

“Put On the Armor of God”

08-30-15

God gives us everything we need to protect ourselves from the dangers of this world and the spiritual world around us. By the power of His Word and by the faith He’s given us, we’re forever safe and cared for by Him.

We’re at war in America! It’s a dirty war and in some ways, worse than the one we’re waging against terrorism. It’s being fought right here on our soil as well as in many other nations. It’s a war for the minds and hearts of people—between the forces of good and evil, between God and Satan. The stakes in this war are high because the price is heaven or hell, life or death, darkness or light, freedom or slavery, reward or punishment.

Our Adversary is Satan. He’s been involved in the breaking down of mankind since the Garden of Eden! His greatest desire is for us to fall away from God and choose to go our own way. Because of this, it’s **Time for Action!** What do we need to do?

Open to Ephesians 6. One thing is certain. We can’t afford to be ignorant of this war because it’s being waged right here and now! The enemy of our souls wants to gain control of our hearts and minds. Look at vv. 10-12, *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”*

There are three things we can do as we step into action. **Be Strong.** Don’t rely on your own strength especially since you already have the Lord with you. It’s His saving power not ours that comes to all those who believe. **Put On the Whole Armor.** This armor of God is critical as we battle against Satan. But it’s important to remember that this armor comes from God and it’s His.

Stand Against. This is defensive language. Jesus Christ has already won the offensive war against Satan on the cross and His resurrection. The victory’s been won! It’s His! The spiritual realm is real and has its dangers. We can’t use earthly things to fight. As we battle, God’s armor gives us confidence and assurance in the outcome.

Barna Research Group conducted a poll in which they discovered that nearly two out of three American adults (62%) agreed that Satan isn’t a living being but a symbol of evil. And even more alarming is that among evangelical Christians, 52% deny Satan’s existence! 72% of Catholics say the devil is non-existent. What can we learn from this? One of the major battlefields seems to be within the Church!

Look at verse 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 firm.”* This verse tells believers to put on the full armor—not just a part of it! It’s God’s armor! It’s spiritual in nature. You can’t buy it. It won’t be given by the government.

It’s received by faith. It’s real. It’s necessary. Why? So that when the attack comes, we can stand our ground! Fully equipped and defended by God, our mandate is to trust what He’s given us for the battle!

This armor is for frontal defense. If we retreat, we leave our backs exposed to the enemy and will suffer terrible wounds. James 4:7 says, *“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”* If there’s any running to be done, let Satan do it while you stand in absolute victorious possession of God’s promises!

Let's begin to look as we put on God's armor, what the pieces are, Verses 14-18, *"Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one, and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints."*

The belt of Truth. A belt holds loose clothing tightly in preparation for moving quickly. We must be ready to move for Jesus Christ. God's truth alone can counter the devil's lies.

The Breastplate of Righteousness. This metal breastplate protects your chest's vital organs. It especially protects the heart! Christ's righteousness clothes you. It gives you the purity of heart, so just as Jesus' death and resurrection washes away your sin, He gives you a pure heart.

The Shoes of Readiness. You have to be prepared! The shoes that were part of the armor had nails in them just like modern day spikes worn by athletes. The Gospel of peace prepares you for battle, and these shoes allow you to stand firm.

The Shield of Faith. These shields were 4 feet long and 2 ½ feet wide. Before battle, the soldiers would soak their leather bound shields in water to protect against flaming arrows. You and I are protected as we were washed clean in the waters of Baptism.

The Helmet of Salvation. As you walk by faith, you have the mind of Christ to keep you in the truth. God's truth! Salvation comes only from what Jesus Christ has done for you.

The Sword of the Spirit. This sword of the Spirit is the Word of God! This is a short sword used in hand to hand combat. That's exactly how you're to use the Word of God, person to person, direct sharing of your faith! You get your strength from Him. If you don't stay with Him, you don't have any strength! Your human flesh and spirit will fail!

Any armor, including the Armor of God is useless without a sword, for the enemy can keep attacking until the armor gives way. How important then it is to be equipped with the Sword of the Spirit!

As we fight the battle against Satan and evil, we need to **Keep in Prayer.** Far too many Christians overlook praying in the Spirit in the midst of battle. Praying for God's presence and for your fellow Christians to be filled with the knowledge of God in the Word of God is key to destroying satanic strongholds in Christian lives. We need to pray that God's Word may be part of our lives and spoken with boldness and power.

I believe if you launch an attack of praying in the Spirit, you're going to see walls come down and Satan, the enemy exposed, in less time than you can imagine! Be dressed in His Armor and Stand Firm!