

apr 20

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

i don't know how closely everyone has paid attention to the logo of this ministry, but it includes a pictorial representation of the armor of God depicted in the scriptures. you see, the founder of this ministry was a deliverance minister herself. she operated in the gift of discernment which the Holy Spirit furnishes. i can still remember her saying that she learned deliverance through experience because she needed so much of it herself.

the fact is, this is a gift of grace and it is afforded to all the saints. some are just used in it more than others, perhaps their willingness being the only determined factor. do you need confirmation of that? "to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute on them the written judgment - this honor have all His saints." psa 149:8-9

let us get on with discussion of the armor before this daily gets way too long to hold one's attention. the armor: the belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of the gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of the Spirit: Word of God - these are the weapons we battle with.

the belt of truth

the first piece of the armor is the belt of truth.

truth, by its very definition, is exclusive. it means something is true, and other things are lies. the evil one is the father of lies. every lie finds its origin in him.

some translations use a phrase like: 'having girded your loins with truth'. the loin is an uncommon term in modern vernacular. it refers to the lower back but includes the crotch area. in ancient days, men would wear long robes that would get in the way of work or fighting, so they would wrap up the long, draping material. this was girding up one's loins. the Lord knew our loins needed to be wrapped in truth. regardless of our culture or time, the Lord has seen all our paths and how they have hurt and derailed us. He knows we need truth.

our identity is more than our sexuality, but this is one facet of our lives that we often view as a definer. the first area of life in which the enemy frequently attempts to rattle is our sense of identity. and the things pertaining to sex are easy pickings for him. we see that happening way too often these days. we need freedom regarding sexuality. we need the truth about who we are. and only Jesus is the truth that sets us free.

breastplate of righteousness

righteousness means being made right. we all carry the inherent righteousness of Christ but also indulge in the righteousness of the saints. in daily spiritual battles, both varieties of righteousness protect the heart. we need the complete righteousness of Christ but also the continuing righteousness that comes as a

response to God's gift. the enemy tempts us with all kinds of sinful entanglements, but righteousness protects our hearts. God's instructions are often viewed as killjoys or burdens. but obedience to God protects your heart from being wounded by sin.

soak in and obey instructions from the Lord. if an area of life feels like it gets easily tangled up in sin, ask a church leader to share some scriptural truths that might help you walk in the Lord's plan more fully. ask a trusted person to pray for you if you struggle with obedience. all Christians struggle, but none were meant to struggle alone. we make easy targets for the enemy when we do not obey God.

shoes of the gospel of peace

the gospel, which means good news, is the forgiveness of sins and access to and oneness with God through faith in Christ. this oneness with the Lord produces peace. ephesians repeatedly reminds us to "stand" and "stand firm." one of the easiest ways for the enemy to succeed in shaking us loose from standing firm is to tempt us with worry. when we carry anxiousness and worry with us, we are robbed of peace. but the gospel of peace keeps our feet anchored and standing firm.

ask the daily Lord to remind you of His gospel work on your behalf. set your security and identity in His work and not yours. surround yourself with scripture about the truth of your place with Christ into your heart, and remove the input that steals your sense of security in Christ.

shield of faith

when paul wrote this passage, roman soldiers carried shields that were covered with heavy animal hide. before a battle, they would dip their shields into the water so that when fiery darts hit them, the wet hide would extinguish the darts. similarly, a christian's shield of faith needs to be regularly dipped in the water of God's word to be replenished and fully functional – because "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God." rom 10:17

"faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." heb 11:1 certainly there are gifts of faith God grants someone for a particular situation, but the norm is to feed one's faith continually with the word of God. the righteousness of God is revealed to us from faith to faith and "the just shall live by faith." rom 1:17

helmet of salvation

salvation comes the moment we place our trust in Jesus' death and resurrection as the payment for our sin. but salvation is also worked out through a lengthy process of sanctification. the helmet of salvation (like the breastplate of righteousness) rests on the work of Christ to save us, but also involves us as we journey with the Lord and allow Him to work that salvation into every part of our thoughts. the battlefield of our mind is the primary place spiritual battle is fought. the Lord works His freeing truth into our perspectives while the enemy fights for strongholds to bind us.

surrender thoughts that don't line up with scripture. "set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." col 3:2 we are told to take every thought

capture. remember the Lord's character and faithfulness in scripture as well as in your life experiences. wash your mind with the renewing of God's word, resulting in His good, pleasing, and perfect will.

sword of the Spirit: Word of God
the explanation of this piece of armor is right there in the verse - it is the word of God. when we are tempted, the most effective weapon that God has given to us as believers is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Jesus modeled this so beautifully during His temptation in the wilderness. when the devil tried temptation after temptation against Him, Jesus used the sword of the Spirit. when the devil tempted him three times, Jesus responded with the truth of God's word - every time.

the word of God - it is the only piece of armor that is both defensive and offensive. with it we defend attackers and go on the offensive our self. "for the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." heb 4:12 it is the rock we stand on and defend to the end. it is the truth, light, goodness and grace we allow to grow and multiply within us.

hosea 4:6 says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." part of that needed knowledge is to dress one's self up in the armor provided for the battle we are in and that battle is spiritual. that's where warfare takes place and victories are won. souls are

freed and truths defended. now that you're fully armored up, you are ready to stand firm, ready for all and any attack the enemy may launch. God is so good!