The Goal of God’s Armor

**A Faithful Testimony: Jeremiah Small**

* *Eyewitnesses disputed whether an argument preceded the shooting. In an article titled “The Loss of a Hero” and published on a Kurdish news site, senior students at the school wrote, “Quite contrary to what the public media has claimed, he wasn't killed because of a religious dispute.”[[1]](#footnote-1)*
* *Would you believe it if I told you I’d handed out in the last two weeks more than 20 books on theology and spiritual life including Holiness, The Mortification of Sin, Everlasting Man, Commentary on Beatitudes, City of God, Institutes, and Redemption Accomplished and Applied? I don’t know if I do even yet. 7 young guys met in my living room with me where for 4 hours we talked, prayed, and studied together. One student came from giving his first sermon earlier that day at a Kurdish gathering of believers; for an hour he preached on the necessity of knowing Christ and ministering the gospel in the community - a 16-year-old pouring out his heart to a group of more than 20 people, mostly other men, in their 30’s and older. Two young men from outside our school brought a third with him who gave clear testimony of his understanding of salvation in Jesus alone. Two from within the school brought a fellow student who has held out against the gospel for long years but recently humbled himself… Thank you all for your prayers for us here. Confounded and amazed, I discover myself repeating over and over “I have the best job in the world.” Thanks for helping me keep it and do it well. Grace in all, Jeremiah.[[2]](#footnote-2)*

**A Fearsome Enemy: Ephesians 6:12**

* The spiritual nature of the battle; the power of the enemy; the pervasiveness of evil.

**Ephesians 6:13: 3 phases of successful spiritual warfare, so that we might fulfill the purpose of God’s armor.**

**The Appropriation of the Armor (V. 13a)**

* Man is responsible to participate in spiritual warfare.
* Faith in Christ is the means of accessing spiritual resources.
* God Himself is the sole and sufficient power for spiritual warfare (Isaiah 59:16-17; Romans 13:14).

**The Resistance of Evil (V. 13b)**

* The true enemy is Satan, who aims for our unbelief and disobedience (Ephesians 6:12; 2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5)
* Resistance includes continually denying all temptation’s invitation to sin in thought, word, and deed (1 Peter 5:8-9; Hebrews 12:4).
* The “evil day” is the spiritual context in which resistance must take place (Ephesians 5:16, Ephesians 6:12; Galatians 1:4; 2 Peter 1:8).
* “Resistance” implies certain characteristics that preclude other unbiblical goals and strategies.
  + God’s armor is not for personally attacking spiritual powers (Jude 9).
  + God’s armor is not for simply withdrawing from the world (John 17:15).
  + God’s armor is not for worldly strategies like power and persuasion (2 Corinthians 10:3-4).
  + God’s armor is not for completely eradicating indwelling sin in this present life (Romans 6:12; 1 John 1:8).
* “Resisting” and “fleeing” are complementary words that describe opposition toward sin (1 Corinthians 10:13)

**The Experience of Victory (V. 13c)**

* This final stand refers to the time when the battle is over and the saint has won.
* The goal of standing in victory includes exhausting all the activity required of us (1 Corinthians 10:13).
* God’s sovereignty limits the power of evil and gives us the victory (1 Corinthians 10:13, John 17:15).
* God’s sufficient power and provision are the only means of our spiritual victory (Jude 24, Romans 16:20).
* Victory in spiritual battle refers to the experience of triumph over evil (1 Corinthians 15:54-57; 1 John 5:4; Romans 8:37; Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21).

1. <https://wng.org/sift/killed-in-action-1618201979> (March 1, 2012). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Email update from February 13, 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)