

Equipped for Battle – The Full Armor of God Part 1

-Putting on the armor of God is putting on Christ, it is putting on the new man created in His image.

Rom 13:14

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Eph 4:24

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness

-Here in Ephesians the putting on of Christ is broken down into pieces of spiritual armor.

Eph 6: 10-18

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, the¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit,

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

-We must be strong in His strength. Our strength of personality, intellect or gifts does not count in this warfare.

-Only when we are daily Spirit infused through death and resurrection will we count.

-Put on the whole armor not part to defeat the enemy's schemes to steal, kill and destroy.

The enemy's nature and schemes

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

-His schemes include putting doubt in our hearts toward God- "Hath God said". Is God good and trustworthy?

-To tempt us in many ways to follow after the old man.

-Ultimately the enemy wishes to dethrone Christ in our life and enthrone self and sin.

-Each piece of armor protects us in a specific way from the schemes of the enemy.

-Each piece of armor is a living truth to be received by faith.

Our spiritual wrestling.

¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

-In ourselves we have no power against these cosmic powers of evil.

-The battle is in the spiritual realm and we have little to no understanding of this realm. We need the wisdom and power of God to operate here. We need to be in the spirit.

¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. -Three times the word stand appears.

-We stand our ground upon the finished work of the cross.

-The armor is defensive. We defend what Christ has done for us and who we are in Him.

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth

-The belt is the first piece of armor an ancient soldier put on and holds it all together.

-We are to be totally wrapped in truth- spirit, soul and body.

-The belt was a soldier's identification and status. The enemy knows by our belt of truth whether or not we are a threat. He is not intimidated by doctrines.

-Every piece of armor is related to a truth concerning an aspect of our salvation.

Second piece of armour.

and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

2 Cor 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

-the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us at salvation.

-His righteousness dwells in our heart and protects us against the false accusations of the enemy.

-the breastplate includes the assurance of our salvation. Without assurance the enemy can convince us we do not belong to Christ.

-God sees us as he sees His Son. We must know deeply that we have a right standing with God through the righteousness of Christ. We are in Christ by God's doing.

1 Cor 1:30

And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

-This gives us great confidence before the enemy.

-His righteousness is also imparted to us at the new birth. Christ in us.

-To defeat the enemy we must live out this righteousness.

1 John 3:7

Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

third piece of armor.

and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by gospel of peace.

-With shoes on we are ready to stand our ground or march. Peace with God gives us sure footing because we know we are on His side and he is on ours.

-He is our commander and we are His soldiers.

-With these shoes we may march into new spiritual territory that is dark and confusing but we have peace and confidence that God is for us.

Rom 8:31

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Also we carry the gospel of peace to those captive in sin and enemies of God.

Isaiah 52:7

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."