

## *Six Aspects of the Armor of God* (continued)

### I. REVIEW

<sup>10</sup>...*be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.* <sup>11</sup>*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.* <sup>12</sup>*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against [demonic] principalities, against powers...against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.* <sup>13</sup>*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.* <sup>14</sup>*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. 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)
- C. We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities.

<sup>14</sup>*Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,* <sup>15</sup>*and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;* <sup>16</sup>*above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.* <sup>17</sup>*And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;* <sup>18</sup>*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)

- D. 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.
- E. **Girded your waist with truth:** 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.
- F. **Put on the breastplate of righteousness:** 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.

- G. **Shod your feet with the preparation of 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.

## II. TAKING THE SHIELD OF FAITH (6:16)

***<sup>16</sup>above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. (Eph 6:16)***

- A. **Shield of Faith:** With the shield of faith we are able to quench all the flaming arrows of the wicked one. Living active faith in God's heart, promises, character, and power hinders the enemy's lies and accusations against us in seeking to harm us with a spirit of condemnation.
- B. The kingdom life is a life of faith from beginning to end. We enter the kingdom through faith. While in the kingdom we are to walk by faith. We have access into grace to stand by faith. Faith is the prerequisite to bringing pleasure to the heart of God.

***8 For by grace you have been saved through faith... (Eph 2:8)***

***7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Cor 5:7)***

***2 Through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (Rom 5:2)***

***6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Her 11:6)***

- C. **Able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one:** There is nothing you can not overcome in the grace of God. If there is a flaming arrow of doubt or fear coming at your life the Lord has provided the means of defense. With the shield of faith you are able to quench ALL the fiery darts from the devil.

***13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (1 Cor 10:13)***

- D. **Fiery darts:** "Burning arrows" are arrows tipped with flammable tow or pitch and shot off after being lit. These arrows, even when not hitting the body but caught by the shield, caused panic because they blazed fiercely and tempted soldiers to throw down their burning shields and become vulnerable to the spears of their enemies.

**18 Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death, 19 Is the man who deceives his neighbor, and says, “I was only joking” (Pr 26:18-19)**

**5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity... (James 3:5-6)**

- E. Fiery darts set the mind and emotions on fire with flaming lust, greed, envy, pride, revenge, etc. In the devil's quiver there are all many types fiery missiles and faith is the tool that fends off and quenches the flaming arrows.
- F. The shields had hooks at the top, bottom and sides that allowed them to be locked together. When we lock our shields of faith together we are “more than conquerors” (Rom 8:37).

### III. TAKE THE HELMET OF SALVATION (6:17)

- A. The helmet protects the mind—guarding our assurance, identity, and hope in Christ. A Roman soldier wore a helmet to protect his neck and head. This helmet protected him from a sword stroke that would have otherwise been fatal. We are protected from the death blows of the enemy.

**8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. (1 Thes 5:8)**

- B. This helmet includes all aspects of salvation and protects our mind from all the enemy's assaults. We can have confidence in what Christ:
  - 1. **Has done:** We are fully justified right now because what He has already accomplished on the cross. We have been redeemed and reconciled back to the Father. This aspect of our salvation is complete and assured. Our past is seen and evaluated through the blood of Jesus.

**10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Rom 10:10)**

**9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation... (Heb 5:9)**

- 2. **Is doing:** Right now we are being sanctified transformed more and more into His likeness and delivered from circumstances, attack, and hardship. At times we are not even aware when the Lord is actively saving us from this attack.

**9 This will turn out for my salvation through your prayer (Phil 1:9)**

**71 That we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. (Lk 1:71)**

- 3. **What He will do:** We will be glorified. All believers will be saved from this mortal body and put on the immortal. The corruptible will put on incorruption and we will be saved and He will put an end to all rule and authority that opposes Him.

*20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the first fruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts and end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. (1 Cor 15:20-26)*

- C. The enemy tries to cancel you because of your past failures. He tries to disillusion you regarding the current wrestle and tries to get you into despair regarding your future.

#### IV. TAKE THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT (6:17)

- A. The only offensive weapon that is highlighted here is the Word (Greek: *rhema*). We are to use **God's Word actively in spiritual warfare**, as Jesus did against Satan in the wilderness. It cuts through lies and brings victory. God's Word is our weapon against temptation and deception. The Greek word *rhema* implies spoken or applied Scripture in specific situations.
- B. Example of Logos repelling spiritual foes is in Mt. 4:4 when Jesus quoted Deut. 8:3. "Word" (Gr. *rhema*) refers to the utterance of God rather the written Word (Gr. *logos*). It refers to the words of Scripture used to counteract the particular temptation we face. In other words, it is to appropriate Scripture being spoken in a given temptation. Jesus used the Scripture to repulse the tempter, so must we.

*4 But He answered and said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." (Mt 4:4)*

*6 "and said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down, For it is written; 'He shall give His angels charge over You,' and 'In their hands they shall bear You up, Lest You dash Your foot against a stone'" Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'" (Mt 4:6-7)*

*10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" (Mt 4:10)*

- V. **Praying always (6:18)**: with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. (6:18) Prayer and alertness describe how we "receive" salvation appropriate to our trial. We are in constant prayer in preparation for our spiritual battles as we engage our enemy. The Spirit prays for us (Rom. 8:26) and enables us to pray, as He enables us to do everything else. Prayer refers to our communication with God and petition to our supplications. Prayer is mightier than all the embattled artillery of hell." Shield of Faith