

Father's Expectations— Ephesians 6:10–18

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I have been talking to my friends about our Heavenly Father’s expectations for us—because He is a God of mercy.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread (Thursday, April 9), I gave a Bible study titled “What Are the Father’s Expectations?” The purpose of the presentation was twofold.

- I wanted to remind friends that a God of grace has expectations for His children.
- I wanted to remind friends that the Bible contains many, many examples of the Father’s expectations.

Let’s notice a few of those expectations by looking at Ephesians 6:10-18. Bible students love reading the scriptures about the armor of God.

Resisting the adversary

The apostle Paul wanted to help the disciples in Ephesus to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:10-11—“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

Understanding the enemy

Paul wanted his friends to understand the power of the enemy. It is important to avoid underestimating the enemy.

Ephesians 6:12—“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

2 Corinthians 11:3—“But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

2 Corinthians 11:14—“And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.”

Armor of God

Paul also wanted his friends to understand the power of God. It is important to avoid overestimating the enemy.

Ephesians 6:13—“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

Philippians 4:11-13—“Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Luke 22:31-32—“And the Lord said, ‘Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.’ ”

John 10:28-29—“And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.”

Specific items

- Gird your waist with truth (verse 14).
- Put on the breastplate of righteousness (verse 14).
- Put on the footwear of the gospel of peace (verse 15).
- Use the shield of faith to stop the fiery darts of the evil one (verse 16).
- Use the helmet of salvation (verse 17).
- Use the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (verse 17).
- Praying always (verse 18).
- Add supplication to your prayers (verse 18).
- Be watchful to the end with perseverance (verse 18).