
CUTTING THROUGH THE S • P • I • N

By Dr. Stephen G. Tan | Ephesians 6:10-20

DISCUSS

What our leaders believe and advocate for will have a direct effect and impact on our lives. Therefore, in selecting our next leaders, it is important that we as believers are able to determine what the candidates for the job really believe and hold to as convictions, and cut through the spins of fake news, nonsensical facts, and unverified claims. We live in a world where Satan, the Great Deceiver has charge, and so we look to Scripture to find biblical principles on “platform checks.” Read Ephesians 6:10-20 and discuss the six things we need to check as we assess a leader’s position, stance, and conviction.

The Christian’s Real Fight (v. 10-13)

- What are the reasons why Christians need to put on God’s armor?
- What can a Christian expect if he or she is dressed in the full armor of God?
- What is spiritual warfare? Why is the Christian life being compared to a battlefield?

Platform Check #1: True And Accurate (v. 14a)

- What is the first piece that Christians are to equip themselves with to fight the lies, temptations, and deception of Satan?
- Why did the Roman soldiers put on their belts first when they dressed to fight?
- Why is truth of prime importance to what Christians believe and act on? What is the truth you believe in based on?
- What does John 8:32 say would set you free from outside forces?

Platform Check #2: Just And Right (v. 14b)

- What does the breastplate of righteousness refer to?
- How would you “guard your heart” in order to withstand the enemy’s attacks?
- How does living with integrity and honesty give Satan a hard time to defeat you? Share how you live out the principles of Scripture as a way of life.
- What shows when a leader places his value on justice and righteousness?

Platform Check #3: Defendable And Consistent (v. 15)

- What does shodding your feet mean and why is it an important armor in a battle? How is it related to your relationship to God?
- What makes the Word of God defendable and consistent?
- How can you assess if your leader’s claims are reliable?
- How can you tell if your potential leader is just catering to the whims of public opinions?

Platform Check #4: Reasonable And Rational (v. 16)

- What kind of faith in the Lord can stop and thwart the constant, relentless attacks of Satan?
- Do you know the concrete truths taught in the Bible about God and how He operates? What do you know about Jesus Christ and how did He instruct you to live? What do you know about the Holy Spirit who resides in you as a believer, and the empowerment you have through Him? What do you know about the Christian faith?
- And as you prepare to choose a leader, look at the positions he or she holds and advocates for and ask yourself if his or her plans and promises are reasonable and realistic.

Platform Check #5: Beneficial To All People (v. 17a)

- What is the helmet of Salvation and how does it protect you in spiritual warfare?
- As you enter the battlefield, when should you ask for God’s help and salvation to deliver you from Satan’s lies and temptations?
- How is God’s salvation beneficial to all people (John 3:16-17)?
- As you consider choosing your leader, ask yourself: does he or she look out for the needs of the people in all sectors of society and is he or she willing to listen and address the needs of all?

Platform Check #6: Consistent With God's Word (v. 17b)

- What is the Sword of the Spirit? Why is the Word of God an offensive weapon?
- Why did Eve fall into Satan's deception when he said to her "Did God really say that?" in reference to not eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil?
- What did Jesus use three times to rebuke Satan when He was tempted by him?
- How do you use biblical principles to see if your actions, decisions, beliefs, and opinions are consistent with God's Word?

REFLECT

In verses 18-20, what did Paul say is required for spiritual battle against Satan? Do you pray that you would discern who you should choose as the next government leaders among the choices that best align with the biblical principle guidelines?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, I am indeed in a spiritual battle. Help me to put on Your armor daily, even in this coming election as I choose to select my leaders. Help me to discern the right people to lead my country. Give me victory in spiritual battles and withstand the attacks of the enemy. Thank You that my Lord Jesus Christ is the victor, and through Him I already won the battle. In His mighty name I pray. Amen.