

# SPIRITUAL WARFARE – THE ARMOR OF GOD

## SPIRITUAL WARFARE

### THE ARMOR OF GOD - Eph. 6:10-20

I hope that these will be a blessing to you for the next few weeks on the armor of God. The view of spiritual warfare is one of the things that churches don't deal with in a balanced way. Most churches either have denial of its influence or fear it's involvement in their church. They are therefore having trouble in their church with each other instead of the real enemies.

The armor of God is one of the things that God's word tells us to put on for our spiritual battles each day. I practice putting it on every morning to face the battles of that day. Every Christian is in a spiritual battle everyday of their life. It's not if, but when and how the enemy will attack.

This will not be something new, but just what God has given and taught me over the years in my battles. Spiritual warfare is not a play thing to be taken lightly. This has come from a personal struggle with the enemy from my own life.

I hope the next few weeks will be encouraging and maybe enlightening. Next week I will start with "The Girdle of Truth". May God use these to be an help and blessing. Have a blessed Sunday!

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The command in Eph 6 is to put on the "whole armor of God". As we look at each piece keep in mind they are to be put on every day as a whole. Any unguarded area is where the enemy can get a beachhead and will attack us; we dare not omit any part of the armor.

#### **1. The Girdle of Truth.**

Truth is that which holds everything else together in this spiritual battle that we face every day. Any lie that we except and believe becomes our truth that we act on, no matter where the lie came from. We know that satan is the originator of all lies, but they may come from different sources; the world, flesh, other people, and from satan himself into our minds. The word of God is the only source of real truth we can clearly depend on for certain. Thousands of lies are set against us every day from the enemy and we are to put on the girdle of truth and renounce every lie and seek the real truth.

There will be lies about God, others, and even ourselves and if we don't have the girdle of truth on we will be tempted to believe them. Again once a lie is believed it becomes our truth, even though it is a lie. This happens in families, churches (pastors / members) and everywhere else the enemy can sow his lies, if we don't have on the girdle of truth. Once a lie gets into a believers life everything else begins to fall apart, just look at king David.

How do we put on the girdle if truth?

1. In prayer by faith put on the girdle of truth and commit your life to truth each day.
2. Resist and renounce all known lies and from any source they may come from.
3. Ask for the Holy Spirit to support and guard you in the truth throughout the day.

May God bless and have a great Lords day!

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#### **2. The Breastplate of Righteousness**

The breastplate of righteousness is the imputed righteousness given to every believer in Jesus Christ. The believer is to take unto themselves this righteousness by faith in the grace of God and stand by faith in their right position.

The breastplate of righteousness in our "position" is therefore to be lived out in our daily "Practice" in righteous deeds. The breastplate of righteousness guards the heart and vital organs of the believers righteous position in Christ. If the believers righteous "position" is in question, then the "practice" will not be lived out.

When satan accuses the Christian, it is the righteousness of Christ that assures us of our salvation. But our positional righteousness in Christ, without practical righteousness in our daily life, gives satan opportunity to attack us.

Putting on the Breastplate of Righteousness:

1. In prayer by faith thank God for His righteousness given to you through Jesus Christ.
2. Commit to living a righteous life daily by the power of God in the filling of the Holy Spirit.
3. Stand in your position in Christ and live your life according to who you are in Christ by faith in His word.

This is all done through a choice of our will, and not relied upon by our feelings.

May our Lord bless your Sunday with Him and the church.

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### **3. The Sandals of the Gospel of Peace - v15**

The sign of the Christian soldier is "readiness" a readiness to march IN and bear witness OF the gospel of peace. There are two ways of viewing the gospel of peace;

1. Peace WITH God- this is our Positional peace which means we are no more at war with God - we have made peace with Him through Jesus Christ.
2. Peace OF God- this is our Practicing peace as we walk with The Lord in our daily life.

The Christian Soldier should move about in a Peaceful Confidence trusting God in the spiritual war each day. The same "positional" peace that we have with God, should also be our "position" of peace with others around us and the things that concern us.

There is always God's part in our peace which we have in Jesus, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give into you". And then there is the believer part in the peace that He gives us, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27) The believer should always be aggressive in their stand of peace WITH God and their peace OF God. Don't let satan take away what God has given you!

The gospel of peace also has another meaning and that is to be "Prepared to Share" the gospel. The most victorious Christian is a witnessing Christian. This is one who knows the peace "with" God and the peace "of" God, then has "confidence" in The Lord and therefore can share the peace of God with others.

The enemy works at disturbing the believers peace "OF" God so that they will not share how others can have peace "WITH" God. The enemy can't do anything about the believers "position" in Christ, but he seeks to disable the believers practice in their daily walk.

How to put on the gospel shoes;

1. In prayer by faith thank God for the peace with God (salvation) and the peace of God (confidence) to stand in the battle today.
2. Tell God that you are putting on the gospel shoes of peace today and will stand in His peace and share His peace with others.

May our Lord give you a blessed and peace filled Sunday! Rejoice in His peace!

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#### **4. THE SHIELD OF FAITH**

The shield of faith is not a mystical peace of armor that can only be used by the super spiritual believers. This shield of faith has been given to "all" believers as part of the whole armor of God.

The description as seen from Paul was a soldier's shield that was oblong and its edges interlocked to form a solid wall. This speaks of the need for every believer to have on the whole armor of God and to be ready to fight along side others in the battle.

The fiery darts will assault the heart and mind of the believer with all kinds of thoughts, thoughts of anger, fear, doubts, lies, blasphemous thoughts against God and others, burning desires, lusts and much more. These fiery darts will often come in fast, strong and against our wills, sometimes the believer struggles to get and keep hold of their mind. And all the while Satan fights to subject the mind to make it think on thoughts of doubts or evil.

If the believer doesn't by faith quench these fiery darts they can light a fire within and we will disobey God. The faith here is not saving faith, but rather our living by faith in the promises and power of God's word. This is a complete and perfecting trust in the word of God, which can quench all the fiery darts that attack the believer.

Our shield of faith is according to our knowledge and understanding of God's word (Rom. 10:17). Therefore by the shield of faith, God will help the believer to control their mind- (2Cor. 10:3-6). When the believer's faith- (knowledge, understanding, trust) in God's word is little or small then the enemy has more area to attack and shoot his fiery darts. Therefore it is so important that the believer studies and puts trust in the word of God- (2Tim.2:15 / Prov.3:5-6). We never know when Satan will shoot his fiery darts at us, so we must always take the shield of faith with us everywhere we go- (Isa.26:3-4).

How to take up the shield of faith;

1. In prayer by faith take up the shield of faith by taking God at His word. (Knowing and believing the scriptures rather than our feelings)
2. Standing sure footed by faith in God's word putting out all the fiery darts at once when they hit.
3. Know the scriptures and speak them out loud to the enemy- (Matt.4:10).

Remember that Satan can't hear our thoughts, so you must speak the truth out loud. He can read our reactions and body language, that's how he knows when we are hit by the fiery darts. I hope that you have your shield of faith with you today. God has given it to us, why not use it?

May God bless your Sunday as you put on the whole armor of God.

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#### **5. THE HELMET OF SALVATION**

The helmet of salvation covers the head to protect the mind of the believer. The head was the soldier's core power to wage war. The soldier's thinking ability was the most important factor in determining their victory or defeat. It is therefore imperative that the Christian soldier keep the helmet of salvation on and their mind focused upon The Lord. This means keeping our minds on our victory in Christ and His objective of reaching the world with the gospel.

The helmet of salvation protects the mind of the Christian soldier, not only in knowing, but assured of their salvation. The helmet also gives confidence in all that the believer has in Christ, "all things become new".

Satan will launch his fiery darts of temptation against the mind of the believer trying to get their thoughts and attention off of Christ and lost souls. The helmet refers to the mind controlled by God, when God controls the mind Satan can't easily lead the believer astray.

The believer who studies their Bible, knowing Bible doctrine and practicing it will have a good footing of truth in who they are in Christ.

Knowing that one is saved and hoping for the glorious day of redemption will do at least two things for the believer;

1. It will stir the believer's mind and thoughts to be stayed upon Christ.
2. It will arouse the believer to focus upon Christ's mission to carry the gospel to a lost world.

A good soldier keeps his helmet on at all times to protect his thinking patterns from the enemies. (Rom.12:1-2 / Phil.4:8 / Isa.26:3)

How to put the helmet of salvation on.

1. In prayer by faith thank God for this piece of armor that He has provided in Jesus Christ.
2. Declare by faith that you are putting on the helmet of salvation to protect your mind (thought patterns) and to keep your mind on Jesus Christ.
3. Commit your thinking to Christ- thinking the way He would throughout the day.

Have a great Sunday with the people of God in the house of God today! Remember other Christians (church members) are not the enemy.

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#### **6. THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT.**

The sword of the Spirit is the word of God used through the Spirit of God by the child of God. It is used for both defense and offense, for close-in-fighting. Many times it may seem that the believer is in a hand to hand battle in this spiritual war with the enemy. When the believer uses the sword of the Spirit against satan, they are to deal him a blow that will cripple him and keep him from hindering God's work.

The Spirit is the one who wrote the word of God and it is the Spirit that exerts the word of God as the believer uses it through the power of the Spirit. We are to speak the word of God in our hearts out loud with authority to the enemy. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, He used the sword of the Spirit with authority and defeated the enemy. The better we know the word of God, the easier it will be for us to detect satan's lies and reject his offers.

The believer protects himself from the onslaughts of the enemy by living in the scriptures and letting the scriptures live in them by faith. Again the Christian soldier will have to speak the word of God from a heart of faith, in the Spirit of God (John 6:63).

The heart of faith by the Spirit of God can speak boldly with authority from the word of God. This is what we know as the sword of the Spirit for believers. The idea is a Spirit filled believer filled with the word of God, speaking the truth of God with all faith and boldness from the heart (PS. 119:11 / Heb. 4:12).

How to take up the sword of the Spirit?

1. In prayer by faith thank God for His word and sending the Holy Spirit to you to war a good warfare.
2. Commit to knowing and believing the word of God in your heart and then speak it with authority in your daily battles with the enemies.

Not being yielded to the Spirit of God is not going to give the believer the sword of the Spirit for the battles. Just having the Bible in hand or memorized will not give the believer power of the Spirit to fight against the enemies. The believer needs to check his yielding and filling of the Spirit of God before he can use the sword of the Spirit.

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#### **7. THE SOLDIER'S PRAYER**

To put on the whole armor of God some will list the previous six parts of the armor. I personally believe that v18-20 should be also included as part of the whole armor of God.

Warren Wersibe says, "Prayer is the energy that enables the Christian soldier to wear the armor and wield the sword. We can not fight the battles in our own power no matter how strong or talented we may think we are. There is the supernatural provision of the Christian soldier and that is prayer, a constant spirit of prayer".

Here are five actions of the Christian soldier's prayer;

##### 1. He must pray - Always v18a

The Christian soldier must pray all the time (attitude of prayer) to maintain a consciousness of God's presence and care.

##### 2. He must pray - In the Spirit V18b

Praying in the Spirit means praying filled and yielded to the Spirit. Otherwise our praying could be fleshly and selfish and out of the will of God.

##### 3. He must pray - Sleeplessly v18c

Watch means to keep on the alert for any and all prayer needs. The word perseverance simply means to stick to it and don't give up until God answers or tells us otherwise.

##### 4. He must pray - Unselfishly v18d

This speaks of not being alone in the battles against the enemies. There are many that are engaged in the battle and we all need each other's prayers.

##### 5. He must pray for - Leaders v18e

All leaders need prayer for their decisions, and that they would be the right example to their followers. Many times this could determine the outcome of the home, church and nation.

The good Christian soldier is a praying soldier that puts on the whole armor of God and fights by faith with assurance in God. This will be one of the top areas that the enemy will attack to get us defeated.

God bless and have a great Sunday with God's people.