

Series: Wealth and Walk of a Christian  
“Spiritual Warfare: The Armor” # 25  
Eph. 6:13-17  
2-4-18 Sun AM

In these closing verses of the letter, Paul discussed 3 aspects of the believers spiritual war- The adversary, the armor, and the activity, so we can walk in victory.

Since we are fighting against enemies in the spirit world, we need the armor God has provided for us, and we dare not omit any part. Satan looks for that unguarded area where he can get a beachhead.

Paul commanded his readers to put on the 6 pieces of armor, take the weapons, and withstand Satan, all of which we do by faith. The Armor is Jesus Christ Himself

### **I. The Girdle of Truth (6:14a; 4:21).**

Jesus is truth and Satan is a liar, but the believer whose life is controlled by truth will defeat him. We have truth and need to practice the truth.

1. The girdle holds the other parts of the armor together, and truth is the integrating force in the life of the victorious Christian.
2. The girdle also held the sword. Unless we practice the truth, we cannot use the Word of truth. Once a lie gets into the life of a believer, everything begins to fall apart.

### **II. The Breastplate of Righteousness (6:14b)**

This piece of armor, made of metal plates or chains, covered the body from the neck to the waist, both front and back. It symbolizes the believer's righteousness in Christ (**2 Cor. 5:21**) as well as his righteous life in Christ (**Eph. 4:24**).

Satan is the accuser, but he cannot accuse the believer who is living a godly life in the power of the Spirit. The life we live either fortifies us against Satan's attacks or makes it easier for him to defeat us.

When Satan accuses the Christian, it is the righteousness of Christ that assures the believer of his salvation.

This does not refer to imputed righteous or our standing before God, we have this righteousness permanently. This refers to our positional righteousness or state in Christ. Without practical righteousness in the daily life we give Satan opportunity to attack us.

### **III. The Shoes of the Gospel (6:15).**

The Roman soldier wore sandals with hobnails in the soles to give him better footing for the battle. If we are going to “stand” and “withstand,” then we need the shoes of the Gospel for sure footing.

But the shoes have another meaning. We must be prepared each day to share the Gospel of peace with a lost world. The most victorious Christian is a witnessing Christian. If we wear the shoes of the Gospel, then we have the “beautiful feet” mentioned in **Rom. 10:15**.

Because we have the peace with God that comes from the Gospel, we need not fear the attack of Satan or men. We must have the peace of God and with each other if we are to defeat the devil.

#### **IV. The Shield of Faith (6:16).**

The shield was large, usually about four feet by two feet, made of wood, and covered with tough leather. As the soldier held it before him, it protected him from spears, arrows, and “fiery darts.”

The edges of these shields were so constructed that an entire line of soldiers could interlock shields and march into the enemy like a solid wall. We as Christians are not alone.

The “faith” mentioned here is not saving faith, but rather living faith, a trust in the promises and the power of God. Faith is a defensive weapon which protects us from Satan’s fiery darts.

In Paul’s day arrows were dipped in some inflammable substance and ignited and shot at the enemy. Satan shoots “fiery darts” at our hearts and minds: lies, sinful thoughts, hateful thoughts about others, doubts, and burning desires for sin.

#### **V. The Helmet of Salvation (6:17a).**

Satan wants to attack the mind, that is battlefield. The helmet refers to the mind controlled by God. When God controls the mind, Satan cannot lead the believer astray.

The Christian who studies his Bible and learns the meaning of Bible doctrines is not going to be led astray too easily. We need to be “taught by Him as the truth is in Jesus” (**Eph. 4:21**).

#### **VI. The Sword of the Spirit (6:17b).**

This sword is the offensive weapon God provides us. The Roman soldier wore on his girdle a short sword which was used for close-in fighting.

**Heb. 4:12** compares the Word of God to a sword, because it is sharp and is able to pierce the inner man.

A material sword pierces the body, but the Word of God pierces the heart. The more you use a physical sword, the duller it becomes; but using God's Word only makes it sharper in our lives.

A physical sword wounds to hurt and kill, while the sword of the Spirit wounds to heal and give life. But when we use the sword against Satan, we are out to deal him a blow that will cripple him and keep him from hindering God's work.

Interestingly, Paul mentions no armor for the backside. That's because we are to stand our ground and advance with the gospel (v.13).

In one sense, the "whole armor of God" is a picture of Jesus Christ. Christ is the Truth, and He is our righteousness and our peace. His faithfulness makes possible our faith; He is our salvation; and He is the Word of God.

This means that when we trusted Christ, we received the armor by position but metaphorically we "put on" the Lord Jesus Christ by practice.

We are never out of reach of Satan's devices and attacks, so we must never be without the whole armor of God.