

1 Wearable Gadgets for Today

2 Shopping for Gadgets

- If you've been on a plane any time in the last 25 years, you probably took a moment to leaf through the SkyMall catalog.
- If you remember, this magazine is always full of innovative and sometimes weird products you may or may not need but nevertheless may have found very interesting.

3 Shopping for Gadgets

- A Yeti garden sculpture?
- How about a sleep mask that plugs into your iPod.
- Or a pen that takes pictures?
- Leafing through that catalog on a long flight, you might have thought you really did need that voice-recognition grocery list organizer.

4 Gadgets

5 Gadgets

6 Gadgetry

- But, alas, SkyMall filed for bankruptcy earlier this year.
- Seems that now, people aren't waiting until they fly to grandma's house to do their shopping for battery-operated gadgets.
- In fact, if the truth be known, Gadgetry is now no longer novel.
- In fact, it's totally passé, except for a new category of gadgets call "wearable tech."

7 Wearable Tech

- Smart watches, activity trackers that you wear on your wrist (like Fitbit) and cameras that you can wear on your helmet, are becoming more common, as are other devices that have the potential to make your life more interesting, if not better.
- The Ritot Projection Watch, for example, is a gadget that can display the time on your hand in beautiful digital colors because, you know, turning your wrist to look at a regular watch is, like, such a hassle.

8 Wearable Tech

- Hush Smart Earplugs will block out sounds you don't want to hear, like your husband's snoring or your neighbor's yappy dog, but still allow you to hear sounds that you want to hear, like the ringing of your phone.
- The ShotTracker device uses a wristband to track how well you're doing at shooting a basketball, because simply keeping score clearly isn't enough.

9 Gadgetry

- But while a lot of this gadgetry is interesting, most of it isn't essential, nor is it a cure-all for the inherent messiness of life.
- A smart watch might make it easier to answer your phone or check your calendar quickly, but it won't protect you from over-scheduling yourself.
- Your helmet camera may record cool videos of that epic ski run or downhill mountain bike ride, but it won't keep you from bashing into a tree.
- In fact, our reliance on tech sometimes gets us into trouble, like the people who hike with a wristwatch GPS instead of a map and are hopelessly lost when the battery runs out.

10 **Essential Wearable Tech**

- But, what if there was wearable tech that never fails, is highly mobile, offers ironclad protection from danger and never runs out of power?
- The apostle Paul offers us a catalog snapshot of just such a product, and the cool thing is that it's free!
- It's a figurative "suit of armor" that's actually functional.
- According to Ephesians 6:11, it is called the Full Armor of God.

11 **Full Armor of God**

- Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For 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. (Eph 6:10-12 NIV)
- Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. (Eph 6:13 NIV)

12 **Full Armor of God**

- Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. (Eph 6:14-15 NIV)
- In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Eph 6:16-17 NIV)

13 **Armor**

- The Greek word for armor is "panoply" which was the light, maneuverable, state-of-the-art armored kit of the Roman legionnaires who were seen all over the Mediterranean world.
- Designed to be used within the virtually impenetrable Roman phalanx, the panoply featured gadgets with both offensive and defensive capabilities that shielded the empire from its outside threats.

14 **Armor**

- Paul saw the Roman panoply as a metaphor for the kind of tech that the church needed to wear in order to survive "the wiles of the devil" and stand against "the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" (vv. 11-12).
- Unlike the Roman legions, whose panoply was designed to "struggle against enemies of blood and flesh," the church's enemies are those powers that seem always to be poised to invade our lives.

15 **Paul's Purpose**

- One thing about this teaching from Paul is that he is not necessarily introducing new and separate information from what he has already been sharing.
- Instead, he is summarizing everything together—putting it into an understandable analogy so that we can apply it and stand firm in the faith—which by the way is the sole purpose of Paul's letter.

16 **Summary Review**

- Chapter One - Paul shares how we Gentiles were part of God's plan from the beginning and along with believing Jews are one in Christ.
- Chapter Two - Paul shares how this calling and election wasn't something we did but the result of God's own mercy and grace and not by works.
- Chapter Three - Paul shares that since we are now in Christ through faith, we can approach God and become filled with His fulness as God can do way more than we think or imagine.

17 **Summary Review**

- Chapter Four - With the following three chapters in mind, Paul insists that we should no longer live as the Gentiles do, as they are darkened in the understanding and cut off from God because of the hardening of their hearts.
- Chapter Five - Instead Paul says, let us be imitators of God and live a life of charity and love. We should also get rid of all sexual immorality, impurity, greed, and other shameful acts of the flesh.
- The point is that if we take to heart what the Apostle Paul has shared we will be able to take our stand against the devil's evil schemes to defeat us.

18 **Wise & Foolish Builders**

- To me this is very reminiscent of Jesus' teaching about the Wise & Foolish Builders, which is mentioned in both Matthew 7 and Luke 6.
- One who listens to Jesus' words and puts them into practice and the other who hears the words of Jesus, but neglects to put them into action.
- The former builds his house on the rock and withstands the storm and the other who builds his house on the sand loses everything because of the storm.

19 **Stand Firm in the Faith**

- The point to all of this is that in this life we will have tribulation and all kinds of trouble.
- Yet God has promised us help and wisdom on how we can successfully prepare ourselves for those times of trouble.
- And this is the main point here in Ephesians, the Apostle Paul wants us to apply his teachings to our life.
- Not because he wants to cramp our style, but to ready us that no matter what happens we can stand firm in the faith and inherit the Kingdom.

20 Why Armor?

- So then as we go over the parts of the Armor of God, let us not get hung up on the specifics parts and miss the big picture.
- Moreover, the reason why we should put on the armor is because we are in a battle. It is not a battle with flesh and blood, but with the spiritual forces of evil who are at war with us.
- Their intent is to use people who have hardened their hearts against the Holy Spirit, to tempt God's people to sin and so blaspheme the Lord's name and show that God's choice in election was wrong and that He's in fact not fair, justice, or good, but shows arbitrary favoritism.
- If they can prove this, then their judgment and future punishment would have no moral authority.

21 The Armor of God

- The Helmet of Salvation
 - This article of armor is actually described by the Apostle Paul in 1 Thes. 5:8 where he refers to it as the "hope of salvation."
 - It is the expectation we have on how wonderful and great our future will one day be in the age to come.
 - As the Apostle Paul says, let us set our minds on things above, which is the hope of our salvation and inheritance in the Lord.
- The Breastplate of Righteousness
 - Is likewise described in 1 Thes. 5:8 and refers to something a believer does.
 - Putting on faith and love as with a breastplate.

22 The Armor of God

- The Belt of Truth
 - To a soldier of this time period a belt was critically important. Without it, many of the other pieces of armor would literally fall off.
 - In the same way, without the truth nothing else matters.
 - So when we seek to stand for something, make sure you are standing for the truth.

- Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1 Tim 4:16 NIV)

23 **The Armor of God**

- The Shield of Faith
 - Often in our Christian life, Satan will try to plant doubt in our minds to cause us to give up on serving God.
 - He may speak to us through our own insecurities or through people who have it out for us.
 - Often they come during times of uncertainty, discouragement, delay, or difficulty.
 - This is when we need to encourage ourselves in the Lord and know that if God is for us, who can be against us.
 - He will give us the victory if we don't give up. So then, let us endure all things for He who has called us is faithful.

24 **The Armor of God**

- The Sword of the Spirit
 - According to the Apostle Paul this is not only our only offensive weapon, but is explicitly defined as the Word of God.
 - Jesus used this weapon on the day He was tempted by Satan and dropped him dead in his tracks.
 - When we quote the word we are giving God's verdict on the issue and so stand on His authority. You would be amazed at how you can stop an argument or dispute by speaking God's verdict on that issue or problem.
- The Feet Fitted with Readiness
 - Nothing is more necessary to stand firm and to defend ourselves than a good pair of army boots.
 - According to the Apostle Paul these come from the Gospel of Peace that gives us confidence before God and enables us like the other pieces of armor to stand firm in the faith.

25 **Armor of Light**

- When the Apostle Paul concludes his illustration on the Armor of God he also gives this request.
- And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. (Eph 6:18 NIV)
- Again the whole idea behind putting on the Armor of God is because we are in a battle and that we're going to need every form of protection we can get—especially at the end of this age.
- As Paul says in Romans, The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. (Rom 13:12 NIV)

26 **Purpose of the Armor**

- A couple of years ago, I put together a flyer that was entitled, "How To Be Ready for the Lord's Coming."

- In this flyer were several verses on “standing firm,” “being on our guard,” “keeping watch,” and “praying.”
- Does anyone remember the purpose of all these admonitions?
- So that you may not fall into temptation. (Mark 13:33-34)

27 Purpose of the Armor

- Today’s scriptures say the same thing, Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground. (Eph 6:13 NIV)
- Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, . . . (1 Pet 5:8–9 NIV)
- The primary purpose behind the “Spiritual Forces of Evil” is to use other human beings to tempt us to sin against God and so defeat the Lord’s purposes in us and on the earth.

28 Purpose of Armor

- We use to live in a society that was very supportive to biblical ideals and values.
- However, in the past few decades, this support has so dwindled that it has gone from indifference to hostility.
- If this trend continues, we very well could see outright persecution where standing for biblical values could cost us employment, promotions at work, and all kinds of other religious liberties we once enjoyed and cherished.

29 Religious Freedoms

- Already a Christian baker in Oregon is being sued for \$135,000 for not baking a cake for a Gay Wedding.
- This along with the recent Supreme Court ruling on Gay Marriage has caused our own General Superintendent George Wood and many other Evangelicals to wonder about our Religious Liberties and if so-called Civil Rights will trump Religious and Freedom of Speech rights.
- If that is the case, many of our Christian institutions, businesses, schools, and even churches could be facing major problems and persecution.

30 Sobering Statement & Question

- “I believe we’re going to see persecution in this country,” Samaritan’s Purse President Franklin Graham said.
- “We’ve already seen many laws that have been passed that restrict our freedom as Christians. I believe it’s going to get worse. We do have a problem in this country and we are losing our religious freedom and we’re losing it a little bit day by day.”
- So then, what should we do?

31 Conclusion

- We should put on the Full Armor of God.
- Not just parts and pieces, but everything, so that we can stand up to everything that the devil tries to throw at us.

- So then, let us be self-controlled, alert, and on guard because all of this is more evidence that the Lord coming is near.
- Therefore, let us not repay evil with evil, but overcome evil with good for the battle is the Lord's and He will give us the victory if we remain faithful to His word—persevere in doing what is good and right.

32  **Tortoise Formation**

33  **Communion**