

Six Aspects of the Armor of God (Eph. 6:14-17)

I. REVIEW

¹⁰...*be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.* ¹¹*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.* ¹²*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against [demonic] principalities, against powers...against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.* ¹³*Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.* ¹⁴*Stand therefore... (Eph. 6:10-14)*

- A. Paul emphasized the need to “stand” 3 times within 4 verses. This is the primary command in this passage. Paul emphasized this often in his letters as it is one of the necessities for a life and heart to thrive in the midst of a wicked and perverse generation.
- B. Paul describes the “armor of God,” using the metaphor of a Roman soldier’s armor to illustrate how believers can stand firm against spiritual opposition. Each of the six elements represents a spiritual truth that equips us to stand firm and advance the kingdom of God. They highlight God's power and our responsibility to regularly apply these truths.
- C. We stand *in grace* (Rom 5:1-2), *in faith* (2 Cor 1:24), *in liberty* (Gal 5:1), *in one spirit* (Phil 1:27), *perfect and complete* (Col 4:12), *holding fast the taught traditions* (2 Thes 2:15), *against the wiles of the devil* (Eph 6:11), and *by putting on the whole armor of God* (Eph 6:13)
- D. We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities.

II. SIX ASPECTS OF THE ARMOR OF GOD

¹⁴*Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,* ¹⁵*and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;* ¹⁶*above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.* ¹⁷*And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;* ¹⁸*praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. (Eph. 6:14-18)*

- A. The different parts of the believer’s armor illustrates the total equipment provided by God, and shows what it means to do all necessary for battle as the way one stands.
- B. **Six aspects:** 1) Gird your waist with truth 2) Put on the breastplate of righteousness 3) Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace 4) Take the shield of faith 5) Take the helmet of salvation 6) Sword of the Spirit

III. GIRD YOUR WAIST WITH TRUTH (6:14)

- A. To gird ourselves in truth is to wrap it around our waist like a belt. Paul was referring to the thick belt the Roman soldier placed around his waist. His sword was attached to this belt. The breastplate was attached to this belt. In preparing for battle, they raised their loose robes above the knees and fastened them with a belt. The first piece of the armor, which holds all together for battle, is the belt.

***35 Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; 36 and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately.* (Lk 12:35)**

- B. It is the belt of truth. The truth is what the rest of the armor hangs and builds upon. We must embrace the truth about Jesus. His person, His work, and His ways.

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life...” (Jn 14:6)

- C. We speak and walk in the truth of what He says about us. If He says, “you are dark but lovely” it is true. If he says, “I delight in You” it is true. Jesus never flatters or exaggerates in any way. He is the truth and cannot contradict himself. If He says it, it is fully accurate, sound, and true. When he says, “feed my sheep” you are qualified to feed His sheep. When He says, “I delight in mercy” He truly takes pleasure in extending forgiveness and displaying His heart. When He says, “unwavering faith” then faith didn’t waver. When the Lord tells Gideon you are a “Mighty man of valor” He is not hoping Gideon will someday step into His calling but rather speaking the truth of who Gideon is.

He (Abraham) did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. (Rom 4:20)

12 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him (Gideon), “The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!” (Judges 6:12)

- D. We declare the truth about what He says about others. Since it is true that he delights, in us though we are weak, it is true that He delights in others when they are weak. Even when their weakness seems to find expression directly against us.
- E. Walk in truth in our personal life with godly sincerity and transparency with God.

***6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.* (Ps 51:6)**

9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” (Jer 17:9)

8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true... meditate on these things. (Phil 4:9)

IV. PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (6:14):

- A. The breastplate protected the heart and vital organs from injury. The breastplate covered the soldier's body from the neck to the thighs. Righteousness guards the believer's heart. This includes both Jesus' imputed righteousness given to us freely because of the cross and our practical righteousness in obeying the Spirit's leadership. It protects from guilt and compromise.
- B. *Imputed Righteousness*: This includes the righteousness put to our account in Christ by faith. This refers to our Spirit's legal standing before the father. Our Spirit has the full righteousness of Christ right now. Because of the blood we stand clean before the Father.

4 Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes... 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Rom 10:4, 10)

9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith. (Phil 3:9)

30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God - and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. (1 Cor 1:30)

- C. *Practical (Imparted) Righteousness*: This includes the righteousness that we walk in during the process of sanctification.

17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God... (Rom 14:17-18)

33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." 34 Awake to righteousness, and do not sin... (1 Cor 15:33-34)

11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness...(1 Tim 6:11)

- D. Accusation can not have it's full effect on us because we are clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Both the righteousness in our legal position and living condition are of paramount important to defend our hearts against the fiery darts of the devil. Our breastplate is impenetrable. No accusation from Satan or men can hurt our walk with God because we're clothed in Jesus' righteousness.
- E. In the armor of a Roman soldier, the frontal metal breastplate protected the chest, lungs, and heart. Walking in righteousness is vital in our fight against the powers of evil.

23 Keep your heart with all diligence.. (Pr 4:23)

V. YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE (6:15)

- A. A Roman soldier wore thick-soled sandals studded with sharp thick nails to increase traction by being embedded for traction by gripping the ground firmly so that when it was sloping or slippery they were steady. The sandal was laced to the foot and lower leg with leather straps enabling one to quickly traverse many terrains. Surprising their enemy by coming so fast and able to fight on rough and rocky highlands terrains. The gospel that has brought peace to the Christian enables him or her to stand firmly against temptation.
- B. **The Gospel of Peace:** The gospel is the good news. The proclamation of the soon arrival of the king. This includes the proclamation and announcement regarding His first coming, and all that He accomplished, and also all that He will accomplish at His second coming. At His first coming He brought His kingdom and made a way for us to have peace with God in our Spirit man. At His second coming He will remove all that hinders love so that His peace can have full expression in the natural created order bringing all of humanity into agreement with His leadership.

7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end (Is 9:7)

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men! (Lk 2:14)

- C. **Feet shod with the preparation...**: The believer must be ready in season and out. We must be prepared with the Gospel at all times. This preparedness means being ready with the good news of peace at all times to combat the enemy assaults and accusations. The mind is to be steadied and kept from fear by the the good news that we are at peace with God.

2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season... (2 Tim 4:2)

7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things... who says to Zion, “ Your God reigns!” (Is 52:7)

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (Mt 5:9)

- D. We are to be prepared to share the gospel at all times and it's also this message of the gospel of peace that prepares hearts and minds to be without offense at His return.

VI. NEXT WEEK

- A. Shield of Faith
- B. Helmet of Salvation
- C. Sword of the Spirit