

The Lord's Army: The Christian Warrior's Ability & Capacity to Pick Up & Put On the Panoply: Power, Resources, Intelligence, Knowledge, Skill, & Competence; Production, Performance, & Deployment

II. The Lord's Army

A. The Christian Warrior's Panoply:

1. Believer's are to dress their souls in a spiritual panoply that is described by Paul in Ephesians 6:13 -17. This panoply is made up of six items that illustrate six doctrines.
2. We will examine these by means of exegesis, verse by verse and observing along the way how each one assists the believer in protecting his soul from the things Paul mentions in verses 10-13.
3. These are designed to make the believer able: (1) "to have the power to seize and hold his ground against the strategy and tactics of the devil" (v. 11), (2) "not against blood and flesh, (v. 12a) but (3) "against general officers, against commissioned officers, against special-forces guerillas and fifth-column spies of the Dark Side, against the demonic rank-and-file warriors of evil who populate the atmosphere" (v. 12b).
4. To accomplish these objectives the believer must "take up the full armor of God" (v. 13a). This introduces us to Paul's summary verse:

Ephesians 6:13 - Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. (NASB)

1. This verse begins with preposition **διὰ, dia**, translated "because." It is followed by the demonstrative pronoun **οὗτος, houtos**, translated "this": "Because of this."
2. This is the purpose of what Paul covered in verse 12: our combat is not against things visible. It is against the invisible demonic assault armies described by a table of organization.
3. The challenges of the believer's normal day involve thought, system, and people, and sometimes disasters. But these are the visible expressions of the invisible conflict that continuously rages around us.
4. Although the human experience is obviously pitted against blood and flesh, these are not the primary enemies. These circumstances are influenced in one way or another by demon influence at best and demon possession at worst.
5. For this kind of warfare our souls need a wardrobe designed to withstand the assaults from the Dark Side. To dress ours souls be have to produce the action of "taking up the full armor of God."

6. The verb here is the aorist active imperative of ἀναλαμβάνω, *analambanō*: “to take up to oneself a personal or material object.” The active voice indicates that this must be a willing volitional decision on the part of the Christian warrior.
7. In this verse, and later in verse 16, we have the technical use of the word for the putting on of weapons, an action adopted from military jargon.
8. We took the time to observe how the Roman soldier systematically put on his panoply. Likewise for the Christian soldier. But the act must be volitional.
9. The verb is a constative aorist; it contemplates the action of putting on one’s spiritual armor in its entirety and gathers it into a single whole. When the believer’s soul is at ease, his panoply is not in place. The constative aorist views the action of taking it up and putting it on when circumstances require it.
10. The active voice requires the believer to be alert and prepared to assume Code Red on a moment’s notice. The believer must be prepared to instantly dress his soul in full panoply.
11. To do this there must *be* a panoply in his *kardia* that is immediately available “to pick up and put on.” This action is commanded by the imperative mood, and is translated, “Because of the demonic enemy, pick up and put on.”
12. The direct object is the word that describes the six items that dress the believer’s soul: *πανοπλία, panoplia*: the heavy equipment of the active duty foot soldier. We have studied this enough to just use the English derivation of “panoply”: “a full suit of armor.”
13. The act of taking up one’s spiritual panoply refers to the consistent, daily study of the Word of God so that these items are readily available in the soul for “picking up and putting on.”
14. Next we have the introduction of a purpose clause, the conjunction ἵνα, *hina*, translated “in order that,” followed by the aorist passive subjunctive of the verb δυναμαι, *dunamai*: “to be able; to be capable of.”
15. The translation for this context is “you might have the ability,” or “you might have the capacity.” Each of these words’ definitions add substance to the point being made by Paul:

Able: having sufficient power or resources to accomplish an objective; intelligence, knowledge, skill, or competence.

- 1) The purpose of putting on spiritual armor is so you will have the ability or the capacity to confront demonic attacks in the area of momentum testing.
- 2) The means to achieve this is through the six key words found in the definition of “able”:

- a. **Power:** the filling of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. **Resources:** the canon of Scripture and the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit
 - c. **Intelligence:** spiritual IQ: the filling of the Holy Spirit plus human IQ equals spiritual IQ.
 - d. **Knowledge:** An inventory of doctrinal ideas interconnected by constellations of wheel-tracks.
 - e. **Skill:** The three spiritual skills: (1) the filling of the Holy Spirit plus GAP plus the ten problem-solving devices equals protocol plan of God.
 - f. **Competence:** Having the capacity to function.
- 3) The second word by which *dunamai* is defined is:

Capacity: An individual's mental or physical ability; the facility or power to produce, perform, or deploy.

- 4) This word brings out the combination of human free will plus the power of the Holy Spirit resulting in application under pressure to the circumstances imposed by the Dark Side:
- a. **Produce:** to bring out by intellectual effort under pressure the believer must reference his inventory and produce pertinent doctrines for the situation.
 - b. **Perform:** to carry out an action or pattern of behavior: wisdom advises the believer's free will of what to do and how to do it in accordance with the protocol plan of God.
 - c. **Deploy:** to place in battle formations: deployment of the ten problem-solving devices on the FLOT line of the soul which is application of doctrine to circumstances.
16. Defining the words "able" and "capable" provides linguistic impact to the definition of *dunamai*. The purpose of putting on the spiritual panoply is so that you will have the ability and capacity to withstand demonic influence.
17. Some of you have so submitted to demonic influence that you are frozen in an implacable mindset that has neutralized you in the Angelic Conflict and destroyed your spiritual lives.
18. If you have no power, you have no ability or the capacity to deploy problem-solving devices and as a result you are a casualty in the conflict.
19. Those whose desire and intent is to serve the Lord are submissive to His mandates and consequently advance to the sophisticated spiritual life attired in combat panoply:

Ephesians 6:13a - Because of the Angelic Conflict, pick up and put on the full armor of God, for the purpose that you might have the ability (power, intelligence, knowledge skill, and competence) and the capacity (production, performance, and deployment) ...