Introduction

“We are constantly on a stretch, if not a strain, to devise new methods, new plans and new organizations to advance the church and secure enlargement and efficiency for the gospel…but what the church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use – men of prayer, men mighty in prayer.”

E. M. Bounds, Power Through Prayer.

It is not wrong to plan or develop strategies or programs.

But we must never forget that prayer is primary. All our work should begin with prayer and be supported with prayer continually.

I. The Helmet of Salvation. Verse 17

Roman helmets were made of bronze with leather attachments.

The helmet represents salvation.

The word Paul uses to describe putting on the helmet is take or receive.

For the Christian, salvation is a gift that we receive by faith.

In I Thessalonians 5:8, the hope of salvation is our helmet. It is our security.

Real security comes from knowing and following Jesus Christ.

“I give them eternal life and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.”

John 10:28

II. The Sword of the Spirit. Verse 17

The sword most often used by a Roman soldier was a short double-edged sword used to cut and thrust.

Our sword is the Word of God. It is the Christians primary offensive weapon.

In Isaiah 11:4 the Messiah strikes with the rod of his mouth.

In Revelation 1:16 and 19:15, the Lord is described with a sharp double-edged sword coming out of his mouth.
Now Jesus is the master swordsman, but if even he needed to use scripture to defeat Satan’s attacks, how much more do we.

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12

It is an awesome weapon and Satan knows it.

Are you working on your swordsmanship?

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” II Timothy 2:15

III. Prayer - our secret resource. Verses 18-20

For the Christian, prayer is indispensable. It is our communication link to the Father.

We are to pray in the Spirit.

We are to pray on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

We can bring our requests to God at any time.

“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” Hebrews 4:16

“Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you.” Matthew 7:7

Be alert and pray continually.

IV. Final Greetings. Verses 21-24

Tychicus is unknown to us, but a faithful servant and a dear brother to Paul.

Paul’s prayer in verses 19-20 was answered. He did bear witness to the gospel in Rome. “And the Lord stood by his side and gave him strength.” II Timothy 4:17

Paul closed his letter with a benediction.

- May God give you peace.
- May God give you love with faith.
- May God give you grace.

Conclusion
What have you learned?
What stood out to you this time through Ephesians?
How will you apply what you have learned?