

March 1/2, 2025
"Spiritual Warfare"
Pastor Aaron Buer



SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

Day 1 [Ephesians 6:10-20](#) | The Armor of God

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. Ephesians 6:12

In his final charge to the fledgling church in Ephesus, Paul reminds them that God has given them spiritual armor to stand against the enemies of their souls. Using analogies they frequently see on occupying Roman soldiers, Paul invokes this armor as necessary in their stand against the enemy. The armor includes six pieces of protection. The belt of truth is the under armor with which they are to wrap themselves. The breastplate of righteousness is God's goodness and perfection that allows them to remember their sins are forgiven through Jesus. The shoes of the gospel of peace give them a secure footing when facing attack. The shield of faith provides defense against flaming arrows seeking to injure. The helmet of salvation protects their mind and thoughts from enemy attack. The sword of the spirit is God's Word, used to deflect the devil's lies and deceptions.

The same armor is still needed and available to us today. These are gifts from God through the gospel of Jesus. Used properly, they allow us to step confidently into spiritual warfare. Each piece of armor represents a gift that will help us stand firm against the world, the flesh and the devil. The armor has already been given to us. Putting it on is the action we need to take to overcome our spiritual enemies.

TODAY: Express your gratitude to God for the gospel and everything that Jesus accomplished for us on the cross. Specifically, thank him for the spiritual armor that allows you to stand firm in your fight against spiritual enemies.

Day 2 [Ephesians 6:13](#) | Putting on the Armor

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. Ephesians 6:13

Paul says it's not enough to have the armor of God or know every detail about it. The Ephesians must act if they want to stand firm. Paul tells them it doesn't happen automatically or without effort. He knows the risks and temptations of Ephesian culture. It is important that they are ready, just as a soldier wears his armor constantly. With powerful enemies waiting to destroy them spiritually at any time, the Ephesians can't predict when their battle will be engaged.

Throughout this series, we have seen the dangers of the enemies of the soul: the world, the flesh and the devil. They are constantly present. We need to be ready for an attack at any time. To be ready, we have to establish the

habit of putting on the armor through spiritual practices. Regular Bible reading helps us know the truth of God. Memorizing Scripture protects our minds and combats lies. Prayer is talking with God and asking for wisdom. Confession cleanses our hearts and reminds us of God's righteousness. These practices are some of the ways we put on the armor God provides.

TODAY: Consider how you can put on the armor. What habits can you start today? To learn more about how Christians have been putting on the armor of God for centuries, sign up for the Ada Bible Academy course on spiritual practices. The course begins on April 17. You can learn more and sign up [HERE](#).

Day 3 [Ephesians 6:10-11](#) | How We Fight

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. Ephesians 6:10-11

Ephesians is not a letter written to individuals but to a community of Jesus followers intentionally doing life together. It can be easy to think Paul is writing to individuals when he uses the word "you." However, "you" is plural in this case. Paul teaches they cannot achieve victory alone. The Roman military operated similarly, and the church would've seen it. The Roman army used a tactic called "tortoise formation." It places the emphasis not on one soldier's armor but on the combined armor of the unit. Tortoise formation is about the shield on the left, right and overhead. The army fights together.

One of the lies of our culture is that faith is individual. We think faith is just about *my* relationship with God. That wasn't God's intent at all. Jesus made it clear he was starting communities of followers. We are created to live in community. Following Jesus isn't something we're supposed to do alone. This is the beauty of being an active part of a local church. We are more vulnerable to attack when we are alone. The enemy seeks to isolate us. But in Christian community, we help each other hold to truth, recognize lies and put our spiritual shields up together.

TODAY: One way we stand firm together is by joining small groups. If you are in a group, commit to participate fully. If you've stepped away, now is the time to reconnect. Another way to develop deeper relationships in the church is to consider membership. Learn more about membership and sign up for an upcoming class [HERE](#).

Catch this week's episode of the *Beyond the Weekend Podcast* [HERE](#) to learn more about our spiritual armor and ways to put it on and stand firm.

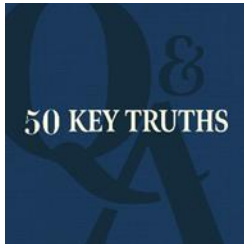
Day 4 [Ephesians 2:1-3](#) | Enemies of the Soul

...in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Ephesians 2:2-3

Paul writes to the Ephesians of three enemies of the soul: the devil, the flesh and the world. The devil's main tactic is lies. The flesh distorts and disorders desires. The world normalizes the devil's lies and the flesh's desires. Paul warns against these things because he wants believers to continue to follow Jesus and live the full life God created for them. Paul concludes the letter by encouraging them to stand firm in these spiritual battles.

As we have seen through the "Enemies of the Soul" series, the devil, the flesh and the world are significant enemies we must take seriously. The devil's lies oppose God's truth. The flesh can lead us to recklessly pursue our desires. We want the wrong things or the right things in the wrong order. Meanwhile, the world tells us that right is wrong, and wrong is right. Doing what everyone else is doing is normal. But there's a different and better way to live—to stand firm and follow Jesus—and it's centered on the gospel. Pastor Aaron Buer emphasized the need to take decisive action to defeat these enemies of the soul.

TODAY: Revisit the sermons in this series [HERE](#). Catch up on any you missed or re-watch one you need to remember. You can also revisit the *Beyond the Weekend Podcast* [HERE](#). Share these resources with a friend as you encourage each other to fight these enemies well.



Day 5 [2 Peter 1:20-21](#) | Question 9: Inspiration

Question: What does "inspiration" mean regarding the Bible?

Answer: Inspiration means the Bible is "God-breathed" —written by human authors but directed by God's Spirit.

For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:21

Peter gives us a hint about the mechanics of how the Bible was written. The writers were "carried along by the Holy Spirit." Think of the image of a sailboat being pushed along the water. Just as wind drives a sailboat across the water, the Holy Spirit moved the writers of the Bible to record exactly what God wanted. God used the personalities and perspectives of the prophets and other authors, but their words didn't originate from their interpretation or will alone. God's Spirit directed the entire process, ensuring his message was conveyed accurately through human instruments. This was not mechanical dictation—God used their individual styles and backgrounds while guaranteeing his message was recorded.

Understanding biblical inspiration changes how we read the Bible and builds our trust in it. The books of the Bible aren't just ancient texts written by wise religious leaders—they are God's very words, breathed out by God through human authors. When we read the Bible, we can be confident that although it was penned by people in specific times and cultures, the message comes from God himself. Every word carries God's authority and truth. This gives us confidence to build our lives on Scripture's teachings, knowing we're standing on God's unchanging Word rather than human wisdom.

TODAY: As you read Scripture, remember that God breathed out these words through human authors. Read [2 Peter 1:12-21](#), noting both the human elements (the writer's style and context) and divine inspiration (God's unchanging truth). Thank God for communicating so clearly through his Word and ask the Spirit to help you understand and apply it to your life. Read our We Believe section on the Bible [HERE](#).