

HP5-Armor of God--- The Helmet of Salvation

Each day I put on the Armor of God. At the beginning of the day, I speak with God. The dialogue is “First, I **place the helmet of salvation on my head**. Protect my mind and imagination. Guard my eyes, allowing no sin to creep in. Focus my thoughts on the things of God”.

Joyce Meyer in “Battlefield of the Mind” posits that the devil has established a stronghold in each of our minds at a young age. The devil then uses the stronghold to attack our thinking. He lies to us about ourselves, those closest to us and the world around us. He creates a pattern of thinking that is self destructive. He uses nagging thoughts, doubts, fears, wonderings, reasonings and theories to “warp” our thinking. From the stronghold he attempts to control our thoughts and through our thoughts he attempts to control our actions. Joyce then introduces the Mind of Jesus. The Mind of Jesus is God’s weapon to protect our mind and imagination. **Philippians 4:7** confirms the promise “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will **guard your hearts and your minds** in Christ Jesus”.

When we take on the Mind of Jesus we have protection against the devil’s attempts to control our thoughts and actions. Jesus replaces a wandering, wondering mind with a mind that is focused on His teachings. As we focus on the Word we are no longer bound to wander! Jesus replaces our confused mind with the perfect clarity of the Word of God. Jesus replaces our doubtful and unbelieving mind with the assurance that He will never leave us or forsake us. Jesus replaces our anxious and worried mind with the perfect understanding only He can deliver. Jesus replaces our judgmental, critical and suspicious mind with His loving and caring mind that forgives all transgressions. Jesus replaces a passive mind with one in service to Him. He can transform your mind and release you from the clutches of the devil!

To defeat the devil, you need to understand his game plan. He will tell you “little lies” --- lies with an element of truth. He tells you it’s okay to watch pornography because God created a woman’s body to please man. The truth is that God created your wife’s body to please you- -- her husband in a

committed marital relationship. Once you stray from the “wife of your youth” you are in the devil’s workshop!

He’ll tell you God wants the best for you so go ahead and buy that bass boat even though your wife has said you need to save money for the kid’s college fund. The truth is God wants you to be a good steward of the family He has given you. It is His money that He provides for you to Shepherd the family He has entrusted to you. Consider **1 Peter 5:2** “Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--- not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve”.

There may well be a bass boat in your future--- but only when you have provided for your family, the needs of the kingdom and His plans for the funds He has provided. Don’t think God will deny you the desires of your heart and force you to live an austere lifestyle--- that’s a lie! But do understand that the world will try to entice you to wander from His plan for His money.

When the devil is telling you it’s okay to do anything it is time to tell the devil to flee. There is only evil when the devil speaks his lies and leads you down his path to destruction. Know that the devil wants what’s best for the devil. God wants what is best for YOU!

Now let’s move on to the guarding of your eyes. We have already dealt with the lies about pornography but what do you do when scantily dressed women pass you on the street! The devil knows that men are visual animals and that’s why he uses sex to lure us into his playground. God has provided a way out. His design for sex is fulfilled when we embrace His institution of marriage. He says it is not good for man to be alone. He created Eve from Adam’s rib and in doing so created the institution of marriage. Man did not invent marriage--- God did! When man listens to the devil’s lies then he makes the same mistake that Adam and Eve made.

For this reason, I begin each day with “First, I **place the helmet of salvation on my head**. Protect my mind and imagination. Guard my eyes, allowing no sin to creep in. Focus my thoughts on the things of God”.

If you want God’s protection than put on the armor He provides every day! Remember **Proverbs 4:23**-“Above all else, **guard your heart**, for everything you do flows from it”.

Personal Reflection:

What verses from the Word fill your heart? If you have not done so, then begin today to meditate on His Word, as it is the antidote to wrong thinking. If you are married, how can you thank God for the gift of your wife? Where do your eyes lead you astray? Find a fellow believer to hold you accountable as you replace lust with His Word.

Group Discussion:

Share with the group your struggle.

Share what the devil is saying to you.

Encourage each other to ask God to transform your mind into the mind of Jesus.