weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out. Ephesians 6:10-18 (MSG)

MSG Ephesians 6:10-18

The Spirit Empowered Life *Sword Of The Spirit*

Last of all I want to remind you that your strength must come from the Lord's mighty power within you. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand safe against all strategies and tricks of Satan. For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies—the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world. So use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy whenever he attacks, and when it is all over, you will still be standing up. But to do this, you will need the strong belt of truth and the breastplate of God's approval. Wear shoes that are able to speed you on as you preach the Good News of peace with God. In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. And you will need the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit—which is the Word of God. Pray all the time. Ask God for anything in line with the Holy Spirit's wishes. Plead with him, reminding him of your needs, and keep praying earnestly for all Christians everywhere.

TLB Ephesians 6:10-18

The Spirit Empowered Life *Sword Of The Spirit*

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his great power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can fight against the devil's evil tricks. Our fight is not against people on earth but against the rulers and authorities and the powers of this world's darkness, against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly world. That is why you need to put on God's full armor. Then on the day of evil you will be able to stand strong. And when you have finished the whole fight, you will still be standing. So stand strong, with the belt of truth tied around your waist and the protection of right living on your chest. On your feet wear the Good News of peace to help you stand strong. And also use the shield of faith with which you can stop all the burning arrows of the Evil One. Accept God's salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times with all kinds of prayers, asking for everything you need. To do this you must always be ready and never give up. Always pray for all God's people.

NCV Ephesians 6:10-18

Sword Of The Spirit

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

The Spirit Empowered Life – Ephesians 6:10-18

In Context: *Read Ephesians 6*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. | Put on the full armor of God | so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. | For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, | but against the rulers, | against the authorities, | against the powers of this dark world | and against the spiritual forces of evil | in the heavenly realms. | Therefore put on the full armor of God, | so that when the day of evil comes, | you may be able to stand your ground, | and after you have done everything, to stand. | Stand firm then, | with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, | with the breastplate of righteousness in place, | and with your feet fitted with the readiness | that comes from the gospel of peace. | In addition to all this, | take up the shield of faith, | with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows | of the evil one. | Take the helmet of salvation | and the sword of the Spirit, | which is the word of God. | And pray in the Spirit on all occasions | with all kinds of prayers and requests. | With this in mind, | be alert and always keep on praying | for all the saints. Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Holy Spirit, help me to put on the full armor of God. Make me able to withstand any attacks and evil schemes of the devil. Use God's word like a sword to fight in me, with me, for me and through me. Make my faith like a shield that protects me from attack. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

Why can you be sure that evil days will come on which you will need to stand your ground?

How has putting on the full armor of God made you able to withstand the devil's schemes?

How has your faith in the Lord been like a shield of protection against attacks from the devil?

How has the Holy Spirit used the word of God like a sword to fight in you, with you, and for you?

How sharp will the sword of the Holy Spirit be to fight on your behalf if you are not allowing God's word to dwell in you?

How are you making it your daily practice to allow God's word to dwell in you richly?

How are you making yourself alert and prayerful as you continue to love and follow and serve the Lord?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Make sure that you are putting on the full armor of God so you will be able to stand against the devil's schemes.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that putting on the full armor of God will make you able to stand against the devil's schemes.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how the Holy Spirit has used God's word like a sword to fight for you.

Close With Prayer: ***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May the Holy Spirit use God's word like a sword to fight in you, with you, for you, and through you.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Holy Spirit, use your sword to fight in me, with me, for me, and through me.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Holy Spirit, how will you use your sword to fight on my behalf today?
