



December 28, 2025

UNITED - Ephesians 6:13 - WAR

SUMMARY: God's armor may not always feel comfortable, but it is necessary. It's not a buffet. It's irreducibly complex. Miss one piece and you're vulnerable—like an old VW bus with 12,000 parts and no brake fluid. One small omission can become a big disaster. We tend to trust our strengths too much. Blind spots are real. David, Peter, Abraham, Moses—giants with gaps. The armor is “of God.” That means the source and the standard are God, not me. I traced the cultural shift in authority: ancient (Scripture), modern (science), postmodern (self). We live in the age of “I feel,” where feelings often sit in the driver’s seat. But Ephesians assumes an ancient posture: God speaks; Scripture is authority; I submit my emotions, not the other way around. With God’s armor, we CAN withstand. Not easily, but truly (1 Corinthians 10:13; Romans 6). We celebrate forgiveness—and we should—but we should also celebrate that we are no longer slaves to sin. New covenant hearts want God. We get deceived when we trade deep joy for cheap thrills. Cheap is available. Deep takes patience and wisdom. Porn promises intensity and leaves people empty, ashamed, and alone. Shallow “community” at the bar gives the feeling of companionship without the truth that transforms us. Buying kids off with stuff substitutes for the hard and beautiful work of forming souls. When tempted, pause and ask, “What do I most want in ten years?” Pray. Phone a friend. Choose the long game. Then there’s “the evil day.” Not Revelation horses. The personal season when the waves don’t stop. Some in Scripture fell on their evil day; others stood—Joseph, Daniel, Shadrach/Meshach/Abednego, Paul, and Jesus. We come to the Table to be strengthened, so when that day comes, we can stand.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:10-13, Psalm 139, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Romans 6

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Which single piece of the armor do you most naturally prefer and which piece do you most often neglect (e.g., belt/basics, breastplate/heart, shoes/gospel readiness, shield/faith, helmet/salvation, sword/Word)? Name one concrete practice you will adopt this week to “put on” the piece you neglect.
2. The sermon recommended praying Psalm 139:23–24 daily: “Search me, try me...” Will you commit to that prayer for the next seven days? Who will you tell about this commitment so you have accountability?
3. When temptation comes, the preacher urged a pause and a ten-year question: “What will I most want in ten years?” Think of a current temptation (social media, pornography, buying to substitute parenting, shallow community, etc.). How would answering that ten-year question change your immediate choice? Write one specific step you will take the next time that temptation appears (prayer, call a friend, step outside, delete an app, etc.).
4. The sermon described “standing” through an evil day by continuing ordinary faithfulness (teach, pray, love family). Name two ordinary, obedient things you can commit to do this month that will help you stand if a hard season comes.
5. Identify one “cheap thrill” in your life that crowds out deeper joy (a habit, entertainment, relationship pattern, or purchase habit). What is one small, specific long-game practice you will replace it with over the next month (e.g., weekly date night, daily scripture and silence, mentoring a younger person, removing access to temptation)?



6. Who is one trusted person you will give permission to point out your blind spots (a spouse, friend, mentor, elder)? Set a plan: when will you meet or check in, and what one area will you ask them to watch for?
7. The sermon emphasized submitting feelings to Scripture's authority. What is one recent belief or feeling you hold that might need to be tested by Scripture? Commit to a short plan this week: read a relevant Bible passage, pray, and discuss it with a trusted Christian.