

THE ARMOR OF GOD

A. The Christian's THREE ENEMIES

1. The WORLD (1 John 2:15-17 then 1 John 5:4).
2. The FLESH (1 Pet. 2:11; 2 Tim. 2:22; Gal. 5:19-21 then Gal. 5:16-17; Rom. 6:11).
3. The DEVIL (Eph. 6:11; 1 Pet. 5:8; 2 Cor. 11:3; then Eph. 6:11).

B. The Christian is CALLED TO COMBAT

1. We are SOLDIERS (2 Tim. 2:3-4).
2. We are in a WAR (1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12).
3. We have SPIRITUAL ENEMIES (Eph. 6:12; 2 Cor. 10:3-5).
4. We have SPIRITUAL WEAPONS (2 Cor. 10:4; 1 Thess. 5:8; Rom. 13:12; Eph. 6:10, 11)

C. The Christian must PUT ON THE ARMOR OF GOD (Eph. 6:10-18)

1. The **GIRDLE OF TRUTH**: The “girdle” was the soldier’s “belt” that held everything together. The “girdle of truth” will:
 - a. HOLD OUR THOUGHTS (2 Cor. 10:5; if we really “hold the truth” the truth will “hold us”).
 - b. HOLD BACK THE ENEMY (1 John 2:18-27 with Eph. 4:11-14).
2. The **BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**: This piece of armor protected the soldier’s heart. Satan aims for our heart by accusing us of sins we’ve committed, causing us to wonder if our sins are truly forgiven. The “breastplate of righteousness” protects our heart by reminding us that we are:
 - a. JUSTIFIED (declared RIGHTEOUS) by God (Rom. 3:21-28; 4:1-5; 2 Cor. 5:21). This Is DIVINE RIGHTEOUSNESS which was imputed to us the moment we trusted Christ as our Savior.
 - b. JUSTIFIED by RIGHTEOUS LIVES (Jas. 2:20-24). This gives us a “good conscience” (consider Acts 24:16; Heb. 13:18), resulting in BOLDNESS toward God (1 John 3:21) and COURAGE toward the enemy (1 Pet. 5:8-9). When we have on PRACTICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS Satan has no sins to accuse us of!
3. The **FEET SHOD with the GOSPEL OF PEACE**: A soldier’s shoes made him “ready to go” (ready to go into enemy territory with the goal of ultimately making peace). Having “your feet shod with the preparation [or readiness] of the gospel of peace” symbolizes: OUR BEING READY AND WILLING TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE (Rom. 10:15 with Acts 8:26-39; 16:9-14, 25-34). We “go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:16). The “world” is in “enemy territory” and we will encounter opposition (see 1 Cor. 16:9; Acts 16:16-24).
4. The **SHIELD OF FAITH**: The soldier’s shield covered all the other pieces of armor. The “shield of faith” pictures the believer’s “unquestioning and unwavering faith in God” which must be in place or the rest of the armor will not protect us. The “fiery darts” are the lies, blasphemous thoughts, or burning desires that Satan would introduce to us to cause us to DOUBT GOD.

- a. Genesis 3:1-6: Here is a prime example of Satan's "fiery darts" and how he caused the woman to DOUBT GOD. He lied and blasphemed God: "Has God said...?" "You shall not surely die." He introduced a desire that appealed to her: "Your eyes shall be opened ... you shall be as God." The woman then DOUBTED God's Word (that she would die) and His love (God was withholding something good from her).
- b. Job 13:15: "Though the Lord slay me, yet will I trust Him." Here is a prime example of the "shield of faith" quenching the fiery darts of Satan. God had given Satan permission to take Job's cattle, servants, family, and health (Job 1:1-2:8) from him and he even used his wife to suggest that he curse God (Job 2:9). In the remainder of the book three "friends" alleged that it was sin in Job's life that had caused God's discipline upon him. Yet Job held up the "shield of faith" and said, "Though the Lord slay me, yet will I trust Him."

4. The **HELMET OF SALVATION**: The helmet protected the soldier's head. Satan also attacks the Christian's MIND by trying to make us doubt our salvation. The "helmet of salvation" assures us of:

- a. SALVATION from the PENALTY OF SIN (1 Cor. 1:18; Eph. 2:8; Titus 3:5).
- b. SALVATION from the POWER OF SIN (Rom. 5:10 with Heb. 7:25).
- c. SALVATION from the PRESENCE OF SIN (Heb. 9:28; 1 Thess. 5:8-9).

5. The **SWORD OF THE SPIRIT**: The soldier's sword was used for both defense (to ward off the blows of the enemy) and offense (to kill the enemy). For the Christian, the "sword of the Spirit" is the exact "saying of God" that will cause the enemy to flee, as is illustrated perfectly in Matt. 4:1-11. The Lord used three scriptures to deflect the temptations of Satan (4:4,7,10) and as a result Satan fled (4:11).

6. **PRAYER**: Technically, this is not a piece of the armor. But in any warfare, communications with headquarters is vital. The enemy will try to cut off communication in order to defeat you. We need to be in "prayer" constantly during our warfare in order to be guided to victory (1 Thess. 5:17; Phil. 4:6; Rom. 8:26-27).

D. Questions we should ask:

1. Vs. 10: What is needed, on our part, to be "strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might"?
2. Vs. 11: What is meant by the "wiles of the devil"?
3. Vs. 12: What are the "principalities...powers...rulers of darkness...spiritual wickedness"?
4. Vs. 13: What is "the evil day"? What does it mean "to stand"?
5. Vs. 14: What is meant by "loins girt"? (compare 1 Pet. 1:13; Luke 12:35; Exodus 12:11).
6. Vs. 17: The meaning of "word" in this verse is "saying." How does the Spirit bring a specific "saying" (i.e. verse) into our minds?
7. Vs. 18: What is the difference between "prayer" and "supplication"?
8. We see in Eph. 1:3 that our "spiritual blessings" are in the "heavenlies" and we saw in Eph. 6:12 that our enemies are also in the "heavenlies." What connection can we make between the two? Would we lose any spiritual blessings if we were to lose a battle with Satan and his demons? If not, would there be any loss that we would suffer?
9. Why are we called into conflict with Satan and his demons, but not with the "world" and the "flesh"?