

The Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18)

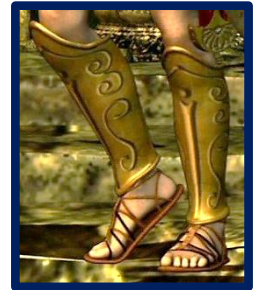
BELT OF TRUTH: In the Apostle Paul's time, the Roman soldier wore thick, heavy leather and metal protective armor around the waist that held his sword and other weapons. The belt of truth is a crucial piece of defensive armor guarding our inmost being in the battle against the lies and deceptions of the enemy. God's word is truth. He is Truth.



BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: The Roman soldier wore a heavy breastplate covering the vital organs and fitted with loops or buckles attached to a thick belt. If the belt was loosened, the breastplate slipped right off. The breastplate of righteousness refers to the righteousness bought for us by Jesus on the cross. To put on the breastplate of righteousness, we must first have the belt of truth firmly in place. We "put it on" by seeking God and His righteousness above everything else. When we "keep our eyes on Jesus, the author, and finisher of our faith," we keep our breastplate securely fastened. When we don't,

the battle is lost.

GOSPEL OF PEACE: The gospel of peace is the message that comes with the assurance from God that we are His children, and nothing can snatch us out of His hands. The word "readiness" implies constant vigilance. A victorious soldier must be prepared for battle. He studies his enemy's strategy, is confident in his captain's battle strategy, and had his feet firmly planted so that he can hold his ground when the attacks come. A soldier's battle shoes were studded with nails or spikes, like cleats, to help him keep his balance in combat. The "peace shoes" that God supplies His soldiers have two purposes. To defend ourselves against the "flaming arrows of the evil one," we must have confidence of our position in Christ. We must stand firm in the truth of God's Word, regardless of how terrifying the circumstances may be. Shoes are also for moving. God expects us to go on the offensive and take the gospel of peace to others.



SHIELD OF FAITH: The Roman shield was as large as a door and would cover the warrior entirely. Such a shield was not just defensive but could also be used to push back opponents. It supplied an important blanket of protection for the soldier and was the first barrier against the enemy's attack. Satan's attacks can sometimes cause us to doubt God. Faith prompts us to believe God. Faith is a protective barrier between us and the schemes of Satan. We trust in Jesus alone as our shield. We cannot rely on our own abilities in this battle. The battle belongs to the Lord. He will fight for us. We cannot save ourselves in our own strength, only in the Lord's.

HELMET OF SALVATION: The soldier's helmet protects against crushing, and potentially fatal blows. The assurance of salvation is our impenetrable defense of our mind and heart against anything the enemy throws at us. The helmet is a source of total deliverance. In Jesus, we find deliverance in every situation, spiritual, emotional, and physical. We must learn to keep our helmets buckled so that Satan's fiery missiles do not lodge in our thoughts and set us on fire. How do we keep our "helmet of salvation" securely in place? Renew our mind through God's Word. Reject doubts. Keep an eternal perspective. Remember that ultimately, the victory is won by Jesus and the work completed on the Cross. We must find our hope in Him only.



SWORD OF THE SPIRIT: The sword was used in defense and offense military battles. Swords were used to protect oneself from harm and to attack the enemy to overcome or kill. All Christian soldiers need to know how to properly manage the Sword of the Spirit, "which is the word of God." The Roman sword was commonly used at close range by a skilled soldier and was a deadly weapon. Paul tells us that the Sword is the Word of God and is a powerful weapon against our enemy when it's used under the Holy Spirit's power and direction.

Who You Are in Christ (More Than Conquerors)

¹⁰ Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.** ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² 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 realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the **belt of truth** buckled around your waist, with the **breastplate of righteousness** in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the **gospel of peace.** ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the **helmet of salvation** and **the sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And **pray** in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests."— Ephesians 6:10-18



Courage & Fearlessness Scriptures to Study

Joshua 1:9, Joshua 10:25, Isaiah 35:4, Isaiah 43:1, Romans 8:37, Ephesians 6:12, 1 Corinthians 16:13, 1 Corinthians 15:57, James 5:8, Psalm 31:24, Ephesians 6:10-20, Isaiah 43:1, Isaiah 41:13, 1 Timothy 1:7, Exodus 14:14, Deuteronomy 31:6, Deuteronomy 20:4, Psalm 23:4, Philippians 4:6-7, Philippians 4:13, John 14:27, Exodus 15:2, 1 Corinthians 10:13, 1 Chronicles 16:11, Psalm 27:1, 2nd Chronicles 20:15, 2nd Corinthians 10:4, James 4:7, Romans 8:28-31, 1 Timothy 6:12, 1 John 4:4, 1 John 5:4, John 16:33, Jeremiah 29:11, Colossians 3:1-2, Revelation 12:11

What Fears Shake Your Soul?

Fear is one of the enemy's (Satan) most popular weapons that he uses against us. Worry, anxiety, fear, dread...can overwhelm us with a thick shadow of darkness, controlling our every move and decision. Resist him, and he will flee. If we give way, he will get ground.

Fear asks: "Where is God?" Faith bravely declares: "He never left."