



Lesson One

Put on the whole Armour of God

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Outline

Title: Put on the complete armour of God

Text: Ephesians 6:10-11

Introduction: Personal warfare - every believer needs the whole panoply of God

Illustration: The Hauhau warriors – trusting in words.

1. The armour of God requires a close relationship with Christ
2. The armour of God requires watchfulness at all times
3. The armour of God requires skill - discipleship
4. The armour of God requires sacrificial courage

Introduction:

Personal warfare - every believer needs the whole armour of God

Ephesians 6:11, 'Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.'

The panoply of God

Put on the 'whole armour'.

Paul uses the Greek word '*panoplia*' meaning complete armour.

It comes from two Greek words '*pas*' meaning 'all' and '*hoplon*' meaning 'weapon'. (literally 'all the weaponry').

It is necessary to put on the whole armour of God.

A weak area gives opportunity for the enemy.

Illustration: Trusting in words. (1 Corinthians 4:20)



Te Ua Haumene prophet of the Pai Mariri or Hauhau Movement.

During the New Zealand Maori Wars of the 1860's, a Maori by the name of Te Ua Haumene claimed that the angel Gabriel had visited him in 1862. His followers became known as the Hauhau warriors.

He supposedly claimed that Gabriel had shown him how bullets could not harm a warrior who shouted the words "Pai Marire, hau, hau!" (or "hapa, hapa!").

The error of Haumene's teaching was clearly seen on May 14, 1864 on Moutoa Island when 120 Hauhau warriors moved without fear towards the enemy guns. Within minutes 80 of them lay dead or injured and the rest ran away.

The Hau Hau warriors had great faith and courage but their faith was in words and had no power.

1. The armour of God requires a close relationship with Christ

Put on the whole armour of God means to put on Christ.

‘But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.’ (Romans 13:14)

Put on Christ as...

A Belt - The Doctrine of Christ

A Breastplate - The Righteousness of Christ

A Shoe - The Gospel of Christ

Take up Christ as...

A Shield – The Faith of Christ

A Helmet - The Salvation of Christ

A Sword – The '*Rhema*' Word of Christ



2. The armour of God requires watchfulness at all times.

Christian armour must be worn at all times. The times when we are unprepared are the times when we are most vulnerable.

WPC Nina Mackay was killed just after she took off her body armour to help open a door with a battering ram.

Nina Mackay, 25, was stabbed in east London 24 October 1997 by Magdi Elgizouli - a schizophrenic being treated under the care in the community scheme.

Elgizouli plunged a seven-inch knife into WPC Mackay's chest after she had smashed through the door of his east London home to arrest him for breaches of bail.

She collapsed after the stabbing and died two hours later in hospital. She had removed her police body armour to wield a battering ram on Elgizouli's front door.

3. The armour of God requires skill – discipleship (learner)

We must always be ready for an attack of the enemy.

We must never underestimate the ability of the enemy to attack at anytime.

Battle of the Bulge began December 16, 1944

Allies were not prepared – thought Nazi Germany was defeated.



The Ardennes

US soldiers from the 75th division fighting during the Battle of the Bulge.

Over 20,000 Allied soldiers were killed at the Battle of the Bulge.

The Battle of the Bulge (December 1944)

Inexperienced soldiers were placed in this area as the Allies did not expect to face an attack through the Ardennes.

The Allies ultimately won the battle, but the casualties were great because the Allies were not ready when the enemy attacked.

Mardasson

An American Monument on the hill Mardasson in the Bastogne, Belgium is a memorial to the 80, 987 American casualties at the Battle of the Bulge.

In Christian warfare – the devil has already been defeated but we must be aware that he can attack at any time.

The Christian armour will protect us at all times.

4. The armour of God must be put on with sacrificial courage.

The battlefield is not a place for those who have no desire for the warfare.

People campaign for peace when they believe a war is unnecessary.

The lives of their young people are worth more to them than the aims of the war.

The enemy will also encourage a campaign for peace as it will weaken a nation's ability to fight.



Comfortable Christians do not like spiritual warfare. The armour of God is only for those who have the courage to do the will of the Lord. Those who have served Christ the most have been attacked from all directions.

Summary:

We must put on the whole armour of God.

1. The armour of God requires having a close relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. We must put on Christ as Truth, Righteousness and Peace. We must take up Christ as our Faith, Hope and Word.
2. The armour of God requires watchfulness. We must be prepared at all times.
3. The armour of God requires skill. We must learn how to use the armour of God so that we can always be victorious. This is discipleship.
4. The armour of God must be put on with sacrificial courage. We are in a warfare and there will be difficulties. We must be willing to sacrifice the comforts of an easy life.

Checklist:

1. Put on all the armour – Christ.

Find ways to strengthen our relationship with Christ.

2. Watch at all times – no unprotected areas.

Guard against wrong thinking.

3. Become skilful – learning to use the armour.

Be disciplined - study, prayer, witness, relationships.

4. Develop sacrificial courage – a strong heart for the warfare.

Be courageous - willing to be seen as a Christian and witnessing.