

Armor of God

⇒ Introduction:

- One of the first things a new Christian should do is learn about the **Armor of God** and how to use it.
 - There will be spiritual warfare with the world, the flesh, and the Devil in the Christian's life,
 - And how we respond to those battles will determine our own Spiritual condition, as we as our service to the Lord.
 - The Devil is determined to mess up your Christian life through Spiritual warfare.
 - You must prepare yourself for these attacks.
- It would be extremely foolhardy for a soldier to go into battle without any armor and the proper training.
 - From the beginning of organized armies, soldiers have undergone some form of training to prepare them to do battle.
 - First, one must go to "boot camp" to get properly conditioned (physically, mentally, and emotionally) to fight, and to learn the fundamentals of discipline, and teamwork.
 - Next, is the more advanced training in the armor, different weapons, and tactics for the type war for which you are training.
 - Eventually, one is assigned to a special group or unit that matches his own talents and training.
 - Now, the soldier is ready for battle.
- The Christian soldier engaging in Spiritual warfare will have much the same experience as that of the regular soldier engaged in physical combat.
 - God has a special place and will for your life.
 - If you are properly trained, you will win battles and do well, but if you just jump into the fight with not experience or training,
 - You will fail and likely drag others with you.
 - The Lord has given instructions and lessons all through the Bible on "**fighting the good fight.**"
 - However, the Bible gives us specific instruction concerning the armor we are to use for the Spiritual battles that are sure to come in our Christian life.
 - These instructions are found in **Ephesians 6:10-18.**

⇒ I. THE WARRIOR'S POWER

- **Eph. 6:10** – "**Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.**"
 - We must rely on the Spirit of the Lord and His power and not on the energy of our flesh to do battle with the "**powers of darkness.**"
 - It will take the proper use of the armor of God has furnished for us to overcome the Devil's attempt to destroy our Christian life.

⇒ II. THE ARMOR FOR THE BELIEVER'S WALK

- The warrior's armor – **Eph. 6:11** – "**Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**"
 - This is a most important admonition.

- The reason is because of the nature of the enemy, the battle, and the danger.
 - **See 2 Cor. 10:3-4**

⇒ III. THE WARRIOR'S FOES

- **V. 11 – "...the wiles of the devil."**
- **See Ephesians 6:12-13**
 - The armor is necessary because of the nature of our enemy.
 - We are no match for this enemy.
 - We dare not stand before him in our own strength.
 - His "wiles" and government are exceedingly cruel.
 - This word "wiles" speaks of Satan's deception, his craft and trickery which are founded upon **THE LIE (Gen. 3:5, "Ye shall be as gods..")!**
 - He is called the "Angel of light" yet he is the Devil of darkness.
 - Paul said, "**we are not ignorant of his devices.**"
 - **Noted the four levels of spiritual warfare suggested here.**
- **1) Principalities:**
 - These are the chief rulers or beings of the highest rank and order in Satan's kingdom.
- **2) Powers:**
 - These authorities are those who derive their powers from and execute the will of the chief ruler.
- **3) Rulers:**
 - The rulers of the darkness of this age, the spirit world-rulers.
 - **Example: Daniel 10:31-21.**
- **4) Wicked Spirits:**
 - This spiritual wickedness is led by the wicked spirits of Satan in the heavenlies.
- Although these powers are at work in every age, they will be most active in the coming Tribulation period just before the return of Christ as they were at His first coming.
- The enemy of your soul is real.
 - The battle is spiritual and must be fought with spiritual weapons.

⇒ IV. OUR ARMOR

- **Ephesians 6:13**
 - The armor is complete and sufficient for the battle.
 - However, if one piece of the armor is missing the eye of the enemy will spot it immediately.
 - Thus we are to have on the whole armor of God if we are to stand against him.

⇒ V. THE TRUTH

- **See Ephesians 6:14.**
 - This "girt" or belt was used not only to hold up the sword but to strengthen and support the loin muscles.
 - If we fail to walk in truth of the Word, we will find that we will loose the Sword and it will become ineffective in our hand.

- A Christian cannot stand against the wiles of the Devil if he walks in disobedience to the Word.

- It is the Truth that “girds” him up and protects him.

⇒ **VI. THE BREASTPLATE**

○ **See Ephesians 6:14**

- This is not only the imputed righteousness of Christ, but it includes the personal righteousness of the Believer.

- It is true that we are not saved from hell by our own works of righteousness.

- Yet we are called upon to live a life of personal righteousness and victory.

- It deflects the enemy’s condemnation of our life and motives.

⇒ **VII. THE SHOES**

○ **See Ephesians 6:15**

- The purpose of an army is to fight wars and make peace.

- There is no piece of a soldier’s equipment greater than his shoes.

- His feet must be taken care of at all cost.

- It is our feet we go to meet the enemy.

- Our goal is to spread the gospel of peace by going into all the world and preaching it.

- We fight the enemy and rescue the captives when we preach the gospel of peace.

- **See Romans 10:15.**

- The only way to gain victory against the enemy is to win converts from his kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God’s dear Son.

- How are your feet?

⇒ **VIII. THE SHIELD**

○ **See Ephesians 6:16.**

- No man can choose the size of his shield.

- It will be **“according to your faith” (Mt. 9:29).**

- The shield could be moved about to protect any part of the body.

- Armor was provided for a particular part of the body.

- However, the shield could aid any part of the body.

- It was moved to wherever the need was.

- If the loins were under attack, the shield could be moved there for protection.

- If the breastplate was being attacked, then the shield could be moved there to assist.

- Faith is the greatest of all defensive weapons.

- With it, all the “fiery darts” of the Wicked are quenched.

⇒ **IX. THE HELMET**

○ **See Ephesians 6:17**

- The helmet is for protection of our mind.

- A wound to the head is nearly always fatal.

- If the enemy can get to the mind, there is no end to the damage he may do.

- Paul tells us that we are to have the mind of Christ.

- **“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 2:5).**

- When we put on the mind of Christ, we have the helmet of salvation.

- Not only must we be certain of our conversion, we must maintain the mind of Christ for our daily salvation.
- Christ was submissive to God.
- Although He was God, He made Himself of no reputation.
- He humbled Himself unto death, even the death of the cross.
- Pride goeth before a fall.
- The Christian soldier must guard his mind at all times.
- This is done by having the mind of Christ.
- Of course, this mind comes through feeding on the Word of God which is the mind of Christ.
- This is his helmet.

⇒ X. THE SWORD

○ **See Ephesians 6:17**

- A sword is for cutting and battling the enemy.
- The believer has an enemy without and an enemy within.
- The sword cuts and separates from the believer that which hinders his progress for Christ.
- There are many enemies of our soul that would bring us down and into captivity.
- These are identified as “the works of the flesh.”
 - **See Galatians 5:20-21**
- In addition, we must battle the wicked host of Satan.
- The sword (Word of God) is the weapon with which we fight these enemies of our mind and soul.
 - **See Hebrews 4:12**
- A Christian must never compromise or lay down his sword.
- If he does, he is sure to receive a wound from which he will never recover.

⇒ XI. ALL PRAYER

○ **See Ephesians 6:18**

- The Christian who does not pray is doomed to defeat.
- In fact, he is already defeated.
- It is through the act of prayer and Bible reading we put on the whole armor of God.
- All great men were and are men of prayer.
- Prayer shows our dependence on God.
- Prayer shows our faith in God.
- Prayer expresses our love for God.
- It strengthens us for the work of God.
- Prayer opens our spiritual eyes.
- It is the pathway to true wisdom.
 - **See James 1:5**
- We begin the Christian life through prayer.
- We read, “**Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**”
- We are to pray for God’s daily guidance and leadership.

- We are to pray for our bread and our enemies.
 - **Paul said – see Ephesians 6:18.**
- Prayer gives peace, expresses our needs and summons God to fight our battles.
- My friend you have the armor – **PUT IT ON!**