

The Full Armor of God

Last week, we reviewed how Satan and his evil spirits attack us, but we didn't go into detail about what we can do about it. God provides us divine protection through His Word in this spiritual warfare we all face. The apostle Paul illustrates this by comparing it to the armor of a Roman soldier. The *"full armor of God"* written in **Ephesians 6:13-17**: *"Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having belted your waist with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having strapped on your feet the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."* Paul places truth first because it is vital for a believer's victory. Without knowing the truth about God and our position as believers in Christ Jesus, sealed by the Holy Spirit, we become fearful when Satan attacks. This causes us to question our relationship with God and our standing. When Paul mentions the breastplate of righteousness, he's not referring to the righteousness we gain through salvation; he's talking about practical righteousness: living out what we know to be true every day. The idea behind preparing the gospel of peace is that whenever we enter Satan's territory, we must remain aware that traps will be present. The message of grace is vital for winning souls to Christ. In addition, we take up the shield of faith. The shield of faith will extinguish all the flaming darts and arrows of the evil one. When we bear the shield of faith, Satan can cast all the aspersion, doubt, and dismay he wants, but all will be ineffective. The greatest asset we have as believers, apart from the presence of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit living inside us, is our faith. The helmet of salvation protects our thought process. Our head is the seat of the mind, which, when it holds onto the sure hope of eternal life, will not accept false doctrine or fall for Satan's temptations. The unsaved individual cannot resist false doctrine because, without the helmet of salvation, their mind is unable to distinguish between spiritual truth and spiritual deception. ***While all the other pieces of spiritual armor are meant for defense, the sword of the Spirit enables us to take the offense.*** The sword analogy highlights the holiness and power of the Word of God. There is no greater spiritual weapon. During Jesus' temptations in the desert, the Word of God was His powerful response to Satan. What does God want us to do? He wants us to be spiritually prepared for the battle. We learn how to respond to spiritual warfare through the armor God provides. Tomorrow, before getting out of bed, put on the full armor of God through faith, and observe what God does in your life throughout the day and the week. Heavenly Father, we love You, praise You, and thank You for not leaving us to face battles improperly dressed and unarmed. Thank You for the promise that we can have victory no matter how fierce the fight. In Jesus' name, amen.