

The Armor of God

I. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

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.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching there unto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; Ephesians 6:10-18

II. WHAT IS THE ARMOR OF GOD?

God's armor brings victory because it is far more than a protective covering. It is the very life of Jesus Christ Himself. "*Put on the armor of light,*" wrote Paul in his letter to the Romans, "*...put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ.*" (Romans 13:12-14) When we do, He becomes our *hiding place*, and *shelter in the storm*--just as He was to David. Hidden in Him, we can count on His victory, for He not only covers us as a shield, He also fills us with His life.

I am the vine, ye are the branches," said Jesus. "*He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*" John 15:5

Since living in the safety of the armor means oneness with Jesus, we can expect to share His struggles as well as His peace. Remember, God has promised us victory in the midst of trials, not immunity from pain. So *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.*¹ Peter 4:12-13 Christians who were tortured for their faith continue to testify to the supernatural strength--even joy--that enabled them to endure unthinkable pain. They affirm with Paul:

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:37-39

This wonderful truth has become reality to all who believe and follow Jesus Christ. When we put on His armor, His life surrounds us, keeping us safe, close to Him, and enables us to be His precious child and friend and He our trusted Lord and companion. So "put on Christ." (Galatians 3:27) He is our victory!

III. How Do I "PUT ON" GOD'S ARMOR?

This life in Christ begins with learning, affirming, and trusting in each part of the armor.

The first part is Truth--God's revelation of all that He is to us, all that He has done for us, and all that He promises to do for us in the days ahead.

This enduring truth is written in the Bible, revealed by the Holy Spirit, and realized through Jesus Christ. It cuts through all of the world's distortions, deceptions, and compromises.

When you study, memorize, live, and follow truth, it enables you to see the world through the eyes of God.

Putting on the first piece of the armor means feeding on truth through daily Bible reading and making it a part of yourself.

Belt of Truth - Jesus is the way, the truth and the life - 2 Timothy 2:15;
John 14:6; Psalms 63:6-7

Breastplate of Righteousness - The Righteousness of Jesus in you -
Romans. 3:21-24, 6:23, 8:1; Galatians 2:20,
3:6-7; Philippians. 3:8-10.

Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace -
Inner peace and readiness - Isaiah 26:3, 53:5; Ephesians 2:14-17;
Romans 5:1-2; 2 Corinthians 13:11

Shield of Faith - Living by faith - Romans 4:18-21, 5:1, 14:23; Hebrews 11:1-3,
11:32-29; 1 Peter 1:6-9; 1 John 5:13

Helmet of Salvation - Salvation through Christ today and forever -
1 Thessalonians 5:8; Galatians 5:5;
Colossians 1:27; Titus 1:2; Romans 5:2

Sword of the Spirit - God's Word - God's Word countering spiritual
deception and accusations.
Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17;
2 Peter 1:21

To put on the "full armor"-- and enjoy a daily and eternal love-relationship with Jesus Christ, pray thanking Him for what He has shown you in His Word.

Know the Scriptures behind your prayer so that your words and faith are grounded in the authority of the Bible. (Some of those verses are listed in the chart above.)

Also pray asking God to help you apply each piece of armor to your life, as you grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18)