

WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE

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. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:13–17, NIV)

The belt of truth. In the same way that armor is held together and supported by the belt, the Christian life is supported and held fast by truth. If you understand the truth about who God is, your identity as His child and heir and the nature of spiritual conflict, you're not easily taken in by the devil's schemes.

The breastplate of righteousness. When it came to protecting yourself in battle in ancient times, the focus was on protecting the heart and the head. You didn't scrimp on a breastplate; your torso was the largest, most vulnerable target. In the same way, the enemy attempts to target your good works. Not only does moral failure hurt you personally, but it undermines the gospel. So be careful to protect yourself from getting knocked out of the battle by moral carelessness.

Feet fitted with readiness from the gospel of peace. This readiness comes from the peace of knowing that you have been made right with God. This peace can make you ready not only to stand firm in the Lord but also to share that peace with those around you. You have been given readiness to persevere in pursuing Christ. And even though you are in a battle, you are a minister of a gospel of peace.

The shield of faith. Every attack Satan launches at you can be blocked by faith. By simply trusting in the Lord — and acting on that trust — you create a barrier that the enemy cannot penetrate. This doesn't necessarily mean that you'll never suffer difficulty or harm, but in the midst of these trials, don't let the enemy shake your confidence in God's goodness and plan.

The helmet of salvation. The head is the other vital area that a soldier needs to protect. What's interesting here is that you protect your head with what's inside of it: the knowledge of your salvation. If you are a follower of Christ, the Lord has already delivered, redeemed and liberated you. Satan's armies can never do anything to take that away from you. This means that while he may attack you, his plans are ultimately futile.

The sword of the Spirit. The one offensive element of God's armor is the sword. Paul tells you that the sword of the Spirit is the Word of truth. He's not telling you that you should attack people with God's Word. Rather, as Jesus demonstrated during His temptation (Matthew 4:1–11), you counter the enemy's attack by relying on scriptural truths. And as you proclaim God's truth, the Spirit goes before you.

Pray and Watch