

EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT – 4
SEPTEMBER 19, 2018

REVIEW:

God's work requires supernatural power. Samson's life clearly shows the difference between operating in God's power or our own.

CONTINUE: - EPHESIANS 6:10-17

People search for power. Athletes desire power to achieve their goals. Leaders of nations desire power to rule. Lucifer desired power to overthrow God. A Satan worshiper was asked why he worshiped Satan. His answer was "for power!" Christians are instructed to be strong in the power of God's might, not in their own. God wouldn't tell us to do something impossible to do.

THE TEXT

V10 – What we must do cannot be accomplished in our own strength.

V11 – It takes God's armor to withstand the strategies, and devices Satan uses to lead us away from the truth, and defeat us.

V12 – There is a highly organized spiritual army that opposes us.
There are different levels of these unseen powers.

- These forces of darkness attempt to defeat us by enticing us to give in to the lusts of the flesh. They pressure us to give in to immoral living, drug and alcohol addictions, substance abuses. They'll use uncontrolled anger to ruin marriages, families and friendships. If they can't drive us to sin, they'll drive us to the mall to get us in debt.

V13 – It's our responsibility to clothe ourselves with God's armor and take a stand against all evil and deception.

V14 – The armor described:

- Belt of Truth – Holds the armor in place. **JOHN 17:17** – The truth is Satan and his forces have been defeated. **EPHESIANS 1:16-23** – Paul didn't pray for God to give us power, but to open our eyes to the power we possess in Christ. Power that's superior to every level of power in Satan's kingdom.
- Breastplate of Righteousness – **2 CORINTHIANS 5:21** – We're clothed with God's righteousness. No one can condemn us.

V15 – The armor includes walking shoes.

- The good news of peace with God and justification by faith not works. **ROMANS 5:1** – It's the message of the gospel.

V16 – The armor includes the Shield of Faith.

- It takes faith to quench Satan's fiery darts. Our faith must be based on the finished work of Christ.

V17 – The armor includes proper headgear and sword.

- The Helmet of Salvation means a mind being renewed and restored. It means to be spiritually minded. **ROMANS 8:5-8**
- Sword of the Spirit is the rhema of God. What God speaks to us by His Spirit or through His Word. The Word teaches us, guides us and empowers us to resist the evil one. **MATTHEW 4** "It is written."

WHY THE ARMOR

- So we don't rely on our own strength.
- To trust God's provision when challenged, not our own.
- To remain strong in the Lord, not ourselves.
- To enforce Satan's defeat.
- To stay connected to the vine. **JOHN 15:5**