



The Armour of God

Ephesians 6:10-18

The Whole Armor of God

- ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord** and in the power of His might. ¹¹ **Put on the whole armor of God**, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
- ¹² **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly places.** ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with **truth**, having put on the breastplate of **righteousness**, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the **gospel of peace**; ¹⁶ above all, taking the **shield of faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**; ¹⁸ praying always with all **prayer** and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

Why Christians Need The Armour

1. Once you become “Born Again”, life doesn’t get easier, this is when the Spiritual War begins with intensity. It’s a war against Sin and Satan.
2. Last week we talked about the principle that the battle is not yours but God’s. This doesn’t mean that we are to do nothing at all except sit back in complacency and let God do everything. A soldier still needs discipline, training and armour, and here God tells us what that entails.
3. Paul tells us we are a soldier in a battle, not with human forces, but with demons and evil spirits that are trying to tempt us to sin and deceive us. If you aren’t aware that you are in spiritual war, you are already defeated.
4. People – the battle can come through humans who are being directed by demonic forces. Jesus was crucified by men.
5. Satan is deceptive and subtle (“wiles of the devil”). He can come as angel of light, quote scripture, encourage us to be active in Christian work, but keep us ignorant of our own sin.
6. Paul doesn’t advise prayer until the last step after applying the rest of the armour first. It is the WHOLE Armour of GOD. Not just a piece or two.

Armour of God (v.10)

1. STRATEGY of WAR

- First thing Paul tell us is **we must become strong in the Lord** and the power of His might.
- We can't use the armour without the **Strength first**
- David and Goliath – David first could not use King Saul's armour, he wasn't strong enough to use the heavy armour - **1 Samuel 17:38**

2. TACTICS OF WAR

- Second thing Paul tells us is to **put on the armour**.
- The strength alone is not sufficient, **we still need protection** of the armour for defense of the subtle attacks of the enemy.
- "1 Cor 10:12 "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." (Bible Principle – when we think we are strong in spiritual victory, we can never rest.)

Structure of Kingdom of Satan (v.12)

1. We are warring against a sophisticated hierarchy of demons (fallen angels)
2. Satan gets what he wants done through the hierarchy of demons, also called principalities, powers and rulers.
3. **Darkness** represents the character of this domain and is used as a **metaphor for ignorance and wickedness**. Ignorance to God's truth and wickedness refers to immorality and rebellion to God.
4. Satan is crafty, and operates in "high places" even the church. So while some churches may speak positively about Jesus and the Bible, unless they teach the TRUTH of the Bible, this can be from Satan.

EPHESIANS 6:10-18

"... 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." v. 10, 11

The Shield of Faith (Eph. 6:16)

Faith is being sure that God will keep His promises. Faith in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.



The Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17)

Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

The Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6:14)

Righteousness is being honest, good, humble, and fair to others. It means standing up for weaker people.

The Belt of Truth (Eph. 6:14)

Truth keeps us from giving in to the world's beliefs. Compare your beliefs and actions to the truth of the Word of God.

The Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17)

which is the Word of God. God's Word is our offensive weapon. When we tell others what the Bible says, the Holy Spirit helps people see their bad thoughts and actions, and makes them want to be forgiven.

Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15)

The Gospel of Peace is being right with God and being contented in troubled times. Jesus said peacemakers were blessed.

Video Summary

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7eC-W_XNyw

Armour of God

1. 5 pieces of armour based on a Roman Soldier
2. Paul used this picture as he was sitting in a jail probably observing the Roman uniform.
3. Only 1 piece is OFFENSIVE – Spirit of God, all other are DEFENSIVE – we must take a stand
4. No armour for the Back – we are not to run but to stand our ground.

Belt of Truth

1. Belt serves 3 purposes
 - Holds loose clothing (tunic) tight - preparedness
 - Protect the most vulnerable mid-section
 - Holds other weapons
2. Truth is an understanding, belief and application of Bible Doctrine and Principles, especially who Jesus is.
3. This is not so much about being an honest and truthful person because this is God armour, therefore it's His truth.
4. This class is primarily about teaching Bible Truth.

Belt of Truth = Bible Doctrine

1. This foundation is the **truth of God's Word (John 17:17)** and it's **absolute. Remember it's the "Armour of God"**. If it was just your integrity, sincerity and honesty, that would be relying on ourselves.
2. The "TRUTH" and our appropriation of the TRUTH, is that we accept the revealed the Truth of God as revealed in the Bible and apply it.
3. The basis of defence against the Devil's LIES is the TRUTH of the BIBLE. **Includes the revelation of GOD and His Truth, as well as the truth about our ourselves and sin** (self-righteous attitude, judging others, division, etc.)
4. Salvation – realize that the problem and control of sin is so profound that it took the Son of God Himself to solve it.
5. **WE NEED DOCTRINE** – most people don't want to hear doctrine, but this is exactly what the Bible says we do need. Without it, we'll be defeated. Read the Bible everyday!

Truth = Bible (The “Word”)

Many Christians think that doctrine doesn't matter, as long as they believe in Jesus and try to be good. That's not what God says and will lead to their own destruction.

2 Peter 3:16

¹⁶ as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are **some things hard to understand**, which **untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.**

John 8:31

“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 17:17

“Sanctify them by thy Truth, thy Word is Truth.”

Spiritual Immaturity

- If you don't study the Bible and read it regularly, you cannot know the Truth and will not live a victorious life (over sin) in the spiritual journey since you can't fight the war.
 - If you think you can live victorious without the Word, then you are deceived by the Devil and are spiritually immature.
 - **Renewing your mind requires reading the Bible.**
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- Hebrews 5:12-14 ¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ **For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.** ¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Breastplate of Righteousness

- Covers the Heart
- Does this mean:
 1. The imputed Righteousness of Christ that we receive on Salvation, or
 2. Holy Living in obedience to Christ?
- There are different opinions on this.

Breastplate of Righteousness

1. Justification by Faith (Imputed Righteousness of Christ)

- Some think it's God's righteousness in Jesus (Justification by Faith) and not talking about living a good ethical life, since that would be something we are responsible for and this is God's Armour, not ours.
- Our righteousness is nothing but filthy rags.
- The Devil tries to make a Christian doubt their salvation at times and reminds us of our past sins, and tells us we cannot get rid of them or makes us think we have sinned ourselves out of God's salvation.
- This makes us lose our joy of salvation and results in uselessness to God. Assurance of Salvation is the issue we must protect against.
- We “put it on” by seeking God and His righteousness above everything else” (Matt 6:33) and acknowledge that, apart from Him, we can do nothing (John 15:5). We see ourselves as “[in Christ](#)” and that, regardless of our failures, His righteousness has been credited to our account.

Breastplate of Righteousness

2. **Holy Living** (Sanctification – living a Righteous life)

- Practical righteousness in the matter of day-to-day living
- Living in obedience to God or holy living
- Sins that are unconfessed and unrepented leave you vulnerable and unprotected.

3. **Interpretation of this Teaching** (without being dogmatic about it)

- **Righteousness of Jesus is the primary message**, to “**reckon/know it**” (Romans 6:3,6,9,11) since we need to always remind ourselves of our true identity, “in Christ”.
- If we seek God & His righteousness, we will by default be driven to live in obedience to Christ out of love.

Feet – Gospel of Peace

- **There are Two Alternative Interpretations**

1. Evangelizing or Preaching the Gospel (Rom. 10:15 “Blessed are the feet of those who preach the good news.”)
 2. Many Bible teachers think **this isn't about preaching the Gospel, but internalizing the Gospel and standing firm in it.** 1 Cor. 16:13 “Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.”
- This teaching takes the position that it is probably **not so much about the Great Commission, but understanding your peace with God.**
 - A soldier's foot protection is critical for: Preparedness – quickness – sure-footedness.
 - The enemy is subtle, quick and brilliant and we need to be standing firm and quick to react.

Armour – Shoes of the Gospel

1. “Gospel of Peace” – is the good news that you have made peace with God through your faith in Christ.

- Romans 5:1 “Therefore, having been justified by faith, **we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also **we have access** by faith into this grace in which we **stand**, and **rejoice in hope of the glory of God**.”
- It means that God is not our enemy anymore but our strength. Eph. 6:10 “Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.” It means He’s on our side.
- If you’re not sure where you stand with Christ, if you’ve got doubts, you’re very vulnerable to Satan’s attacks.
- Romans 8:31-38 “ **If God is for us, who can be against us?**” ¹⁶

Armour – Shoes of the Gospel

- I am secure in my salvation.
- I take the Word of God at face value as the truth.
- “I know that whoever the Father chooses, He gives to the Son. Whoever He gives to the Son, the Son receives. Whoever the Son receives, the Son keeps and raises them all at the last day,” John 6.
- **Therefore, I have no fear of Satan. I stand firm in the truth.**
- You’re not ready to engage in the war if you’re not confident of the strength of the Lord.

Armour – Shield of Faith

1. The purpose of the shield is to extinguish all the attacks (fiery darts) of the evil one -
 - Fiery Darts are things like: seducing temptation, impurity, lustfulness, greed, vanity, materialism, pride, anger, impatience, of covetousness, discontentment, fear, anxiety, etc.
2. Trust God and His Promises – like a child – for everything.
3. Remember the Patterns of God – Job, Joseph, David, Paul – They all went through difficulties but God prevailed when they just trusted in faith.
4. Faith is how we are saved and faith is key that unlocks God's power in our lives.

Armour – Helmet of Salvation

- Salvation – 3 aspects
 - Past – free from the penalty of sin – Justification
 - Present – free from the power of sin – Sanctification
 - **Future – free from the presence of sin – Glorification**
- Salvation has happened, is happening, and will happen. Romans 8 says, “Whom He justifies He sanctifies and glorifies.”
- Does not refer to being saved – you aren’t in the army as a soldier unless you are a believer.
- **The helmet is about the Future Aspect of Salvation – HOPE of Heaven**

Armour – Helmet of Salvation

- We hope in eternal life of Glorification, when the race is finished, the battle with sin is over, and we are in heaven.
- **We should rejoice in our salvation:**
 - Psalm 13:5 “My heart shall **rejoice in Your Salvation**”
 - Psalm 51:12 “Restore to me the **joy of Your salvation**”
- **Romans 8:24-25** “²⁴ **For we were saved in this hope,** but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, **we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.**”
- **Proverbs 23:18** “For surely there is a hereafter, And your hope will not be cut off.

Armour – Helmet of Salvation

- Without hope, life loses its meaning and in death there is no hope ([Isaiah 38:18](#); [Job 17:15](#)).
- The great Christian hope is eternity with Jesus Christ and His promise to return to earth.
- By contrast, those who do not place their trust in God are said to be without hope
- Ephesians 2:12¹² that at that time you were **without Christ ...having no hope** and without God in the world.
- 1 Thess. 4:13 “¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, **concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.**”

Armour – Helmet of Salvation

- The Helmet protects you against two of Satan's most formidable weapons:

1. Discouragement

- “you are doing so much for God and life isn't treating you very well, your kids don't respect you, nobody appreciates what you do, you keep sinning and are a failure, etc...”
- What kept Peter, Paul, Jeremiah, and all the martyrs going until death, without letting discouragement stop them...Hope!

2. Doubt – This is about assurance of your salvation

Armour – Sword of the Spirit

- Sword is a weapon that requires extensive training to use properly.
- The Sword of the Spirit is the **Holy Scriptures**.
- Hebrews 4:12 ¹² For the **word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword**, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- Psalm 119:11 ¹¹ Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.
- The more we know and understand the Word of God, the more effective we will be in fighting the enemy.

Summary

- So you want to be triumphant in your Christian life.
- If you are content to live with your petty sins, your small commitment to the Word and worship, then you'll lose.
- You're not going to lose your salvation, but you're going to render yourself virtually useless to the purposes of God; therefore, you'll forfeit an eternal reward
- Are you committed to the truth? Do you have convictions about the truth? And are you willing to go to war for those convictions?
- Do you have the kind of confidence that it takes to march into the den of the roaring lion?
- Are you confident in God's promise of Heaven?
- Then you will win.

Assurance of Salvation

- Excellent article on how you can be confident you are saved.
- Don't let Satan rob you of your joy of Salvation.
- Read this article and it could change your outlook on life and make you more effective in the using the Armour of God.

Safety, Security & Enjoyment – by George Cutting

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ce606228f647a00015de8b3/t/5cf710c72e0be80001e0688f/1559695561863/Safety%2C+Certainty+and+Enjoyment+-+How+You+Can+Have+Assurance+of+Your+Salvation.pdf>