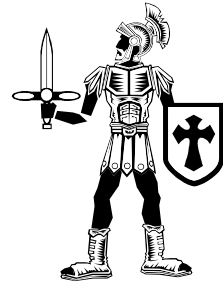


**Fight the good fight
With all thy might!
Christ is thy strength,
And Christ thy right.**



CHRISTIAN! PUT ON ALL THE ARMOR OF GOD!

Study this lesson carefully before answering the questions.

A. THE CHRISTIAN HAS A BATTLE TO FIGHT

So many people think that the Christian life is easy. They think that after they are saved, everything will be sweet and lovely. The Christian life is **not** easy any more than it is easy for a soldier to fight on the battlefield. As a soldier must be on the lookout for the enemy, even so the Christian must be on guard against the enemies of his soul. This lesson, and the next two, will tell you about these enemies and how we can be sure of getting victory over them.

B. SATAN IS THE ENEMY OF GOD AND THE CHRISTIAN

Many people think of Satan as having red skin, horns, a pointed tail, and a big pitchfork. This is not the picture the Bible gives of him. Study Isaiah 14:12-15. Here Satan is called "Lucifer," which means "Daystar." This is the name given to him by God when He made this beautiful **angel**. Lucifer was the brightest, the wisest, and the most beautiful of all the angels which God made. He was so great the God made him the one to stand guard by His throne in Heaven. Lucifer should have been thankful for the honor of serving in the very presence of God. But he said in his heart one day, "**I will** be like the most High." This meant that he wanted to be equal with God. This was pride and disobedience, so God had to punish Lucifer and all the angels that followed him. Ever since that day, Satan has been fighting God and trying to get everyone else to hate and fight Him. Satan has kept much of his beauty and power and uses them to cause many to follow him instead of Jesus.



Since Satan is an angel, he is stronger than any man. He is wise and will try in many ways to get us to disobey God. We were all once the children of Satan, under his power, and doing the things that he wanted us to do. Now that **we** have been **born again** into God's family, Satan is very angry. (Read Gospel of John 8:44; Ephesians 2:1-3; Gospel of John 1:12; and Galatians 3:26.) When God makes the New Heaven and Earth, Satan will be put into the **Lake of Fire**. He will be there **forever** with those he kept from believing in God and the Lord Jesus (Revelation 20:10, 15). Satan knows what is going to happen to him, so he is doing all he can to fight God and those who love God. This is why every Christian finds it hard to live the





Christian life. Although it is hard, we do not need to be afraid. Jesus became **our captain** when we accepted Him as our Savior. Now **He lives in us** and fights for us.

C. THE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

Read carefully Ephesians 6:10-18. Here we find that we have a battle to fight and that God has provided armor for us to use. Be sure and take notice of verse 10. It does not say, "Be strong in **yourself** and in the power of **your** might." It says, "Be strong in **the Lord**.." Only God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit are stronger than Satan (verse 12). If we want to defeat

Satan and his armies, we **must let Jesus do it** through us. The rest of the verses tell how a soldier would put on his armor when he went out to battle. Every important part of his body was protected by armor. He was always sure that he had on **all** of the armor. He would be foolish to go out with everything except one piece. It might be in that very part of the body he would be wounded. The Christian, too, must be sure he puts on and keeps on **all of God's Armor**. Then he can be victorious over Satan's army of "principalities," "powers," and "rulers of the darkness of this world."

D. GOD PROVIDES ALL THE PARTS OF THE ARMOR WE NEED

- a) TRUTH--Satan is the **father of lies** and hates the **truth**. **Jesus is the truth** (Gospel of John 14:6). Let Jesus **fill** your whole heart with Himself. Then His honesty and sincerity will guard you against Satan's lies.
- b) RIGHTEOUSNESS--The Lord Jesus is our righteousness. If you let **Jesus control you**, you will be right and His strength will help you to do right.
- c) PEACE--This is the peace we have with God because we are now on His side. We want to be prepared or ready to tell others the gospel of peace. Satan will lose soldiers, for they will come over on our side and serve Jesus. 
- d) SALVATION--One of Satan's greatest weapons against us is the arrow of **doubt**. It makes us think, "**I wonder if** I am saved?" If you are not sure of your salvation, it is like going to battle without a helmet. It is important for you to **know that you are saved**. Read again the following verses and ask the Lord Jesus to keep Satan from making you doubt **your Savior** (Gospel of John 5:24; 6:36, 47; 10:27-29; Romans 8:35-39; and I John 5:13) 
- e) FAITH--This is the shield which is held over all of the other armor. Without it many arrows and darts would hit and wound us. Faith is simply believing and trusting in God. It means to **read** what is in the Bible, then **believe** it and **do** what it says. So many Christians are even losing the joy of their salvation because they do not use the faith God has given to them. That is like using a shield full of holes. **Believe God's word completely**. It has **never failed** when used by soldiers of Jesus Christ. 
- f) THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT--This is the only weapon God has given us with which to hit **Satan**. All of the rest are pieces of armor to keep Satan from hitting us. This Sword is the Bible, **the Word of God** (Hebrews 4:12). In Matthew 4 we read how Jesus used this Sword against the devil. We too must learn to use it that way. Use your memory verses against him. Satan cannot overcome nor defeat you if you stand against him with the **Word of God**. 

E. THE CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE ALWAYS READY FOR THE ENEMY

Sometimes we get weary struggling against sin. It is just then that we can find help to keep going through **prayer**. When we pray, we get special help from God. He gives **new strength** for the battle. If we fail to pray, we cannot be "**strong in the Lord**." When a victory is won, sometimes we think that we can rest awhile. Just at that time Satan will hit us from another side. The Christian should be **always watching** for the enemy. **Put on** and **keep on** the **whole armor of God**. **Always watch and pray!** Remember, your wonderful **Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, lives in you** and will use His almighty power **through you**, as you **let Him** do so.



Puzzle Corner

Work the puzzle but keep this sheet in a notebook. The puzzle does not have to be sent to us.

Four things to do with God's Word

KN __ __ it in your head

ST __ __ in your heart

SH __ __ it in your life

S __ __ it in the world.

Can you think of two letters