

# THE ARMOUR OF GOD

Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil. For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms. Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the **sturdy belt of truth** and the **body armor of God's righteousness**. **For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News**, so that you will be fully prepared. In every battle you will need **faith as your shield** to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. Put on **salvation as your helmet**, and take the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God. Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere.

*Ephesians 6:11-18* New Living Translation

## Questions

1. Where is this Battle? In our minds
2. Who do we fight against? Satan, evil spirits
3. How many weapons do we have? One, the sword
4. How many pieces of armor do we have? Five
5. Can you think of any other offensive weapon we have which is not mentioned here? The Holy Spirit / Prayer

## The Shoes of Spreading the Good News

**Facts:** During biblical times a soldier's shoes were a very important part of their armor. It was used to protect their feet from standing on thorns, sharp stones, arrowheads etc, any thing which could cause the soldier to lose his concentration during the battle. Some soldier's shoes even had spikes on to prevent them from slipping and to trample on the enemy.

The shoes of any person is the basis of their balance and their connection with the earth, the same is true for our Spiritual battles. Salvation is the most fundamental part of the battle, not only knowing that we are saved but also to motivate us to save others.

- Isaiah 52:7 *"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!"*
- God expects us to be ready all the time to tell people about the Good news of the cross. *1 Peter 3:15 "Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it".*
- God expects us to tell other about Him. Mark 16:15 *"And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere."*

Why must we share the Good News?

*Matthew 24:14 "And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then, finally, the end will come."*

## **BELT OF TRUTH**

**Facts:** During biblical times, the belt was used to attach sheath for the sword. It also held up the soldiers skirt or lower clothing. It was a very shameful thing for any person to be exposed in biblical times. Thus the belt enabled the soldier to carry his weapon at his side but also prevented his clothing from falling off and causing him to use one hand (most probably the shield hand) to hold up his cloths and prevent him from tripping.

As a born again Christian the Truth is central to our existence and testimony. If in our work place, at home or any other places we are found to be untruthful we will bring shame to the name of Christ. Just as if we are exposed in public if our clothing feel off suddenly so it is with having a lie exposed. We lose the battle and even embarrass ourselves. Once the truth fails we are exposed and the enemy can strike the deathblow to our Christian walk.

- Why must we always be truthful? *Proverbs 12:19* “*Truth stands the test of time; lies are soon exposed.*”
- Why do we need to know the truth? *1 John 2:20-21* “*But you are not like that, for the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and all of you know the truth. So I am writing to you not because you don’t know the truth but because you know the difference between truth and falsehood.*”
- It is a sign of us being His disciples. *John 8:31-32* “*Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you keep obeying my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*”

## **BREST PLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**Facts:** The Brest plate was considers as most essential because it protected the chest area of a soldier and thus the most critical organs (heart, lungs etc). Normally the breastplate was made of thick leather or custom made in metal. During the battle this was often the last defense should an arrow get past the shield.

Just as our chest area is the center of all our organs and vital to our health, so righteousness is central to our Christian walk with the Lord. If we are in RIGHT standing with God we are protected from the devils advances and attacks.

- Righteousness makes us holy. *Romans 6:19* “*I speak this way, using the illustration of slaves and masters, because it is easy to understand. Before, you let yourselves be slaves of impurity and lawlessness. Now you must choose to be slaves of righteousness so that you will become holy.*”
- It is available to all born again Christians. *John 16:8-10* “*And when he comes, he will convince the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment. The world’s sin is unbelief in me. Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more.*”
- We need to serve God with this attitude, thus it is central to our Christian walk *Luke 1:74-72* “*We have been rescued from our enemies, so we can serve God without fear, in holiness and righteousness forever.*”

## HELMET OF SALVATION

**Facts:** The Helmet protected the soldiers not only from other weaponry but during a siege it was common for the defending arm to throw rocks, boulders and objects over the walls. If a persons head was not protected a small stone could end the soldiers life, just look what happened to Goliath. The helmet encased the entire head with only small openings for vision.

Our salvation is comparable with the helmet because our salvation must protect our entire being. Our though life, what we say and much more.

1 Peter 1:10-25 This salvation was something the prophets wanted to know more about. They prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you, even though they had many questions as to what it all could mean. They wondered what the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about Christ's suffering and his great glory afterward. They wondered when and to whom all this would happen. They were told that these things would not happen during their lifetime, but many years later, during yours. And now this Good News has been announced by those who preached to you in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen. So think clearly and exercise self-control. Look forward to the special blessings that will come to you at the return of Jesus Christ. Obey God because you are his children. Don't slip back into your old ways of doing evil; you didn't know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God-who chose you to be his children-is holy. For he himself has said, "You must be holy because I am holy." And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites when he judges. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time as foreigners here on earth.

18 For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver.

19 He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

20 God chose him for this purpose long before the world began, but now in these final days, he was sent to the earth for all to see. And he did this for you. Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And because God raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory, your faith and hope can be placed confidently in God. Now you can have sincere love for each other as brothers and sisters because you were cleansed from your sins when you accepted the truth of the Good News. So see to it that you really do love each other intensely with all your hearts. For you have been born again. Your new life did not come from your earthly parents because the life they gave you will end in death. But this new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. As the prophet says, "People are like grass that dies away; their beauty fades as quickly as the beauty of wildflowers. The grass withers, and the flowers fall away. But the word of the Lord will last forever." And that word is the Good News that was preached to you.

## SHIELD OF FAITH

**Facts:** The shield was used to protect the soldier from flying weaponry like arrows, stones, spears etc. It was also used in close combat to protect the soldier from certain death.

Our Faith is so vital that it can be compared to a shield. Our faith in God and our Salvation are the very things that will shield us from the devils attacks. When you faith is weak then it is much easier for the devil to have victory over you.

- Our faith comes from reading and hearing Gods word *Romans 10:17* “*Yet faith comes from listening to this message of good news—the Good News about Christ.*”
- We are made right with God through faith *Romans 3:28* “*So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.*”
- Our Faith makes us righteous before God *Romans 4:20-22* “*Abraham never wavered in believing God’s promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. He was absolutely convinced that God was able to do anything he promised. And because of Abraham’s faith, God declared him to be righteous.*”

New Living Translation

## THE SWORD

**Facts:** The sword was a weapon that was always carried by any soldier, even if he were using a spear or bow he would still carry a sword for close protection. The sword was most effective in close combat. Most battles were fought in close combat and thus any soldier would be very skill in the use of the sword.

Just as the sword is the only offensive weapon in our armory. God did not give us bow and arrows, spears, slings but sword. This is because our fight is in close quarters. We are fighting an enemy that is using long - range tack tics (arrows) to softer us up for the close combat of our everyday lives. The word of God needs to indwell us and always be by our side. We need to learn scripture and attack the devil using the word of God. Remember how Jesus fought the devil when Satan tempted him?

- Our offensive weapon is effective. Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is full of living power. It is sharper than the sharpest knife, cutting deep into our innermost thoughts and desires. It exposes us for what we really are.”
- God’s word lasts forever. *1 Peter 1:23 “For you have been born again. Your new life did not come from your earthly parents because the life they gave you will end in death. But this new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.”*
- Gods word is true and we can find protection in them *Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God proves true. He defends all who come to him for protection.”*
- The Sword is God fighting for us *Isaiah 31:8 “The Assyrians will be destroyed, but not by the swords of men. The sword of God will strike them, and they will panic and flee. The strong young Assyrians will be taken away as captives.*

## EXTRA WEAPONS

We have at least three extra weapons:

### Our Words

Our words are one of the most powerful weapons. Unfortunately many people do not use their word to bind the evil works of the devil and loose Gods favour upon themselves. Often we curse others or ourselves by our own words. *“I am sick and tired of this...”*

Matthew 16:20 19 “And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you lock on earth will be locked in heaven, and whatever you open on earth will be opened in heaven.”

James 2:5-9 “So also, the tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do. A tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is full of wickedness that can ruin your whole life. It can turn the entire course of your life into a blazing flame of destruction, for it is set on fire by hell itself. People can tame all kinds of animals and birds and reptiles and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is an uncontrollable evil, full of deadly poison. Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it breaks out into curses against those who have been made in the image of God.”

### Our Prayers

Our Prayers unlock a long-range weapon that hit deep into enemy lines. We can pray to heal people, release people from bondages, ask God for something specific.

Matthew 5:44-45 “But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and on the unjust, too. “

### The Holy Spirit

An often-misunderstood weapon is the Holy Spirit. It is particularly useful when we do not know what to pray for or how to pray for a situation. The bible says that the Spirit groans

Luke 12: 11-12 “And when you are brought to trial in the synagogues and before rulers and authorities, don’t worry about what to say in your defense, for the Holy Spirit will teach you what needs to be said even

as you are standing there.”

Acts 1: 8 “But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”