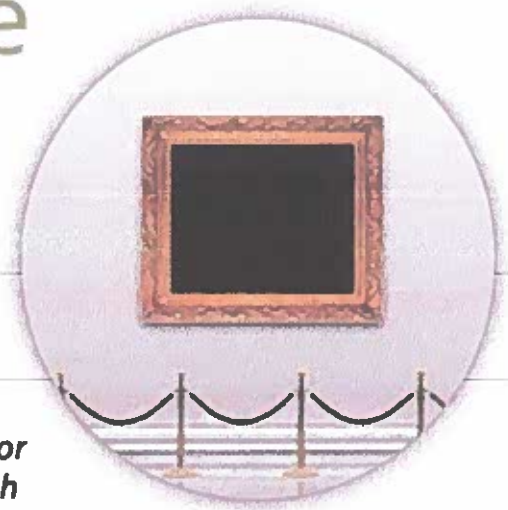


God Warns You About the War Zone

Participant's Guide

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We are engaged in spiritual battle, and without God's help, we will lose.

Ephesians 6 talks about work and the armor of God. What do these have to do with each other? You live in a war zone. Your life is a battlefield. Every moment throughout the day there are things happening around you that cannot be seen with the natural eye, but are, nonetheless, all too real. We are in the midst of spiritual warfare.

Scripture: Ephesians 6

Based On: "You Are God's Masterpiece," by Steve May, PreachingToday.com

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Part 1 Identify the Issue

We weren't made for the pursuit of pleasure, or the pursuit of happiness. We were created to work. (This idea goes all the way back to Genesis 1.) Christians understand that we don't work merely for work's sake or for the glory of ourselves; we work for the glory of God.

Your thoughts, struggles, fears, doubts, dreams, and goals are in the midst of a fierce battle. From the time you wake up in the morning until your head hits the pillow late at night, you are engaged in combat—in a war hard fought and not easily won, a war in which the casualty count can include every person you come into contact with, day in, day out.

Part 2 Discover the Eternal Principles

Teaching Point One: You engage in spiritual battle and win when you show your boss respect and pour yourself into your job.

Teaching Point Two: When you put on the full armor of God, you can stand against the enemy's strategies.

Teaching Point Three: In the full armor of God, we can stand our ground against the enemy—and keep standing.

Wearing the belt of truth, we can stand firm in truthfulness and sincerity of heart.

Wearing the breastplate of righteousness, our personal holiness will be seen in doing good.

Wearing feet fitted with readiness, we can go and fight or serve the instant God opens an opportunity.

Wearing the shield of faith, we are protected from anything the enemy throws at us.

Wearing the helmet of salvation means meditating on all God has done for us and has planned for us.

Wearing the sword of the Spirit, God gives us specific words to live by.

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Part 3 Apply Your Findings

Action Point: This week make prayer your "first resort." Before you do anything, pray. When you get up in the morning, before you interact with your family, pray just a quick prayer: "God, help me help them get their day off to a great start." When you walk into your workplace, pray a quick prayer: "God, help me do your work today for your glory. And help me treat my coworkers with dignity and respect." Before you make a phone call, before you speak to a client, before you go to a meeting, pray. In traffic, pray. In stressful situations, pray. In every event throughout the day, pray. On all occasions, with all kinds of prayers, pray.

—Study by Steve May, with JoHannah Reardon