

WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

(Eph. 6:10-19)

INTRODUCTION

The Bible gives the illustration of spiritual warfare:

- (Eph. 6:12) "we wrestle"
- (1 Cor. 9:26) "so fight I, not as one that punches the air"
- (1 Tim. 6:12) "Fight the good fight of faith ..."
- (2 Tim. 2:3) "endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ"
- (v4) "No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who has chosen him to be a soldier."
- (2 Tim. 4:6-7) "... I have fought a good fight ..."

"the whole armor" - all of it; 100% of the pieces; complete ensemble; entire.

"of God" - it is designed and given by God to help us accomplish His purpose for us.

"THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD" IDENTIFIED

1. (v14) "having your loins girt about with truth"

The soldier's wrap, skirt, kilt, or apron covered him all around from waist to knees.

"Truth" is to be wrapped around us - (John 17:17) "... thy word is truth."

The truth of God's word wrapped around us enables us to "stand" and "withstand."

(2 Tim. 4:2-4) "Preach the word ..."

(1 Cor. 15:1) "I declare unto you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, and wherein you stand; by which also you are saved ..."

2. (v14) "having on the breastplate of righteousness"

The soldier's vest made of metal mesh and bronze plates covering his torso.

Our "breastplate of righteousness" is linked to God's word, too.

(Psalm 119:172) "My tongue shall speak of thy word:

for all thy commandments are righteousness."

(1 John 3:7) "... he that does righteousness is righteous ..."

We wear this "breastplate" by walking in (obeying) God's word.

It protects the heart: (Prov. 4:23) "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

3. (v15) "having your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace"

The soldier's shoes enabled him to balance, stand firm, and move about in battle.

Put God's word, "the gospel," on your feet as you go about in daily living.

(Rms. 10:15) "... how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel ... "
 (Acts 10:34-36) "... the word which God sent ... preaching peace ... "
 "of peace" - the gospel is the peace treaty, the document, stating conditions
 of having and maintaining peace with God.
 (Rms. 5:1) "... we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

4. (v16) "and taking the shield of faith"

The soldier's shield, held on the arm, could protect the entire body.

Our "faith" is a shield of defense from "all the fiery darts of the wicked."

(Rms. 10:17) "So then faith comes by hearing, hearing the word of God"
 God's word gives "faith" to repel what the world throws at us.

5. (v17) "and take the helmet of salvation"

The soldier's helmet was a covering for the head and cheeks.

(1 Thess. 5:8) "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate
 of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation."

(Mark 16:15-16) "... preach the gospel ... he that believes and is baptized
 shall be saved ... "

(Eph. 1:13) "... you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation ... "

(2 Tim. 3:15) "from a child you have known the holy scriptures,
 which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith ... "

6. (v17) "and the sword of the Spirit"

The soldier's sword was used for both offense and defense.

"which is the word of God" - (Mtt. 4:4, 7, 11; Psalm 119:11; Heb. 4:12)
 (2 Tim. 3:16) "... profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction ... "

7. (v18) "praying always" - (1 Thess. 5:17) "Pray without ceasing"

"always pray" "all kinds of prayer" "with all perseverance" "for all saints"
 "And for me ... "

CLOSE - We put on the "whole armor of God" before the battle (be prepared),
 then we take our stand being "strong in the Lord," and we "withstand" the enemy.