

Fourth piece of armor.

In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

-Faith always has as its object Jesus Christ and His word.

-Our faith can extinguish the flaming dart before we are hit potentially causing a spreading fire of destruction.

-Such as a flaming sexual temptation if succumbed to may result in a fire of destruction effecting a marriage, family and church.

-A flaming dart of temptation to spread gossip can end in widespread destruction.

The enemies of faith are doubt and fear.

James 1:5-8

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a doubleminded man, unstable in all his ways.

-Through humility and submission to God we resist the devil and he will flee.

James 4:7

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

- In battle Roman soldiers would join their shields together at times to protect each other. When the church comes together in unified prayer and praise she can raise up a unified shield of faith against the enemy.

Fifth piece of armor.

and take the helmet of salvation,

-Protects our mind from false teachings, doubts and accusations about our salvation by embracing the truths of our salvation. We must be grounded and rooted in these truths.

-This includes that our salvation is all of Him not of us. We need to know that God put us in Christ not we ourselves.

Eph 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

-The truth that our salvation is secure in Him.

Rom 8:38-39

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,

nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The helmet of salvation can protect us from the enemies blows that can cause despair, hopelessness and depression.

Sometimes these feelings of darkness can come over us but we don't have to let them over come us.

We remember and stand on the truths of our salvation.

1 Thess 5:8

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

Phil 1:6

He who has begun a good work in you will perfect it unto the day of Christ

Isaiah 61:3

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning,

the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God

-This speaks of the living word of God through the Spirit of Truth. We want to take up the Spirit's sword not ours. Not our ideas or logic but His living word.

Heb 4:12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Jesus himself used the living word to repel the enemy.

Matt 4 1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

⁶And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

⁷Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

⁸Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; ⁹And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

¹⁰Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. ¹¹Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

- This is the only piece of armor that is both defensive and offensive.

-When God sends us on the offensive at the enemy we need to be prepared to use the living Word of God.

-We don't use human reason and logic against the enemy. We speak the Word through the Holy Spirit.

-In conjunction we use the authority of Christ by His name.

praying at all times in the Spirit,

-Prayer is our primary method of warfare. Especially corporate prayer. The church has great authority and power when gathered in His name which is on the basis of the finished work of the cross and the spirit of his holiness

-It must be in the spirit to be effective.