

***Studies in Ephesians***  
***Chapter 6***

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***What to do***  
***when things***  
***go wrong***

***by David Hillson, 17 May 1998***

***Being a Christian is easy (?)***

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- ⌘ Religion is a crutch
- ⌘ Only for the weak
- ⌘ Come to Jesus for an easy life
- ⌘ No problems - for ever!
  
- ⌘ "Finally - be **strong** ..." (*endunamo*)
- ⌘ "... in the strength of his might"

## ***Why must we be strong?***

### ⌘ Who are we wrestling?

- ☒ not other people
- ☒ but an organised hierarchy of evil

### ⌘ Greek *pallo*

- ☒ not remote warfare - fire & forget
- ☒ not TV extravaganza - staged & superficial
- ☒ not Olympic sport - rules & referees
- ☒ *personal, painful & perspirational*

## ***Be prepared***

### ⌘ "Put on ... therefore take ..."

- ☒ equipment is available, but must be chosen

### ⌘ "... the whole armour of God"



## ***Equipped for action***

### ⌘ Belt

- ☒ sign of active duty
- ☒ holds rest together
- ☒ reality, truth & honesty

### ⌘ Breastplate

- ☒ front only
- ☒ protects heart
- ☒ right relationships

### ⌘ Shoes

- ☒ ready to go wherever sent
- ☒ peace-makers
- ☒ ... of God, ... with God

### ⌘ Shield (rectangular)

- ☒ defence for me & others
- ☒ quenches Satan's fire
- ☒ trust in God

### ⌘ Helmet

- ☒ covered head
- ☒ protected senses
- ☒ under God's authority

### ⌘ Sword (short)

- ☒ close quarters attack/defence
- ☒ quick and easy to use
- ☒ *rhema* - the word for now

## ***From picture to reality***

*Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, hearing God*

### ⌘ The normal Christian life

### ⌘ Who we are, not what we do

### ⌘ Attitudes not actions

### ⌘ Characteristics of Jesus in us

### ⌘ Directly opposes the devil :

*Lies, unrighteousness, discord, unbelief, separation, disobedience*

## ***Now what ??***



⌘ When things go wrong, take Paul's advice

- ☒ Allow yourself to be strengthened
- ☒ Take advantage of all God has provided
- ☒ Be who you are in Christ

⌘ Coming next ...

- ☒ strategies for self-defence & effective attack
- ☒ (*proving that 2 Corinthians 2:11 is not a mistake*)