

The Armor of God

- I. Introduction:
 - a. We as Christians are soldiers in a spiritual warfare
 - i. (2 Tim 2:3) “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good **soldier** of Jesus Christ.”
 - ii. (1 Tim 6:12) “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”
 - b. Our fight is not fleshly but spiritual
 - i. (John 18:36) “My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, **then would my servants fight**, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.”
 - 1. The Kingdom is spiritual and our fight is spiritual
 - ii. (2 Cor 10:3-5) “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”
- II. God has promised us Divine help in this fight
 - a. Before Jesus was to leave to prepare a place for us.
 - i. (John 14:16-18) “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”
 - ii. (2 Tim 3:16-17) “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”
 - b. Gives all that we need to be successful in our fight
 - c. Always gives us a way to escape
 - i. (1 Cor 10:13) “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”
- III. God has given us armor to fight this spiritual war
 - a. (Eph 6:10-12) “Finally, my brethren, be **strong** in the **Lord**, and in the **power of his might**. Put on the **whole armour of God**, that ye may be able to **stand** against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against **principalities**, against **powers**, against the **rulers of the darkness of this world**, against **spiritual wickedness in high places**.”

- i. Put on the whole armor of God for the reason:
 - 1. Stand against the wiles of the devil
 - a. Trickery
 - 2. Withstand in the evil day – Stand
 - b. If we want to be successful we must put this armor on us.
 - i. Not just bits and pieces – Whole Armor – All the arsenal
 - c. **(Ps 144:1-2)** “Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight: My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me.”
- IV. The Belt of Truth
 - a. **(Eph 6:14a)** “**Stand therefore**, having your **loins girt about with truth**”
 - i. Stand therefore – Must Stand using the Armor that God gives us
 - b. Loins Wrapped around with truth
 - i. Truth – Comprehensive meaning:
 - 1. Honesty
 - 2. Integrity
 - 3. Sincerity of Profession
 - 4. Truth as in God’s Reveled Word
 - ii. Truth – Substance of Revelation
 - 1. **(John 17:17)** “Sanctify them through thy **truth: thy word is truth.**”
 - 2. **(John 16:13)** “Howbeit when he, the **Spirit of truth**, is come, he will **guide** you into all **truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”
 - iii. Truth sets you free
 - 1. **(John 8:32)** “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
 - a. Because of the truth – No longer a slave to sin
 - i. **(Rom 6:15-17)** “What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.”
 - iv. Truth – Jesus Christ
 - 1. **(John 14:6)** “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the **truth**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”
- c. We wrap ourselves in truth – put off the lies and corruptions
 - i. **(Eph 4:22-25)** “That ye **put off** concerning the former **conversation the old man**, which is **corrupt** according to the

deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.”

1. First piece of armor is in repentance – putting off the old and putting on the new

V. The Breastplate of Righteousness

a. (Eph 6:14b) “...and having on the breastplate of righteousness;”

i. Breastplate protects the vital organs of man

ii. Breastplate made out of Righteousness

1. Righteousness – living right, Holy living, According to God’s will

b. Righteousness protects you against False accusations

i. (Titus 2:7-8) “In all things shewing thyself a **pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech**, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be **ashamed**, having **no evil thing to say of you.**”

1. Pattern of Good Works – Righteousness

ii. (1 Peter 3:16-17) “Having a good conscience; that, whereas they **evil of you**, as of evildoers, they may be **ashamed** that falsely **accuse your good conversation in Christ**. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.”

1. Good conversation – Good actions

2. The way you conduct your life

c. Can’t teach others if we’re not living in righteousness

i. (1 Peter 3:1-2) “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.”

1. If we can’t reach people by the word – Sometimes we reach them by our actions.

2. Can’t reach them if we live in Hypocrisy

ii. (1 Peter 2:12) “Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, **which they shall behold**, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

1. The Gentiles watched the conduct of the Christians, narrowly scrutinizing it to discover faults and inconsistencies.

2. Same for today!

d. Righteous living is an essential piece of our armor

i. (Acts 10:34-35) “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every

nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”

- e. Your very core is defended by Truth and Righteousness
- VI. **(Eph 6:15)** “And your **feet shod** with **the preparation of the gospel of peace;**”
- a. Shod – Laced up
 - i. Shoes to be ready to go when called.
 - b. Preparation of the Gospel of Peace
 - i. Preparation – Readiness
 - c. Gospel of peace
 - i. This good news puts peace between God and Man
 - 1. **(2 Cor 5:18-19)** “And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”
 - d. Preparation of the gospel of peace - Readiness in ministry of reconciliation
 - i. Apt to teach and defend – Run into the defense instead of fleeing from opposition.
 - ii. **(1 Peter 3:15)** “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”
 - e. All are commanded to teach
 - i. **(Matt 28:19-20)** “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
 - ii. **(Mark 16:15-16)** “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
 - f. Great thing in the sight of God
 - i. **(Rom 10:13-15)** “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, **How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!**”
 - g. The Church grew tremendously 40’s and 50’s – Same time members had the reputation of being “Walking Bibles” – Coincidence?
- VII. **(Eph 6:16)** “**Above all**, taking the **shield of faith**, wherewith ye shall be able to **quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.**”
- a. Above all
 - i. Putting this shield in front

- ii. Putting our armored body behind this shield of faith
 - b. Shield - a large shield (as door-shaped)
 - c. Shield of Faith
 - i. **(Ps 56:3-4)** “What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.”
 - ii.
 - iii. Belief or trust in God and all of his promises and Word
 - 1. **Such as: (Rev 2:7)** “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him **that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life**, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.”
 - iv. Faith that we shield ourselves with comes by God’s Word
 - 1. **(Rom 10:17)** “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 - d. Quench all the fiery darts of the wicked
 - i. Darts dipped in flammable liquid.
 - 1. Lust
 - 2. Pride
 - 3. Anger
 - 4. Any Evil Temptation
 - ii. With faith we’ll remember the word of God to shield ourselves from temptation
 - 1. Example: Jesus Christ
 - a. Temptation: Sustain your own life by a miracle turn these stones into bread.
 - i. **(Matt 4:4)** “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”
 - b. Temptation: God said He will take care of you. Cast yourself down from this pinnacle to prove that you are the Son of God.
 - i. **(Matt 4:7)** “It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.”
 - c. Temptation: I will give you all these kingdoms if you will bow down and worship me.
 - i. **(Matt 4:10)** “Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”
 - e. We can overcome trials and temptation with faith
- VIII. **(Eph 6:17a)** “And take the helmet of salvation”
- a. **(Ps 140:7)** “O God the Lord, the strength of my salvation, thou hast covered my head in the day of battle.”
 - b. Head protection
 - i. Head is what Guides the Body
 - c. Helmet of Salvation keeps our body in check by Reassuring Hope.

- i. (1 Thess 5:8) “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the **hope of salvation.**”
 - d. Time without hope
 - i. (Eph 2:12-13) “That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”
 - e. Now we have hope
 - i. (Titus 3:5-7) “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy **he saved us**, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs **according to the hope of eternal life.**”
 - f. This Hope keeps us going! ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS!
- IX. (Eph 6:17b) “...and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God:”
 - a. Sword of Spirit
 - i. Sword – Offensive and Defensive Weapon
 - ii. Of the Spirit – What the spirit revealed to us
 - b. Word of God
 - i. Sharper than any double-edged sword
 - 1. (Heb 4:12) “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
 - a. Sounds like a Car Ad
 - b. Describes properly the word of God
 - 2. Quick – Alive and can make us alive
 - a. (James 1:18) “Of his own will begat he us with the **word of truth**, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”
 - 3. Powerful – produces faith
 - a. (Rom 1:16-17) “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the **power of God** unto **salvation** to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
 - 4. Dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow – Divides the Spiritual from the fleshly
 - a. Destroys the man with sin

- iii. Wants you to be Baptized to wash away your sins
 - 1. (**Mark 16:16**)
 - 2. (**Acts 2:38**)