

ARMOR OF GOD

Ephesians 6:13-17

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. 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. 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.



In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, Paul concludes with something most people start with. The first 3 chapters of Ephesians Paul speaks on our new identity in Christ, what already belongs to us, and how all of Heaven's resources are available to us. Chapters 4-6 discuss our response to what God has done and how to walk out who we are. Chapters 1-3 is the revealing of God's grace (what He gives) and chapters 4-6 is faith and our response to what God has already done. He concludes the book of Ephesians with; by the way there

is an enemy.

Many Christians talk so much about what the devil is doing but Paul inserts him last. The enemy is a defeated foe and can only take advantage of us through deception (Col 2:8). Paul lists 6 pieces of armor that include loins girt with the truth (belt of truth), breastplate of righteousness, shoes with the preparation of the gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit (Word of God). Chapter 6 in the book of Ephesians commands **us** to put the armor on; God won't put it on for us. Before we ever put the armor on, we need to know who is inside the armor to be effective. We can put the armor on everyday but if we do not know who we are *in Christ*, the armor will not benefit us. We must know our identity in Christ to experience victory in the Christian life. A person can put scrubs on every day, but that does not make him a doctor. The doctor knows who he is, therefore, he can get dressed and perform his duty.

Paul was very familiar with the Roman soldiers during his day as he was in prison writing this letter and often chained to the guards. Paul lived in the greatest presence of military power anyone had seen but that did not move him. Remember, Paul stated he was a prisoner of Christ, not Rome (Eph 3:1).

The word wiles in Greek is *methodia* and means trickery or lie. The only thing the enemy can do is deceive us. He can only do what we allow but we are not ignorant of his devices so he cannot

take advantage of us (2 Cor 2:11).

Our battle is in the spiritual realm, and it is not against people. Our spouse, coworkers, and children are not our problem. The enemy is a spirit and needs a physical body to have his will come to pass. He will flow through people but if we recognize the true battle is with our adversary the devil (1 Peter 5:8) we will not fall into the trap of being offended or hurt by people.

It is also important to note that our wrestle is also not with God. Many times, we think we must bombard Heaven to get God to move or when tragedy strikes, we ask why God either did this to us or allowed it to happen. God is for us not against us (Rom 8:31) and there is a real enemy seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8).

The word stand is *histemi* in Greek and means to be established or set. When we have fully put on the whole armor of God, we are to take our position; which is who we are in Christ and continue to be established and set. If we are being dominated by our circumstances and allowing the enemy to bully us, we are more than likely not fully dressed.

Girded waist with truth

The word gird in Greek is *perizonnumi* and means to fasten on one's belt. This piece of armor is also known as the belt of truth but what is truth? God's Word is truth (Jn 17:17) and the Bible is our lie detector. Paul had just spoken about the enemies' tactics to come with lies; here is our piece of armor against it. Truth is the center of our Christian walk. When we know the truth, we won't be deceived and taken captive by the devil (2 Tim 2:24). The more we know, the less room there is for doubt.

This piece of armor for a Roman soldier was used to bind or hold together the rest of his armor.

Breast plate of righteousness

The breastplate of righteousness is vital to put on because condemnation is one of the enemy's greatest tactics that he uses to throw at us. He will say that we are not good enough and try to condemn us when we fall short. When he says we are not good enough, he is right but only if we are not in Christ. The problem for the enemy now is that we are in Christ and God's righteousness has been imputed to us so now we are worthy and accepted (2 Cor 5:21, Eph 1:6). The word righteous just means "right standing with God". We are in right standing with God now based on Jesus' obedience and not our own (Rom 5:19). Jesus came to fulfill all righteousness on our behalf because we were unable to (Mt 3:15) and become sin so that we would become righteousness. The Holy Spirit is constantly reminding us of our righteous

position with the Father (Jn 16:8).

The Roman soldiers would use a breast plate to protect their heart or other vital functions. The breastplate of righteousness is to guard our heart. Out of our heart springs the issues of life (Prov 4:23) and the breast plate will guard us from the condemnation the enemy tries to get us in.

Feet shod with the preparation of Gospel of peace

The word gospel in Greek is euaggelion and means good message or news. The good news is that there is no longer a veil or separation between God and His people because His son removed the barrier (Mt 27:51). We have been justified with God and are at peace with Him (Rom 5:1) and it is knowing this, that we should be spreading the Good News. Drawing people to the Lord through fear may get some results, but Gods way is through love (Rom 2:4). The word peace in the Greek is eirene and means rest. Anytime we try to earn Gods favor, the by product will be working and striving but if we get a revelation of God being at peace with us because of Jesus obedience and not our own, the fruit will be rest. We will be stable and secure because our covenant with God is not conditional towards what we are doing or not doing, but it is based off what Jesus has already done. We are already reconciled (made friendly) with God and He is not angry with us (2 Cor 5:18). This is the Gospel.

The sandals for the Roman soldier's feet were composed of thick leather soles studded with iron cleats. This equipped the soldiers to be firm in their positions and was also made so that the soldiers could progress forward against their enemy and not backwards. We should have a solid foundation with the good news of us being in a dispensation of Gods peace extended towards us that we are not retreating and falling back into legalism or condemnation (Gal 5:1).

Shield of Faith

For the Roman soldiers their shield was the length of a long door and made with wood. It protected the soldier from head to toe while the enemy would throw darts that were meant to set the Roman soldiers on fire. Paul is using this to illustrate how our enemy throws fiery darts at us and those are through words. The word quench in this verse in Greek is sbennumi and means to extinguish. How do we extinguish his darts?

"He that believeth on me, as the scriptures hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (Jn 7:38). In the natural, the way any fire is put out is through water. Now that we have the Holy Spirit in us and He has empowered us, it is through our words back that will quench or extinguish the enemy's schemes over our lives. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth

speaks (Lk 6:45). The word now dwells us in (1 Jn 2:14) and should be coming out of mouth.

Helmet of Salvation

The helmet was made of leather and protected the head of the Roman soldier. The enemy's tactics are always fired through our mind. His ability is suggestion and wants us to question has God said? Is God good? He has no power to make anyone do anything. What he can do though is get us to doubt God and we will either win or lose based on the mind. The battle is in our soul and he does this through lies.

The word taken used in Ephesians 6:17 in Greek is *dechomai* and means to receive. Salvation is a gift and only to be received. No amount of good work can earn our salvation (Gal 2:16).

Sword of the Spirit

The sword is our only offensive weapon. We are in a spiritual battle and the Lord has told us our spiritual weapon which is His Word (John 6:63). No amount of therapy, new age thinking, or philosophy can combat the enemy's tactics. During Jesus' earthly ministry this is how He responded to temptation from the enemy. Jesus only spoke the Word to the enemy (Mt 4:4). The word is alive and active sharper than any two-edge sword (Heb 4:12).