

nov 21, 2022

the armor of God

"put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." eph 6:11

there is an unseen realm all around us. most believers live oblivious to it. we are geared more to a "sense" world - one we can see, touch, taste or smell. so much is taking place in the atmosphere around us that is totally lost to the physical eye. why? because they are spiritually discerned.

can one see a radio broadcast? and yet we can hear it plainly. can one see a television signal being sent out over the air waves, and yet our eyes have a picture to perceive. wi-fi is all around us. there is also in this unseen realm a great confrontation between the forces of satan and the forces of God.

our heavenly Father knows this and He has not left us ill-equipped. the apostle paul provides us with a descriptive analogy of how one is to prepare for the battle and tells us to put on the armor of God ... the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit. these help us withstand the wiles of the devil and they must be put on in prayer.

the belt is made up of truth. there is no defeating the devil if we do not begin with the Word of God. lies, deception and confusion would quickly envelope

the ill prepared.

the breastplate of righteousness is Christ's imputed righteousness for us. it is His own righteousness that protects us and not ours. it is Him alone that purchased it for us.

we must make sure our feet are shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. there can never be outward peace with others until we have an inward peace with ourselves. this is impossible unless we come to the Prince of Peace.

next our prayer journey takes us to the shield of faith. when the enemy hurls darts of fire, venom and accusations we can confidently claim, "there is now no condemnation," (rom 8:1) or "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins." 1 john 1:9

we must also put on the helmet of salvation. so often the battle takes places in our minds and we need to "guard our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." phil 4:7

now fully dressed, we take up the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. the sword is the only offensive tool listed, all others are defensive. the Word of God is the most powerful weapon we possess; that and the name of Jesus.

so now that we are fully geared up, what is our assignment? many do not know where the battle is or even that there is one. no, it is not against flesh and blood. it takes place in the spirit realm and must

be entered with prayer and supplication. prayer is the battlefield of the christian life.

there is no draft for this war. it is strictly a volunteer army. "Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power; in the beauties of holiness." psa 110:3 the next battle is coming whether one wants it or not. your victory may well depend on how you are equipped.

onward, christian soldiers,  
marching as to war,  
with the cross of Jesus  
going on before!

i remember years ago when i first started this walk of faith. i was unsure as i timidly began to exercise the power that is in the name of Jesus. there was a large pecan tree in our front yard and it had become infested with bagworms. knowing they could do much damage, i stood at the base of the tree and commanded them to fall to the ground and bear no fruit.

nothing happened but then the fig tree Jesus cursed wasn't visible until the next day either. to tell the truth, i then forgot all about it. a few days later when i was coming home, i happened to glance at the tree and sure enough, the bagworms had all fallen to the ground and the tree foliage was free of them. just a coincidence? it's strange how the world always seems to find a logical explanation for divine intervention.