

# The Whole Armor of God (Ephesians 6:13-18)

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## I. The five 'walks' and the three 'stands'

Eph 4:1 ...walk worthy...

Eph 4:17 ...walk not as other Gentiles...

Eph 5:2 ...walk in love...

Eph 5:8 ...walk as children of light:

Eph 5:15 ...walk circumspectly...

Eph 6:11 ...stand against the wiles of the devil.

Eph 6:13 ...and having done all, to stand.

Eph 6:14 Stand therefore...

## II. Take the whole armor—To be able to withstand—And in order to stand

Eph 6:13 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.

### A. Wherefore (Why would we need such armour of God?)

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood...

### B. The great power that is in the whole armour of God

2Co 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

## III. We need to put on six pieces of armor—And then pray hard

### 1) THE BELT OF TRUTH

Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...

#### A. Is this objective truth (as God's word is truth or the truth of the gospel)?

Joh 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

#### B. Or is this subjective truth (as truthfulness, realness, being without hypocrisy)?

Php 1:18 ...whether in pretence, or in truth...

Mat 23:14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer...

### McClaren

The question immediately arises as to whether truth here means objective truth—the truth of the Gospel, or subjective truth, or, as we are accustomed to say, truthfulness.

Absolute sincerity and transparent truthfulness may well be regarded as the girdle which encloses and keeps secure every other Christian grace and virtue.

If we have made God's truth our own, and are faithfully applying it to the details of daily life and submitting our whole selves to its operation, we shall be truthful and shall instinctively shrink from all unreality.

There are many of us who, in a real though terribly imperfect sense, hold the truth, but who know nothing, or next to nothing, of its power to make us truthful.

### 2) THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Eph 6:14 ...and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Isa 64:6 ...and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags...

**Rom 3:20** Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

**Rom 3:21** But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

**Rom 3:22** Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe...

**Clarke**

...consciousness of justification through the blood of the cross...

**Gill**

...it seems best to understand this of the righteousness of Christ, which being imputed by God, and received by faith, is a guard against, and repels the accusations and charges of Satan, and is a security from all wrath and condemnation.

**Henry**

The righteousness of Christ imputed to us is our breast-plate against the arrows of divine wrath. The righteousness of Christ implanted in us is our breast-plate to fortify the heart against the attacks which Satan makes against us.

**3) THE SHOES OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE**

**Eph 6:15** And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

**Clarke**

The Israelites were commanded to eat the passover with their feet shod, to show that they were ready for their journey. And our Lord commands his disciples to be shod with sandals, that they might be ready to go and publish the Gospel, as the Israelites were to go to possess the promised land.

**Gill**

...the constant and firm standing of believers in the faith of the Gospel, and so striving and contending for it, without being moved from it, that it may continue with them.

**Isa 52:7** How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

**Luk 15:22** But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put *it* on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet:

**Psa 119:105** Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

**McClaren**

...the Gospel was a peace-bringing power, in the midst of this picture of fighting. Yes, it brings both. It brings us peace first, and then it says to us, 'Now, having got peace in your heart, because of peace with God, go out and fight to keep it.' For, if we are warring with the devil we are at peace with God; and if we are at peace with the devil we are warring with God.

**4) THE SHIELD OF FAITH—(A 'Fiery-Dart-Quencher')**

**Eph 6:16** Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

'*Shield*'—(Greek *thureos*) a large long shield; from the root word for door

**McClaren**

...the act of faith properly belongs, not to the act itself, but to that with which the act brings us into connection.

**Gen 15:1** After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I *am* thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

**Joh 16:33** These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

**1Jn 5:4** For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

**1Jn 5:5** Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

**Heb 11:24** By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

**Heb 11:25** Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

**Heb 11:26** Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

**Heb 11:27** By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

**5) THE HELMET OF SALVATION**

**Eph 6:17** And take the helmet of salvation...

**1Th 5:8** But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

### **Barnes**

The idea is, that a well-founded hope of salvation will preserve us in the day of spiritual conflict, and will guard us from the blows which an enemy would strike.

### **Henry**

A good hope of salvation, well founded and well built, will both purify the soul and keep it from being defiled by Satan, and it will comfort the soul and keep it from being troubled and tormented by Satan.

**Heb 6:17** Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath:

**Heb 6:18** That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

**Heb 6:19** Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast...

**Rom 8:24** For we are saved by hope...

## **6) THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT—THE WORD OF GOD**

**Eph 6:17** ...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

### **Clarke (He ties the sword of the Spirit with the shield of faith.)**

The shield, faith, and the sword - the word of God, or faith in God's unchangeable word, are the principal armor of the soul. He in whom the word of God dwells richly, and who has that faith by which he knows that he has redemption, even the forgiveness of sins, need not fear the power of any adversary. He stands fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made him free.

### **McClaren (He ties the sword of the Spirit with the helmet of the hope of salvation.)**

The two final parts of the Christian armour are God's gifts, pure and simple—salvation and the word of God.

The more assured we are in our own happy consciousness of possessing the salvation of God, the more shall we be defended from all the temptations that seek to stir...

The last word to be said is, Live in frequent anticipation of that perfect future.

### **Henry**

Scripture-arguments are the most powerful arguments to repel temptation with. Christ himself resisted Satan's temptations with, *It is written*...

**Mat 4:4** But he answered and said, **It is written**, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

### **Barnes**

A single text of Scripture is better to meet a temptation, than all the philosophy which the world contains. The tempter can reason, and reason plausibly too. But he cannot resist a direct and positive command of the Almighty. Had Eve adhered simply to the Word of God, and urged his command, without attempting to "reason" about it...

**Gen 3:1** Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

### **God's word: The wonder of it—The importance of it—The power in it**

**2Ti 3:16** All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

**2Ti 3:17** That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

**Joh 4:23** ...true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth...

**1Ti 3:15** ...the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

**Joh 8:31** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;

**Joh 8:32** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

**Joh 17:17** Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

**Rom 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

**Rom 1:17** For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

## **7) PRAYING ALWAYS—WITH ALL PRAYERS—FOR ALL SAINTS**

**Eph 6:18** Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

**Eph 6:19** And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

Eph 6:20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

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