

# The ARMOR of GOD



## THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE...

**For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds - 2 Corinthians 10:4**

God has not left His children without protection against our enemies. He has not left us without the tools we need to push the enemy back and protect ourselves and our families.

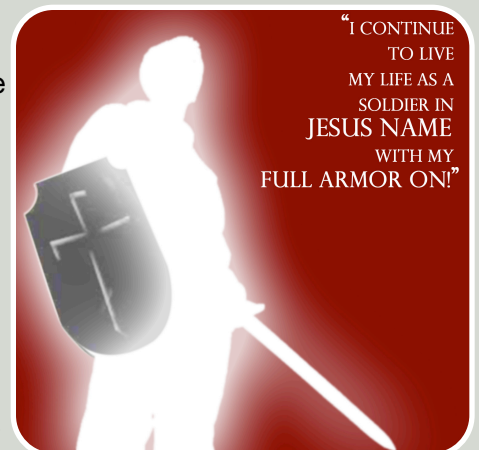
Today, there are many misconceptions about spiritual warfare. It would seem that many get their idea of battling the forces of darkness from Hollywood rather than Scripture. However, Ephesians chapter 6 specifically lays out the armor and weapons God has given us to fight for the faith.

The fact that all believers need to understand the nature of the armor of God and how to daily put it on, cannot be overstated. In fact, it is

absolutely imperative that believers live in a constant state of readiness against the schemes and wiles of the devil.

Christians are involved in a spiritual war, whether we acknowledge it or not. Those who refuse to fight, die. Those who are ignorant of the battle are quickly overtaken.

It is necessary for us to understand what Paul means when he says, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Eph. 6:13



**Romans 8:37**

in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.



# NOT ALONE!!



## BE VERY CAREFUL!!!!!!

Many people read “the armor of God” passage individualistically. In other words, they see themselves as a lone Christian knight, wearing God’s armor. This is NOT what Paul had in mind. All the commands in this section are PLURAL. They indicate a multitude of soldiers fighting together. Spiritual warfare only takes place in the fellowship of a local church!

## Ephesians 6:13-18

The armor with which the believer fights the spiritual battle is said to be the “armor of God.” In other words, it is God’s own armor that He gives His children. When the whole armor is adorned by the believer, he is invincible against the attacks of the world, the flesh, and the devil. However, without the whole armor in place, the believer is vulnerable to attack from every side.

As Paul writes the epistle to the Ephesians, he is under house arrest in Rome, under the guard of Roman soldiers. It is here that Paul sees the soldiers adorned for battle and makes the application to the spiritual armor of God.

## THE BELT OF TRUTH (6:14)

First, the believer is told to put on the belt of truth. Paul writes, “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...” (Eph. 6:14).

For the Roman soldier, this belt refers to the leather apron which hung under the armor and protected the thighs. The idea of fastening clothing securely around one’s waist signifies preparation for vigorous activity (Luke 12:35, 37; 17:8).

“Truth,” which occupies a prominent place in Ephesians, refers to the truth of God (Eph. 4:24; 5:9) revealed in the gospel (1:13; 4:15, 21, 24), which has its outworking in the lives of believers who are members of the new humanity (4:25; 5:9). As believers buckle on this piece of the Messiah’s armor, they will be strengthened by God’s truth revealed in the gospel, and as a consequence they will display the characteristics of Jesus in their attitudes, language, and behavior.

In this way they resist the devil, giving him no opportunity to gain an advantage over them (4:27).

So, put on the belt of the truth of the Gospel, which holds the armor in place.



## THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (6:14)

For a Roman soldier, the breastplate was a piece of armor covering the chest to protect it against blows and arrows. Paul draws this language from Isaiah 59:17 where God Himself puts on the breastplate of righteousness and the helmet of salvation as He comes to deliver his people and punish His enemies.

According to Ephesians 6 believers need to be armed with God's own righteousness if they are to be protected against the blows and arrows of their spiritual enemies.

Believers put on the breastplate of righteousness in two ways. First, the breastplate of righteousness refers to God's own justifying gospel righteousness which results in a right standing before Him. God's verdict of acquittal through Christ's death provides the basis for believer

standing firm in their spiritual struggle.

However in light of earlier instances of "righteousness" in Ephesians (4:24; 5:9), this breastplate can also be seen as an ethical, righteous way of life.

This exhorts believers to daily put on the "new man" (Eph. 4:24), who is created to be like God in righteousness and holiness.

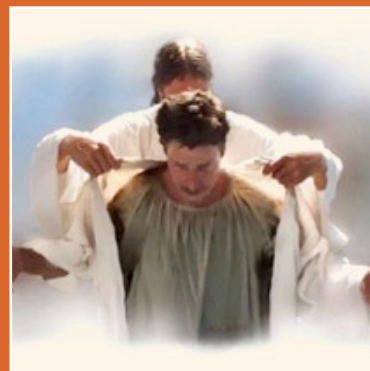
By putting on God's righteousness believers are committed to being imitators of him (Eph. 5:1) and acting righteously in all their dealings.

Therefore, the breastplate is God's own righteousness which we put on through the gospel of Jesus Christ and it is allowing that truth to manifest itself in our lives by living according to the Spirit of Christ which dwells in us.

In this way, righteousness in our covering and protection, yet it is also our way of life.



## RIGHTEOUSNESS



### Romans 6:12-14

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.



## THE SHOES OF READINESS (6:14)

A Roman soldier's shoes were very important. They provided the necessary grip and balance for a sustained battle. They were studded on the sole so that when the soldier "dug his heels in" it would be difficult for him to be pushed backward.

Paul says that believer should have our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. He borrows this imagery from Isa 52:7 which says, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace."

The word "preparation" was used in classical Greek to refer to a firm foundation or being established. The Roman soldier's studded soles provided a sure footing for them to launch attacks and mount defenses.

In the same way, the gospel of peace is the believer's foundation for attacking our spiritual enemies, and the sure footing that ensures our capable defense against his attacks.

From the foundation of the gospel, we know that our victory is sure and that no power of death and hell can harm us. From this sure footing, we may be confident even in the heaviest of fighting for we know that there is nothing our enemy can do to us.

Likewise, the same sure footing allows us to always be prepared to pronounce the gospel of peace to those who are lost. We are able to pronounce this salvation even in the midst of the darkest battle.

## THE SHIELD OF FAITH (6:16)

The shield referred to is not the small round one which left most of the body unprotected, but the large shield carried by Roman soldiers, which

## SHOES of the Gospel of Peace

Ephesians 6.15



covered the whole person. This is the shield of faith. Faith has appeared at key points throughout Ephesians (1:13,15,19; 2:8; 3:12,17; 4:5,13; 6:23) particularly as the means of acquiring divine strength.

To take the shield of faith, then, is to appropriate the promises of God on our behalf, confident that he will protect us in the midst of the battle.

The large shield used by Roman soldiers was specially designed to quench dangerous arrows that were dipped in pitch and lit before being fired. The "flaming" arrows of Satan include not only every kind of temptation to ungodly behavior, doubt, and

despair, but also external assaults, such as persecution or false teaching. All the attacks of every enemy can be quelled by faith in the promises and word of God.

## THE HELMET OF SALVATION (6:17)

The helmet used by the Roman soldier was made of bronze and had cheek pieces so as to give protection to the head. Here Paul uses language again from Isa. 59 where the Lord is the victorious warrior who wears the helmet of salvation as he saves his people and judges their enemies.

The helmet is salvation itself and believers are urged to lay hold of it as they engage in spiritual warfare. There can be no crippling attack to the head when the believer rightly understands the salvation which he possesses in Christ.

God has rescued them from death, wrath, and bondage, and transferred them into a new dominion where Christ rules. The position of power and authority with Christ to which they have been raised is greater than that possessed by their mighty supernatural enemies.

As believers grow in their salvation they become more and more confident of the outcome of every battle.



## Shield of Faith

Ephesians 6.16

# THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT



## The Two-Edged Sword

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:- Eph. 6:17



## THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT (6:17)

Please notice that this is the ONLY offensive weapon in the believer's arsenal. All the other pieces of armor are for defense. The word of God is our only weapon to attack the enemy. What is in view here is not just words addressed to Satan, as though what we speak against him will defeat him. Rather, it is the faithful speaking forth of the God's Word in the realm of darkness, so that men and women held by Satan might hear this liberating and life-giving word and be freed from his grasp.

When the word of God is proclaimed in our own lives, and to the lives of those who need it,

Satan and his demons suffer a mortal wound because they have no defense against the word of the powerful God.

When Christ said that the gates of hell would not prevail against his church, he meant that the church possessed the ultimate weapon against the powers of darkness. The word is the light that dispels the darkness and rescues people from the grasp of the enemy. In the same way, the word destroys the temptations and lies that Satan attempts to push over on believers.

Sharpen Your Sword

## The Most Important Piece (v. 18)

Prayer is given greater prominence within the context than any of the weapons listed. Believers are urged to pray at all times, with all prayer and supplication, with all perseverance, and they are to make supplication for all the saints. Prayer is foundational for the deployment of all the other weapons and is therefore crucial if they are to stand firm in their spiritual struggle.

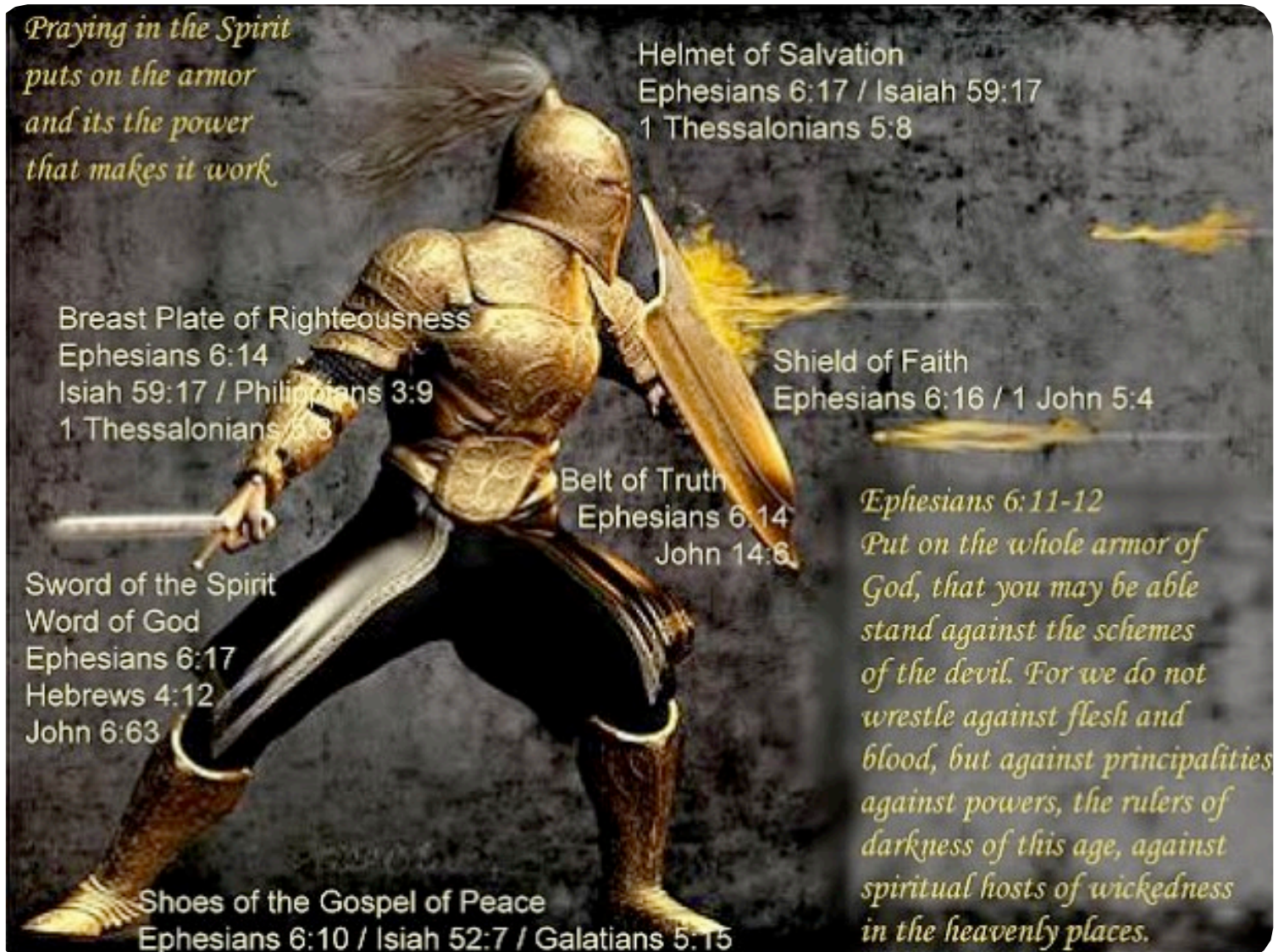
Without the Spirit's power, the other pieces of armor do not possess the power of God. Man cannot fight the spiritual battle in his own strength.

Paul wants us to realize that a life of dependence on God in prayer is essential if they are to engage successfully in our warfare with the powers of darkness.



# This Means You!!!

# Prepare for War



Instead of study questions, take some time before class and prayerfully think about practical ways you can "put on" God's armor in your own life.

The Breastplate of righteousness

The belt of truth

The helmet of salvation

The shoes of the preparation of the gospel

the Shield of faith

The Sword of the Spirit

All Prayer

What can you specifically do to put on each of these pieces in your own life? Think about it and be prepared to discuss it in class. Learn this well. The next 3 very important lessons hinge on it. (Next week - fighting sin pt. 1)