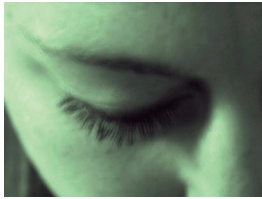


The enemy is not threatened by the word of man. Further, it is vain to attempt to do the *works* of Jesus without the *Word* of Jesus. As the "belt of truth" can refer to the commitment of taking in and gaining a general knowledge of the Word of God, the "sword of the Spirit" refers to applying a specific scriptural truth to a specific situation as directed by the Holy Spirit. An excellent example of the use of the sword of the Spirit is how Jesus used the Word of God to overcome Satan when tempted in the desert (cf., Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13).



An Armor Prayer

"Dear Lord, I quiet myself before you - you who are my fortress and peace in the midst of the battle. As I go forth today, grace me to be strong in you. I praise you and thank you that you are in me and go with me everywhere. I will be strong in your mighty power. Please anoint me afresh with your awesome Spirit.

Thank you for the armor which you have prepared for me. I praise you Lord that you have provided me with what I need to stand fast against the devil's schemes. I now take up each piece and put it on.

I take up the *belt of truth* and buckle it on. I am so thankful for the Word of God. Please renew my mind and instruct my heart with it for your glory. Today I will walk according to the Truth, for I know that on that path alone is real freedom. I will also walk in truthfulness. I now confess and repent of any hypocrisy or breach of integrity. I will seek to live truthfully before you and others.

I put on the *breastplate of righteousness*. Once again I reflect and rely upon the fact that you



have covered me in your righteousness. I do not go forth today because I myself am worthy. You are my righteousness, and you have made me worthy to worship and represent you by grace. Because I am in Christ, I am eternally loved and totally accepted by God!

I now apply the gospel of peace as needed in order that my *feet are fitted for readiness*. I want to be ready for the unannounced attacks of the enemy, as well as the unannounced opportunities to minister in Jesus' name. Show me Lord if there are ways in which I am not at peace with you, or others, or within myself. I now apply the gospel as needed (confession, forgiveness, casting cares upon the Lord, etc.).

I take up the *shield of faith*. Lord, as I move out into this day, I fix my eyes upon you. I will "walk by faith and not by sight." I will be led and influenced by you and not the flaming arrows of the enemy. When the enemy sends his missiles of doubt, unbelief, lies, accusation, fear or temptation - I will hide myself in you.



I put on the *helmet of salvation*. Before I go into battle, I renew my mind in the truth that I am securely saved, that I belong to you forever, and that even demonic rulers do not possess the power "to separate me from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus my Lord" (Rom. 8:38,39). Knowing I am eternally anchored to you Lord, I am free to radically obey you in the present moment.



Finally, I take up the *sword of the Spirit*, which is the Word of God. Holy Spirit, guide me today in speaking forth and applying your Truth as needed in order to advance the Kingdom of God and dethrone the enemy. I want to walk and minister in light of your written and prophetic Word. Under your anointing, I will unsheathe the Sword and apply specific scriptural truth to specific situations as you direct me by your Spirit.

I go forth now in the power of your name, for your glory and your fame. Amen."



Putting On the Armor of God

by

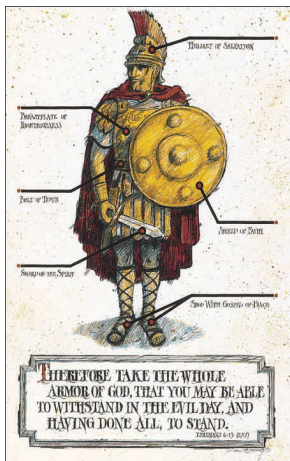
Bill Randall

Putting On The Armor Of God

by

Bill Randall

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm. Therefore put on the full armor of God..." (Eph. 6:12,13).



When the apostle instructed us to "put on the full armor of God", it was an exhortation meant to be taken seriously. Each of the six pieces are strategically designed to cover the areas most vulnerable to the "devil's schemes" (v.11). In 2 Corinthians 2:11 Paul writes that, "we are not unaware of his [Satan's] schemes." What an advantage we have as believers! The devil's schemes have been disclosed to us. Therefore it is imperative to put on the **full armor**. We cannot afford to pick and choose. God knows the devil, and in light of that knowledge has provided us with what is necessary to be victorious in spiritual warfare. It is important also to note that this is the

armor of God. God has made **his** armor available to the Christian soldier. Our responsibility is to put it on.

I would encourage you to reflect on the meaning of each piece of the armor of God. This is an extremely practical and significant portion of the Word of God. Further, my hope is that God will help you develop a holy habit of putting on your armor daily.

The Meaning of the Full Armor of God

The **belt of truth** speaks of two things. First it is a call of commitment to pursue a growing knowledge of the Word of God. This God breathed battle manual is meant to thoroughly equip the Christian for every good work (cf., 2 Tim. 3:16,17). Secondly, it is a call to truthfulness. This speaks of heart integrity. The enemy can gain easy advantage when there is hypocrisy. This is not referring to perfectionism, but simple honesty before God and man.

The **breastplate of righteousness** covers the life center of the Christian. Our "right standing" with God is a gracious gift received by faith. Among other things the righteousness of Christ enables redeemed mankind to minister "in Jesus' name". Unfortunately the devil knows this all too well. Therefore he consistently seeks to accuse and condemn the saint (cf., Rev. 12:10). His tactic is to get the Christian to look inwardly and get fixated on his weaknesses and failures. This then can cause the Christian to believe he is not worthy to worship or minister in Jesus' name. The enemy wants you out of the battle arena. Putting on the breastplate of righteousness is a call to remember and rely upon the fact that we have been **made worthy** by grace. Our "right" to worship and minister is a gift, not a reward for being good.

The Christian soldier must also have his **feet fitted for readiness**. An effective soldier is one that is battle ready. In spiritual warfare it is important to remember that the enemy takes no vacations. Therefore the Christian must be prepared for the attacks that can come unannounced (cf., I Peter 5:8), as well as the unexpected opportunities for advancing the Kingdom (cf., I Peter 3:15). This essential spiritual mobil-

ity and stability is gained by applying the gospel of peace where needed. The Christian who does not enjoy peace with God, with others, and within himself, will have his spiritual flexibility hindered. This can offer the enemy a dangerous advantage.

The **shield of faith** is provided to protect the soldier engaged in spiritual warfare from the enemy's long distance tactics. The enemy would rather weaken and possibly even defeat us from a distance than have to go head on. Some of the more common flaming arrows of the enemy include doubt, unbelief, lies, accusation, fear and temptation. These are sent in the hope that they will draw our eyes off of the Lord and what he has instructed us to do. He knows that the victory belongs to those who "walk by faith and not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7). Therefore, realizing this scheme of the enemy, we must fix our eyes on Jesus and act in response to His commands, rather than the influence of the flaming arrows.

Paul himself defines the **helmet of salvation** as the Christian's hope (cf., I Thess. 5:8). The soldier of Christ must daily remember and rely upon the fact that they are securely saved, that they belong to Jesus forever, and that even demonic rulers do not possess the power "to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:38,39). Being sure about tomorrow we are free to live radically in the present.

The **sword of the Spirit** is the one offensive weapon on this list of warfare armor. The soldier of Christ is here reminded that the sword that the Spirit uses to overcome the enemy and his works is the Word of God. A verse of Martin Luther's famous hymn, *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, makes this point in a marvelous way;

And tho' this world, with devils filled,

Should threaten to undo us;

We will not fear, for God hath willed

His truth to triumph through us.

The prince of darkness grim-

We tremble not for him'

His rage we can endure,

For lo! his doom is sure,

One little word shall fell him.