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## **The Importance of the Armor of God**

### **How you can apply the Armor of God in your daily Christian life**

Paul tells us how God provides for our protection in the letter to the Ephesians. He states:

#### **Eph. 6:10-18**

*Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics of the Devil. For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens. This is why you must take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.*

*Stand, therefore, with truth like a belt around your waist, righteousness like armor on your chest, and your feet sandaled with readiness for the gospel of peace. In every situation take the shield of faith, and with it you will be able to extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is God's word.*

*With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit, and stay alert in this, with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints. (HCSB)*

#### **Introduction:**

Why am I doing this and what are my skills? I am an Abstract reasoner, I see patterns and connect things together. My personal belief is that there are no errors in the Hebrew and Greek scriptures. If there's an error, either one or both of my interpretations are incorrect.

So when I first started studying the *Armor of God*, I tried to find why God had Paul start with the *Belt of Truth* and the order he put them in. To me, I would think you would start with the *Helmet of Salvation*. As a soldier in God's army, you cannot use the armor unless you are saved. As I prayed, studied, and reasoned God's Spirit gave me understanding.

## Part one Prerequisites

As I thought about it, I realized the *Belt of Truth*, the *Breastplate of Righteousness*, the *Preparation of the Gospel Shoes*, and the *Shield of Faith* were in some ways needed (or partially needed) before one can accept the Gospel and be saved.

First, one must accept that what one is hearing about the Gospel is true. That God is who He says He is and that He keeps His promises.

Second, one must accept that God's righteousness is true righteousness.

Once one accepts that these are potentially true, one can hear the Gospel and can accept God's gift of Salvation (Jesus died and took the punishment for your sins). The *Shield of Faith* enables one to accept the Gospel is true (that Jesus died to take the punishment of sin, was buried and rose again on the third day, one accepts the gift of eternal life and becomes God's child).

At that point, one becomes saved and becomes a child of God. Once a person becomes a child of God, they can begin to utilize the *Armor of God*.

Your mind is the source of your will and faith for salvation. It comes in the form of your trust in God's promises from the Gospel and the willingness to surrender your desires to God's control and desires. God's desire is to have a relationship with you in order to mature you while giving back to you the best desires of your heart (Ps 37:4). The helmet originates from God's (Hebrews 13:5-6) faithfulness to keep his promises which protects your salvation.

God delights in three of His characteristics, as we read in Jeremiah 9:24,

*But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.*

His lovingkindness, His justice, and His righteousness. From my perspective, these are God's basic three personal characteristics. From these three characteristics, comes His faithfulness, graciousness, kindness, mercy, justice, truthfulness, etc. These are the basis of absolute truth in the world.

Let's take the Belt of Truth first.

## Part Two: Belt of Truth

**Belt of Truth** -The belt holds down the breastplate, gives you a place to secure your sword when not in offensive use, holds up your groin/ hip protection, and holds your clothing in place for battle. The Belt of Truth is the knowing and understanding of God's truth (Bible) and always choosing to maintain your integrity. What does that mean? It means you need to

*...and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:15 NIV*

know the correct interpretation of the Bible so you know God's righteousness. Also, it helps you discern if you are listening to your heart or the Holy Spirit. \

### **Part 3: Breastplate of Righteousness**

**Breastplate of Righteousness** – The breastplate comes from you loving God with all your heart and mind. Righteousness stems from the intent or reason you do things. Are your plans based in selfishness or according to the leading of God's Spirit and love? Be careful of what you allow into your desires and thought process. Always do what is right according to God's Word and leading.

**When they used metal for the breastplate, the stronger the metal the better the breastplate.**

There is one thing that weakens metal and that is rust. Since the Breastplate of righteousness is not made from metal, what weakens it? It is the guilt from unconfessed sin. When God put the Holy Spirit inside of you with your Spirit and conscious, it has two purposes. First, to give you guilt when you choose your way instead of His way. Second, it is the voice that guides you when the scripture doesn't give you answers in the situation you find yourself in. (We will talk more about that in the Sword of the Spirit chapter).

### **Part 4: Shoes of the preparation of the Gospel of Peace**

**Shoes of the preparation of the Gospel of Peace** – This is not only knowing, but also understanding and living the Gospel so you can share it with others by your words and actions. You cannot reproduce if you do not know the Gospel well enough to share it.

When you know the Gospel well enough, the gratitude will spur you to share. When you are prepared, the Spirit will carry and guide you to where God wants you to share the Gospel with others.

### **Part 5: Shield of Faith**

**Shield of Faith** – This replaces your fear and doubt. Your faith gets stronger the more you know who God is and what He has promised. You must rest fully on His attributes and promises in all areas of your life. Since most of us do not have the faith like a two or three-year-old child in God's abilities when we first become a believer, we have to go through trials to increase our faith.

The two things I never ask God for are more Faith and Patience. The only way to get them is to go through trials. I don't ask God for more problems. Yet I know that faith and patience will come as God carries me through any trial He allows to come my way.

### **Part 6: Shield of Faith and Helmet of Salvation**

**Helmet of Salvation**- The scriptures allude that your mind is the source of your will and faith for salvation. It comes in the form of your trust in God's promises from the Gospel and the willingness to surrender your desires to God's control and desires. God's desire is to have a relationship with you in order to mature you while giving back to you the best desires of your

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heart (Ps 37:4). The helmet originates from God's (Heb 13:5-6) faithfulness to keep his promises which protects your salvation.

### **Part 7: Sword of the Spirit**

**Sword of the Spirit** – This is God's Holy Spirit living and speaking (Rāma) through your spirit/conscience. After you read and memorize scripture, you let the Spirit guide your words and actions according to the correct interpretation of the bible scripture(Logos). This is an offensive and defensive weapon. It cuts both ways by protecting you from evil in the world and by cutting away at any wickedness in you. Plus, He knows the future better than you do. So, trust Him.

Let's summarize the Armor of God

### **Conclusion:**

At age eight, I went forward at a tent revival for salvation. I was not counseled sufficiently for proper growth toward maturity. That left me with doubts and fears. Through the last 55 years of studying the Bible and trying to walk with God, I realized that my helmet of salvation may have felt flimsy, but I discovered it to be a perfect fit and made of the strongest material. As I learned how to share the Gospel (Shoes of the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace) to where a child could understand, I felt a stronger burden to share it with others. By studying the Bible, my belt became more heavy duty with accessories. It taught me about righteousness (breastplate) to protect me from the wounds of a guilty conscience. By learning to understand and rest fully on more of God's promises my shield of faith kept getting bigger and stronger. Also, as I learned how to discern God's voice through my spirit (conscience), understanding the Bible made the Spirit (sword) easier to hear and follow throughout every situation of my life.

Phil Smith

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## The Armor of God

**Belt of Truth** – This is the knowing and understanding of God’s truth (Bible) and always choosing to maintain your integrity. The belt holds down the breastplate, gives you a place to secure your sword when not in offensive use, holds up your groin/ hip protection, and holds your clothing in place for battle. This means you need to know the correct interpretation of the Bible so you know what righteousness is and to help you know if you are listening to your heart or the Holy Spirit.

**Breastplate of Righteousness** – This comes from loving God with all you heart and mind. Righteousness stems from the intent or reason you do things. Are your plans based in selfishness or according to the leading of God’s Spirit and love? Be careful of what you allow into your desires and thought process. Always do what is right according to God’s Word and leading.

**Shoes of the preparation of the Gospel of Peace** – This is not only knowing, but also understanding and living the Gospel so you can share it with others by your words and actions. You cannot reproduce if you do not know the Gospel well enough to share it. When you know the Gospel well enough, the gratitude will spur you to share. When you are prepared, the Spirit will carry and guide you to where God wants you to share the Gospel with others.

**Shield of Faith** – This replaces your fear and doubt. Your faith gets stronger the more you know who God is and rest fully on His attributes and promises in all areas of your life. Since most of us do not have the faith like a two or three-year-old child in God’s abilities when we first become a believer, we have to go through trials to increase our faith. The two things I never ask God for are more Faith and Patience. The only way to get them is to go through trials. I don’t ask God for more problems. Yet I know that faith and patience will come as God carries me through any trial He allows to come my way.

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