

THE ARMOR OF GOD

We must prepare for the right battle the right way - Eph Eph 6:10-18 - 10 Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power**. 11 **PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD SO THAT** you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For **our struggle** is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 **Therefore** put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the **belt of truth buckled around your waist**, with the **breastplate of righteousness** in place, 15 and with your **feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace**. 16 **IN ADDITION TO ALL THIS**, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can *extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one*. 17 Take the **helmet of salvation** and the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

- ❖ **belt of *truth* buckled around your waist (holds it all together)**
 - **Jesus is the Truth** John 14:6-7 - 6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."
 - **Truth is what is needed to connect with God** - John 4:23-24 - 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and TRUTH, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers MUST WORSHIP in spirit and IN TRUTH."
 - **Terrible time and people not accessing truth** - 2 Tim 3:1-7 - But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 **having a form of godliness but denying its power**. Have nothing to do with them. 6 They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, 7 always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.
 - **Not having this this belt made of this material puts us in the wrong place** - John 8:43-45 - 43 Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. 44 **You belong to your father, the devil**, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, **NOT HOLDING TO THE TRUTH**, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me
- ❖ **breastplate of *righteousness***
 - **Our heart must seek God's righteousness** - Matt 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
 - **God knows our hearts** - Matt 23:28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.
 - **How to use the Breastplate to guard our heart** - Phil 3:8-10 - What is more, I **consider** everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. **I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ** 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.
 - **The heart is your life so it must be protected** - Prov 4:23 **ABOVE ALL ELSE**, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.
 - **Ingredients of Righteousness** - 1 Thess 5:8 But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a **breastplate**, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.
- ❖ **feet fitted with the *readiness from the Gospel***
 - **Ready to do good** - Titus 3:1 - Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good,
 - **Ready to grow** - 1 Cor 3:2-3 - 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?
 - **Ready to Minister** - 2 Tim 4:2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.
 - **Just plain ready** - 1 Thess 5:6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us BE ALERT and SELF-CONTROLLED.

*...IN ADDITION TO ALL THIS, take up is what is used for the next items, which means to consciously use.

- ❖ Shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.
 - **We need faith to truly see where we are going** - 2 Cor 5:7 We live by faith, not by sight.
 - **Our faith is our protection from Satan**-1 Peter 5:8-9 - 8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, STANDING FIRM IN THE FAITH, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

**We do not believe to have faith we have faith to believe*
 - **There is one way to get this material of faith** - Rom 10:17 consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. (***This means there is a responsibility to get the Word and accountability to make sure it is the Word of Christ**)
- ❖ helmet of salvation
 - **Our Minds must be set for now** - 2 Cor 6:1-2 - 6:1 As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. 2 For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.
 - **Salvation is a way of life that we have to choose** - Phil 3:18-21 -18 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. THEIR MIND IS ON EARTHLY THINGS. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.
 - **We have to structure our minds to live as Christians**- Phil 2:12-13 -12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence — continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.
 - **The processes of Salvation start when we get saved** - Rom 12:2 -2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.
 - **The renewing is done with the Word** - 2 Tim 3:15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are **ABLE TO MAKE YOU WISE FOR SALVATION THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS.**
- ❖ sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God
 - **We can not win the battle without the weapon** -2 Tim 3:16-17 - 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 **SO THAT** the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
 - **No other weapon has this strength** - Heb 4:12-13 - 12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.
 - **Only the spiritual will work for everything** - 1 Tim 4:8 For physical training is of some value, but **GODLINESS** has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.
 - **How to win the fight every time** - Matt 4:1-11 -Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." 10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.