

A Christian's Survival Guide

*Wearing God's
Armor Every Day*

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Alex Brown

A CHRISTIAN'S SURVIVAL GUIDE: WEARING GOD'S ARMOR EVERY DAY

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For you, dear Christian.

Introduction

People living in a war zone have a different mindset from those living in a peaceful place.

How can they not?

In a war zone, or any dangerous, deadly environment, the threat of death is near-constant. It could potentially be around every corner, and the people living in such areas of the world have to live and act like it most certainly is.

To survive; to make it safely home at the end of the day, they must maintain *constant vigilance*. They know the potential dangers, and they know that letting their guard down for even a *second* might mean death.

And so, they keep watch. They keep their guard up because they know they're living in a dangerous, hostile environment. All they want to do at the end of the day is to get home safely.

Maybe you already see where I'm going with this.

Regardless of where you live—whether it's a dangerous part of town or a peaceful suburbia where you mow your lawn and wave to your neighbor Bill—you and I are in the middle of a deadly war that has been raging for millennia.

Reminding early Christians, some of whom were facing horrible persecution, imprisonment, and gruesome death, of the true danger, the true threat we all face, the apostle Paul wrote this:

“Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12).

And who commands those spiritual forces of darkness? *Satan, Lucifer, the Deceiver, the Father of Lies, the Devil*—he goes by many different appellations. Each name reveals another aspect of his vile character. His goal?

No one said it better than the apostle Peter in his blunt warning to Christians:

“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

The devil is our adversary; our enemy. Let's be clear, he's not just looking for someone to devour. He's hunting *you*. He's looking to devour *you*.

Make no mistake, the devil may masquerade as one from time to time, but he is not our friend. He wants nothing more than to see you and me, and everyone who's ever drawn breath on this good, green earth, in the never-ending, agonizing fires of hell for all eternity.

The devil and his evil angels work constantly, 24/7, 365, to make that insidious desire a horrifying reality. They tempt, they accuse, and they lie, all in an effort to lure you and me away from the warm and loving embrace of our heavenly Father.

Do you live like that's true? *I know I don't.*

I forget that there's a spiritual, unseen war going on. I forget that a fierce battle rages all around me. I don't always see evidence of it, and so I'm lulled into a false sense of peace and security.

I forget that my enemy is insidiously clever and cunning. He's been waging this war against God's children for *lifetimes*, honing his tactics like a wicked knife to plunge into my back when it's turned.

I forget how relentlessly he pursues his prey. He is like a roaring lion, hungering for blood, starved despite just devouring some poor unfortunate soul mere moments beforehand. He won't be sated; he won't be satisfied. *Ever*.

I forget what true evil really looks like. It's not the horrors of war or the inhumane crimes people commit against each other that I see on the news. No. True evil hides behind the allure of something enticing, pleasing to the eye, that my sinful nature says is good—*must* be good.

I forget how helpless I am against my enemy when I'm standing on my own. When I'm not in

the mindset that I'm living in the middle of a spiritual war zone, I wake up and walk outside without arms or armor. When that happens, my enemy is right there, ready to strike. Not to wound—to *kill*.

I forget. God, help me! I need to open my eyes. I need to wake up. *I need to remember.*

I need to hear the desperate *clang* of the alarm bells tolling in the city, warning citizens that the enemy is *here*, they're within the walls, they've broken through the defenses. They're fighting, shedding blood, and killing.

Dear Christian, this is not a self-help book. In these pages, you won't find “Top Ten Ways to Resist Temptation” or “Three Ways to Stop Sinning” or anything like that. This is a *survival guide*. A survival guide for life here on earth. Brief, devotional, and practical. My goal in writing this is simple. I want you (and me) to:

- ❖ Know Your Enemy
- ❖ Know Yourself
- ❖ Know Your Savior

And then, we'll briefly look at the arms, armor, and aid God gives us, his dearly loved children, to take our stand against the schemes of the devil and against the spiritual forces of darkness in the heavenly realms. Our God does not leave us defenseless against our enemy. He does not leave us alone.

No, he gives us the means to stand and know that our victory is assured. Completely, beyond a shadow of a doubt. Not because of anything we've done, but entirely because of our Savior Jesus. *His victory is ours.*

This is *A Christian's Survival Guide: Wearing God's Armor Every Day.*

Let's get started.



About the Author

A lifelong Christian who knows he's saved by God's grace alone, Alex Brown graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree in 2023.

Alex lives in Wisconsin with his lovely family and enjoys reading, writing, and spending time in God's creation.

He writes weekly devotional blog posts based on the comforting truths of God's Word at **blog.nph.net**.

He also writes fiction, which you can find on his website: **alexbrown.blog**