Dress for Success (Pt. 1 & Pt. 2)

Eph 6:10-17

9/19/21

***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.*

War is never an easy thing, or an agreeable issue. But some wars are inevitable and must be to bring forth freedom from tyranny & bondage. Some wars bring forth freedom, and a proper way of life.

Look at WW2. If we hadn’t won that war, it’s quite possible we’d be speaking another language, and not have the freedoms we currently possess.

War is never an easy thing to go through. Many people have lost their lives, sacrificing themselves for the cause of the war to which they fight, because in their heart they believe in what they are fighting for, whether right or wrong.

But what if I was to tell you today that if you’re a Christian here today, that you are in a war? You’d probably say…Duh. But do you really grasp the seriousness of this war? Do you truly know that you are desired to be defeated and destroyed by a real enemy? An enemy that if not for God’s protection would destroy your very being just for his pleasure; An enemy that we ourselves cannot see, nor defeat…but is already defeated!

**This war is real. This war is Spiritual**

* ***Eph. 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.***

A war that has been ongoing since creation began. But there’s something a little different about this war though…You see this war is already over and won…the victor has been crowned…Jesus Christ!

A couple of years ago when I taught on this, we “declared war” on the enemy as a church. He wasn’t going to win against this place...Guess what...he didn’t, but he tries to occasionally to try things. Might I say today, if you’ve accepted Jesus Christ into your heart & life, and are actively serving Him, you are an enlisted member of this victorious Army…The Lords Army. *Paul tells us “Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.” - 2 Tim. 2:3*

It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to see the chaos and destruction around the world today. In fact, it’s creeped into our living rooms and home. The enemy of God is tromping around bringing destruction any and everywhere possible, to the point where it may cross your mind Christian, Has God really won this thing?

If you’ve been a Christian for 5 minutes, I think it is safe to say, that you know what it means to have been attacked by this enemy. I’d be willing to say that many of us sitting here today are under attack now. You may feel like your Great Britain, being bombed over & over again, with no end in sight. And when it does stop, all you see is destruction in your life. If this is where you’re at today, then I pray you’ll take heed this morning as God shows us how to dress for success & victory! A change if you truly make in a whole new way will make you the defeater, and not the defeated!

Now to prepare to “Dress for Victory & go to battle, we must have Intel, or an idea who it is we’re fighting. So, let’s look at where our enemy came from, why he’s waging war, and what his plan is against you.

Who is this enemy?

* 1 Peter 5:8 says Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.
	+ This enemy is Intimidating, and His Goal is to Destroy Us and Discredit the Cause of Christ. A thief coming to “kill, steal, & destroy”

Who is Satan?

* A created spirit - *Colossians 1:16- For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him,*

Is Satan for Real?

* Genesis 3:1(Cunning Serpent); 1 Chronicles 21:1(He stood up against Israel) Revelation 12:9 (great dragon, called Satan); We know from Matthew 4 – Jesus tempted
* Reality of Demons – in Luke 11:15, he described as “their prince”

We Must Respect Our Foe, but Not Fear Him

* We need become acutely aware of His “Methods,” but not be preoccupied by them.

Ephesians 6:11 - Put on all of **God’s armor** so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

* Notice who’s armor it is...God’s
	+ Sports stars are protected physically (Baseball & Football)
	+ How much more should we be protected spiritually

So let’s look at how to “Dress for Success” and start living in the victory rather than defeat!

**Belt of Truth:**

***14****Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist*

The belt of truth is the first piece of the “full armor of God” listed.

It is fitting that the belt of truth is the first piece of the whole armor of God.

* **Jesus is “the way, the truth, and the life”** (John 14:6), and it is only through Him that we come to God. Therefore, truth is of the utmost importance in the life of a Christian. Without truth, the rest of the armor would be of no use to us because we would not have the Spirit of truth (John 15:26).

In referring to the whole armor of God, Paul invokes the image of a soldier ready for battle. The belt of a Roman soldier in Paul’s day was not a simple leather strap such as we wear today.

* It was a thick, heavy leather and metal band with a protective piece hanging down from the front of it.
* The belt held the soldier’s sword and other weapons. It also, as seen in a bit was attached to the Breastplate.
* The belt of truth of the spiritual armor holds the sword of the Spirit, linking truth and the Word of God. The Word of God is truth.

Depending on the translation of Ephesians 6:14, we are to fasten the belt of truth around us, buckle the belt around our waists (NIV), gird our waists with truth (NKJV), or gird our loins with truth (NASB). No matter the wording, we are to actively lay hold of the truth and use it.

* The belt of truth is a crucial piece of defensive armor guarding our inmost being in the battle against the lies and deceptions of the enemy. Without an understanding of truth, we are left vulnerable to being as Eph. 4:14 says, “carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming.”

The belt of truth protects us and prepares us for the battle know that the “Truth” Jesus Christ has already provided victory for us, and we are fighting FROM victory, not FOR victory!

**The Breastplate of Righteousness:**

*“with the breastplate of righteousness in place”*

A typical armed soldier wore a breastplate made of bronze or chain mail. It covered the vital organs, namely, the heart, and was fitted with loops or buckles that attached it to a thick belt. If the belt was loosened, the breastplate slipped right off. (The Belt of Truth) The breastplate of righteousness refers to the righteousness purchased for us by Jesus at the cross

* *2 Corinthians 5:21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.*

At salvation, a “breastplate” is issued to each repentant sinner. It is specially designed by God to protect our heart and soul from evil and deception.

It’s important to note that our own righteous acts are no match for Satan’s attacks

* *Isaiah 64:6 - We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.*

The breastplate of righteousness has Christ’s name stamped on it, as though He said, “Your righteousness isn’t sufficient to protect you. Wear mine.”

To put on the breastplate of righteousness, we must first have the belt of truth firmly in place. Without truth, our righteousness will be based upon our own attempts to impress God.

* We must choose instead to acknowledge that, apart from Him, we can do nothing
	+ *John 15:5 - Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.*
* We see ourselves as “in Christ” and that, regardless of our failures, His righteousness has been credited to our account.
* Seek God and His righteousness above everything else –
	+ Matthew 6:33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need
* We make Him and His ways our dwelling place –
	+ Psalm 91:1 Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
* We delight in His commands and desire for His ways to become our ways
	+ Psalm 37:4 Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart’s desires.
* When God reveals an area of change to us, we obey and allow Him to work in us. At the point where we say “no” to God, we open a little crack in the armor where Satan’s arrows can get through.

As we wear Christ’s breastplate of righteousness, we begin to develop a purity of heart that translates into actions. Wearing this breastplate creates a lifestyle of putting into practice what we believe in our hearts. As our lives become conformed to the image of Christ our choices & actions become more righteous. And by applying this to our lives will protect us from further temptation and deception. It is vital we keep our breastplate securely fastened.

**Shoes of Peace:**

***5****and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace*

The gospel of peace is the message that Jesus gives to those who trust in Him

* *Romans 10:15 - And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!*

It comes with the assurance from God that we are His children, and nothing can snatch us out of His hands

* *John 10:29 - my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father’s hand.*

It outlines clearly what is required to become a child of God

* *John 1:12 - But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.*

Any other message is a false gospel.

The word readiness implies constant vigilance or alertness.

* A victorious soldier had to be prepared for battle. He had to have studied his enemy’s strategy, be confident in his own strategy, and have his feet firmly planted so that he could hold his ground when the attacks came.
* A soldier’s battle shoes were studded with nails or spikes, like cleats, to help him keep his balance in combat. He knew that, if he lost his footing and went down, it wouldn’t matter how great the rest of his armor was; the enemy had him.
* When we are ready with the gospel of peace, we live with the understanding that we are continually under attack from Satan. But are to pressing on. 2nd Timothy 4:2 says to *“preach the word; be ready in season and out of season.”*

The “shoes” that God supplies His soldiers have two purposes: defensive and offensive.

**Defense**

To defend ourselves against the “flaming arrows of the evil one” we must have confidence of our position in Christ.

**We must stand firm in the truth of God’s Word**, regardless of how terrifying the circumstances may be

* *1 John 5:14 And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him*

**We must understand grace without abusing it**

* *Romans 6:1–2 - Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? 2 Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?*

**Remember that our position is in Christ**; not based on our own abilities or worthiness

* Titus 3:5 - he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.

When Satan attacks with a flaming missile of doubt, such as

* “If God really loved you, He wouldn’t have let this happen,” we dig our peace shoes into the turf of God’s Word and reply,
	+ “It is written: All things work together for the good to them who love God and are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).
* When Satan stabs from behind with “Remember what you did?” we dig in more deeply and reply,
	+ “It is written: If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

**Offense**

In addition to standing our ground, shoes are also for moving.

* God expects us to go on the offensive and take the gospel of peace to others.
	+ First Peter 3:15 says, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”
		- Sharing our faith is one of the best ways to maintain our own sure footing. God knows that, when we are active in speaking of Him to others, we not only charge into Satan’s territory, but we dig our shoes more deeply into truth and will be much harder to dislodge.
	+ When we have “studied to show ourselves approved unto God” (2 Timothy 2:15), we are ready to stand firm in the gospel of peace no matter what the enemy brings against us (2 Thessalonians 2:15).

Don’t forget your shoes, to keep you from being tripped up

**The Shield of Faith:**

*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*

The ESV puts it this way: “In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.”

* The Roman shield of the time was called a scutum (skyoo-tum)
	+ This type of shield was as large as a door and would cover the warrior entirely.
	+ Such a shield was not just defensive but could also be used offensively to push opponents.
	+ When fighting as a group, a phalanx of soldiers could position their shields to form an enclosure around themselves, called a testudo (“tortoise”). This was especially helpful to protect against arrows launched from the walls of cities they were attacking. Shields, often made of wood and then covered in hide, when wet, could extinguish flaming arrows.

Clearly, a shield is vitally important to a soldier.

* It provides a blanket of protection.
* It is meant to be taken up in all circumstances.
* It is the first barrier against the enemy’s attack.
* Often, shields were painted with identifying marks; a Christian who takes up the shield of faith identifies himself as a foot soldier who serves the Commander of the Lord’s army

Hebrews 11:1 says, “*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”* Verse 6 stresses the importance of faith: “Without faith it is impossible to please God.”

* Satan’s attacks can sometimes cause us to doubt God. Faith prompts us to believe God.
	+ We give in to temptation when we believe what it has to offer is better than what God has promised.
* Faith reminds us that, though fulfillment of God’s promise may not be readily visible to us, God is true to His Word.
	+ When Satan attempts to plague us with doubt or entice us with instant gratification, faith recognizes the deceptiveness of his tactics and quickly extinguishes the arrows.
	+ When Satan accuses us, faith chooses to believe that Jesus has redeemed us and that there is no more condemnation
		- *Romans 8:1 - So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.*

Faith is one of the greatest gifts and it is how we receive grace and come into right relationship with God.

* It is because we have been justified through faith that we belong to God and have peace with Him (Romans 5:1).
* Faith is the doorway to hope in God (Romans 5:2).
* Because we have faith in God, our suffering need not faze us; in fact, we can persevere under it (Romans 5:3–5). The things Satan attempts to use to discourage us can become tools in the hands of God.
* All believers have this promise: *“Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith”* (1 John 5:4).

Faith is a protective barrier between us and the schemes of Satan. When we believe God and take Him at His word, we remain grounded in truth, the lies of the enemy lose their power, and we become overcomers. In that way, faith is our shield.

*- Break -*

**The Helmet of Salvation**

***17****Take the helmet of salvation...*

Helmets have been around since the beginning of war. They protect in my opinion the most important part of the body, the brain or mind. If you damage the brain, or mind you’ve damaged the whole body in essence.

* The brain is an organ that serves as the center of the nervous system. The brain of course is in the head, usually close to the sensory organs for senses such as vision. The brain is the most complex organ in a person’s body.
* The cerebral cortex contains approximately 15–33 billion neurons, each connected by synapses to several thousand other neurons. These neurons communicate with one another by means of long protoplasmic fibers called axons, which carry trains of signal pulses called action potentials to distant parts of the brain or body targeting specific recipient cells.
	+ Psalms 139:13-14 - For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

It’s apparent that the mind is very important to our well-being, and survival. Thus, the reason again sports have taken the helmet approach:

* Football
* Baseball
* Motorcycle Riders
* Military

But there is a helmet that is much more important to put on daily in order to survive the war we are in spiritually. The Helmet of Salvation.

In our scripture Paul pictures the Roman soldier’s helmet.

* The helmet had a band to protect the forehead and plates for the cheeks and extended down in back to protect the neck. When the helmet was strapped in place, it exposed little besides the eyes, nose, and mouth. The metal helmets, due to their weight, were lined with sponge or felt. Virtually the only weapons which could penetrate a metal helmet were hammers or axes.

In warfare, the enemy commonly attacked the head since the solder’s mind controlled his decisions and reactions in a fight. To harm the head was to gain an advantage in combat. Sounds like what our enemy, Satan, does huh?

When a soldier suited up for battle, the helmet was the last piece of armor to go on. It was the final act of readiness in preparation for combat. A helmet was vital for survival, protecting the brain, the command station for the rest of the body. Again, if the head is badly damaged, the rest of the armor is of little use.

The assurance of salvation is our impenetrable defense against anything the enemy throws at us. Jesus said, “Don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28).

* The idea in this verse is that, as we prepare for Satan’s attacks, we must grab that helmet and buckle it on tightly. Salvation is not limited to a one-time act of the past or even a future hope. God’s salvation is an ongoing, eternal state that His children enjoy in the present. It is daily protection and deliverance from our sin nature and Satan’s schemes.

Because of the power of the cross, our enemy no longer has any hold on us

* Romans 6:10 - When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God.

Satan knows this, but he also knows that most of God’s children do not know that—or, at least, they do not live as if they know. We must learn to keep our helmets buckled so that his fiery missiles of doubt, & destruction do not lodge in our thoughts and set us on fire. Through this helmet of salvation, we can gain the victory specified in 2 Corinthians 10:5: *“We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”* When we quickly reject profane ideas, ungodly thoughts, and lies and instead “keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith” the enemy loses his power over our mind.

Here are actions we should take to keep this helmet fastened and functioning:

**Renew our minds**.

Our minds are battlefields. The outcomes of those battles determine the course of our lives. Romans 12:1–2 instructs us to renew our minds by allowing the truth of God’s Word to wipe out anything contrary to it.

* Old ideas, opinions, and worldviews must be replaced. We must allow God’s truth to continually wash away the world’s filth, lies, and confusion from our minds and adopt God’s perspective.
	+ 1 Cor. 10:4-5 says: *The weapons of our warfare are not the weapons of the world. Instead, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We tear down arguments, and every presumption set up against the knowledge of God; and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

Start thinking “A new way... Start thinking on Truth & Victory!

**Reject doubts (that arise from circumstances)**.

Human beings are sensory creatures. What we cannot fathom with our five senses, we tend to disregard. If we allow them to, circumstances convince us that God does not really love us or that His Word is not true. It is impossible to have faith and doubt at the same time, but God rewards our faith.

* With the helmet of salvation firmly in place, we can **choose** to believe what appears impossible
	+ *Hebrews 11:6 - And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.*
	+ *1 Peter 1:8–9 –8 You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. 9 The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls*

**Keep an eternal perspective.**

When life crashes in around us, we must remember to look up. Our salvation is the most precious gift we have received. Keeping our eyes and mind on that can help us weather life’s storms.

* We can choose to live our lives by the motto “If it doesn’t have eternal significance, it’s not important”
	+ *Matthew 6:20 - Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.*
	+ *1 Corinthians 3:11–13 - 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. 12 Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. 13 But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person’s work has any value.*

**Remember that victory**(yours)is already accomplished. Sin doesn’t rule us!

When we consider ourselves “dead to sin but alive to God” Romans 6:11 say, we eliminate many of the opportunities Satan uses to entrap us. When choosing that sin is no longer an option for us because we recognize ourselves to be “new creatures” as these say Satan’s loses his power over your mind and thoughts.

* + 2 Corinthians 5:17 - This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!
	+ 1 John 3:9 - Those who have been born into God’s family do not make a practice of sinning, because God’s life is in them. So, they can’t keep on sinning because they are children of God.

Remembering that we ALREADY have Victory, we effectively cut off many avenues of failure.

**Find all our hope in Him**.

Our helmet is most effective when we treasure what it represents. The salvation Jesus purchased for us cannot share the place of importance in our hearts with earthly things. When pleasing the Lord is our supreme & 1st delight and priority, we eliminate many of Satan’s lures and render his evil suggestions powerless. Meaning “I TAKE CONTROL OF MY MIND AND CHOOSE TO PUT GOD WAYS 1ST & THINK ON GODS PROMISES AND VICTORIES OVER MY LIFE!” Not focus on the lies and garbage the enemy try’s to tell me about myself, my situation, or my surroundings...

* Psalm 73:25 says, “Whom have I in heaven but You? Besides you, I desire nothing on earth.”
* Isaiah 26:3 - You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!
* Philippians 4:8 says - And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

As we wear the helmet of salvation every day and keep our thoughts on Him, our minds will become more insulated against the suggestions, lies, desires, and traps the enemy lays for us.

**The Sword of the Spirit: (Word of God)**

This phrase “sword of the Spirit” is found only once in Scripture…Ephesians 6:17.

The sword is both an **offensive and defensive** weapon used by soldiers or warriors.

* Swords were used to protect oneself from harm or to attack the enemy to overcome or kill him.
* In both cases it was necessary for a soldier to get rigid training on the proper use of the sword to get maximum protection.

All Christian soldiers need the same rigid training to know how to properly handle the Sword of the Spirit, “which is the word of God.”

The sword that Paul refers to here is the Holy Scriptures. We know from 2 Timothy 3:16–17 which says “*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.*

* Since every Christian is involved spiritual battle with the satanic and evil forces of this world, we need to know how to handle the Word properly. Only then will it be an effective defense against evil, but it will also be an offensive weapon we can use to “demolish strongholds” of error and falsehood
	+ *2 Corinthians 10:4–5 - We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. 5 We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.*

Remember how Christ defeated Satan when He was being tempted...by God’s Word. We need to learn to live, walk, and speak the Word of God to defeat the enemy and his swings at us.

God refers to His Word as a sword in Hebrews 4:12.

* Here the Word is described as “*living and active and sharper than a double-edged sword.”*
* The Roman sword was commonly made in this manner.
	+ The fact that it had two edges made it easier to penetrate, as well as to cut in every way. The idea is that of piercing or penetrating; the Word of God reaches the “heart,” the very center of action, and lays open the motives and feelings of those it touches.

The purpose of the sword of the Spirit—the Bible—is to make us strong and able to withstand the evil onslaughts of Satan, our enemy

* *Psalm 119:11 - I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*
* *Psalm 119:33–40 - Teach me your decrees, O Lord; I will keep them to the end. 34 Give me understanding and I will obey your instructions; I will put them into practice with all my heart. 35 Make me walk along the path of your commands, for that is where my happiness is found. 36 Give me an eagerness for your laws rather than a love for money! 37 Turn my eyes from worthless things, and give me life through your word. 38 Reassure me of your promise, made to those who fear you. 39 Help me abandon my shameful ways; for your regulations are good. 40 I long to obey your commandments! Renew my life with your goodness.,*

The Holy Spirit uses the power of the Word to save souls and then to give them spiritual strength to be mature soldiers for the Lord in fighting this corrupt and evil world we live in.

* The more we know and understand the Word of God, the more useful we will be in doing the will of God and the more effective we will be in standing against the enemy of our souls.

Closing:

We are instructed to “put on” this armor… Putting on the armor of God requires a decision on our part, and quite honestly if you don’t, no wonder you’re always feeling defeated. All the pieces of the armor belong to Him and come from Him. God has given us the tools to live successful and victoriously in Him. Truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, and salvation—all are gifts of God to His people for their defense.

He knows the battles you are facing even today, thus the reason He has equipped you for victory, despite the intensity of this day. Remember, you are fighting FROM Victory, not for victory.

* The enemy is a liar, and the father of all lies.
* God does care about the war wounds you’ve got, the feeling of defeat your feeling, but we must put on the armor to protect ourselves before we’re in the heat of the battle, so we not overcome by the enemy’s tactics and lies…

2 men were fighting at a bar, and the bodyguard was struggling to get control of the situation, so the police were called. A few minutes went by, and up drove the police car, but the men continued to scuffle. When the police stepped up to the scene the individual, who was alone, called out “Gentlemen, stand down! All the sudden, the men stopped and looked over to the person calling out, only to notice a 4’ 11” police woman with her hand on her weapon, ready to draw if needed. She called them both to the car and told them to put their hands on the car, and they reluctantly did as told and the she was successful.

You see, there was authority with that badge and weapon she had. In the same way Christian, it is time to begin walking in the Authority & Victory we have been given to us by God Himself! He wants you to walk in His promises, in His Victory, and not live defeated and destroyed...You are a Child of the Most High, and a Soldier in the Lords Army!

So today, stop letting the lying devil take what’s yours! – Put on the:

* *Belt of Truth* - The truth the Jesus Christ has already won, making you victorious!
* *Breast Plate of Righteousness* - Creating a lifestyle of putting into practice what we believe in our hearts as we live through Christs’ righteousness and truth.
* *The Shoes of Peace* - Helping us stand FIRM defensively & offensively.
* *The Shield of Faith –* Faith is a protective barrier between us and the schemes of Satan. When we believe God and take Him at His word, we remain grounded in truth, enemy loses his power, and we become overcomers.
* *Helmet of Salvation -* Taking control of my thinking and mind to choose to put Gods way 1st, remembering His promises and the victory I have through Him. Not focusing and dwelling on the lies of the enemy.
* *Sword of the Spirit –* Learn to use the Power of God’s Word over your life. Stop allowing the devil to tell you the Word and learn to use to defeat him and shut him up!

As we are being continually “Transformed by Fire”, you better believe the enemy is not happy about your decision to become like Christ. And he’s really unhappy about you not “Harboring sin” anymore...That’s ok...We’re DECLARING WAR on the enemy and we’re no longer going to live in failure, defeat, and in survival mode. Today is a new day, and we’re going to start living successful, victoriously, and thriving as we DAILY “Dress for Success”!!!!