



A Writer's Armor **By Edwina Perkins**

When under spiritual attack, Ephesians 6 reminds us to put on the entire armor of God. Why? To prepare for battle so we'll still be standing afterward.

The attacks are just as real for writers. When I ask Christian writers why they are writing, the response is usually like: "God called me to write" or "God gave me the words to write."

If this is true, then as writers, we must prepare for spiritual battle. Our words are powerful. Spoken words will last only if someone remembers what's said. Written words can last forever. The story you penned today can impact generations to come. That's a huge responsibility. No wonder we're under attack.

To understand the Armor of a Writer, we must first look at The Whole Armor of God. Take time to read through Ephesians 6:10 – 20. God has given us a spiritual armor and I believe if we look closely, He's given us the tools for a writer's armor.

Preparation for a Writer's Armor

As writers, the first thing we need to do is prepare. Eph. 6:11. There are two very important instructions:

- 1. PUT ON:** You can't go from being in a state of undress to being dressed in one step. Just like in the writing is a process, placing words on the page is the first step in putting on your writer's armor. Did you know the definition of "put on" can mean to make part of one's appearance *or* behavior?

Do you present yourself as a writer first and then a Christian, or do you present yourself as a Christian and then a writer? Putting on is a process, be sure you're growing as a believer and *then* as a writer.

2. STAND YOUR GROUND

Did you know there's a stand your ground law? A stand-your-ground law (sometimes called "line in the sand" or "no duty to retreat" law) states people may use deadly force when **they**

reasonably believe it to be necessary to defend against deadly force, then a person has the right of self-defense.

God has given us the tools to defend ourselves. Once we follow the instructions to “put on” and “stand our ground,” we are now ready to address the seven parts of a writer’s armor.

1. First piece of the armor is **Develop Writing Skills**

Learning how to write is important. It’s foundational. If you want your words to be represented well, develop your skills. The Chicago Manual of Style is one book every writer should own and use. Go to conferences, join a critique group, read books on writing, and work with other writers.

“For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts.” I Thessalonians 2:4 NIV

Reflection:

- a. Think about when you felt called to write. Write it down as a reminder of your calling.
- b. What are you using to develop your skills?
- c. What else can you do to develop your skills?
- d. What other conferences can you attend? Workshops?

2. **Know Your Enemy and His Methods of Attack** Ephesians 6:12

We are fighting against evil rulers, authorities of the unseen world, mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Editors and agents are NOT your enemies, but there are several tactics I believe Satan used to keep us from writing: fear, time wasters, feeling defeated, and doubt.

Reflection:

- a. What is Satan using to keep you from writing?

b. How will you fight? Be as specific as possible.

3. **Get Dressed as a Godly Writer.** Put on God's truth and the Body Armor of God's righteousness Eph. 6:14b.

a. God's truth keeps us from compromising our journey as writers.

Ways we can compromise: The choice of language in our books, taking shortcuts with our writing process, or not developing our skills. Compromising our beliefs will hurt our witness and give our enemy an opportunity to win a battle even though he knows he's already lost the war.

b. Things to remember with a writer's body armor:

i. Body armor is not bullet proof and won't work if you don't wear them.

ii. Your body armor should be a part of your Spiritual wardrobe.

iii. We can't allow the world to define success. We can't dress in the wrong armor.

I Samuel 17: 32 – 40.

Reflection:

a. Are there other ways writers can compromise their writing journey?

b. If you've ever been tempted to compromise, how did you handle the situation?

4. **Guard Your Writing Time.** Eph. 6:15

Writers need to have times of peace with the writing process. Sometimes that requires moving to a location which will provide that peace.

“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.” 2 Thess 3:16 NIV

Reasons for lack of peace:

Rejection letters, lack of winning contest, watching those around you getting agents, and/or contracts.

Reflection:

- a. Do you have a location where you write? (Mine use to be the dining room table).
- b. What do you do to protect your writing time and give you freedom from disturbances?
- c. What is the best time of the day for you to write?

5. **Writers Prayers.** Eph. 6:16

The **shield** was the most widespread defensive weapon in the world. Shields have been a core piece of a warrior's equipment. Shields can stop arrows, sword cuts, axes, spears, and basically anything that poses a threat to the wielder. That's why we need the prayers of other writers. If we're not covered in prayers, we are not protected, and open ourselves to attacks. *"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere."* Ephesians 6:16 NLT

Reflection:

- a. Who are you praying for?
- b. Who is praying for you?
- c. Try finding at least three people to pray for you and commit to praying for them as well.

Prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray for your fellow writers. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.

6. **Develop the Skin of a Rhino**

Eph 6: 17a 4. Ephesians 6 tells us to put on the helmet of Salvation. Helmets are meant to protect the wearer against different combat-based threats. The purpose of this armor is to protect you from words that would crush your spirit and kill the call God has on your writing. If you develop rhino skin—one of the toughest mammal skins in the world—be aware you will still bleed.

Revelation 21:4, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore for the former things have passed away." ESV

And no more tears from rejection letters!

7. **Write Your Story!** Eph 6:17b Tells us to take up the sword of the Spirit. Your manuscript is your final weapon. God has given you a weapon that can give hope, crush wrong thinking, guide, direct, encourage, and allow others to realize they're not alone in their situations.

Eph 6:19, Paul asked God to give him the right words so he can take His message to the world. Aren't we doing the same thing with our writing?

Put on your armor today and everyday so you can:

- Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.
- Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.
- Fight and resist the enemy in the time of evil.
- Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

Reflection:

Read back through each piece of the armor and pray as you put it on. Don't allow the enemy to silence your words.