

Understanding The Armor of God



Introduction

Almost every christian has heard a sermon about “The Armor of God”, or has even said something like “we must always wear the Armor of God”. But if you ask most Christians “what does it actually means to wear the Armor of God?” They are unable to give an honest answer. I will attempt to give an in depth explanation on what we have to do to actually put on God’s Armor. I will use Ephesians 6:10-17 as a base for this study

As a final note to the reader I feel that it is important to mention that all Scripture mentioned is from the ESV translation of the Bible (unless otherwise noted), and all Hebrew and Greek words and definitions are from “The New Strong’s Expanded Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible” (Thomas Nelson, ISBN 978-1-4185-4237-5)

(Ephesians 6:10-17) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For 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. Therefore 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. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

This is the famous Armor of God scripture, but it’s not a new concept look at **Isaiah 59:17**, ”He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.” as we can see here God’s Armor is described as the common armor of that day, the Hebrew armor of Isaiah's day vs the Roman armor of Paul's day, it is the same exact armor with the exception of the roman armor has more pieces to it. My focus is going to be on the armor mentioned in Ephesians.

The Belt of Truth

The Greek word used for truth is “aletheuo” (al-ayth-yoo’-o) it means to speak the truth, as a verb it signifies to deal faithfully or truly with everyone. As an adjective it means primarily, “unconcealed, manifest”; hence, actual, “true to fact” and is used of truthful persons.

We can see from the first part of the definition above it’s that of how we interact with others. We are to always speak the truth, and deal faithfully and truly with everyone. Not just our loved ones or those we like or those who like us, but **everyone**. This agrees with the second greatest commandment that Jesus gave, “love your neighbors as you love yourselves”.

The second aspect of “truth”, is that which is unconcealed, has manifested, that which is actual and true to fact. This second part deals with God and His Word, this is what we’ll look at with the Scripture below.

John 3:33 Whoever receives His testimony has set his seal of approval to this: God is true. [That man has definitely certified, acknowledged, declared once and for all, and is himself assured that it is divine truth that God cannot lie]. (AMPC)

Hebrews 6:17-18, So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

The very essence of truth is that we must accept it as fact that God cannot lie. This is a restriction that God placed upon Himself, this is a part of why He is holy, just, and righteous. It explains why He sent a lying spirit to Ahab (1 Kings 22:19-23). GOD CANNOT LIE, neither to His prophets nor in His Word to us. It is a must that we accept it as a fact. Lets look at one more verse about Gods Word and truth.

John 17:17-19 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

John 17 is what Jesus prayed in the garden before his arrest, look at what He prayed, He said that the Father's Word is truth, and that the apostles (as well as ourselves) are sanctified in truth. The belt protects our core, so the very core of a Christian must always be protected by the belt of truth, and to wear it means that we are always to treat others faithfully and truthfully. We must always know that everything our Bibles tells us about God is absolute truth, even if it doesn't make sense to us. We must accept it as undeniable fact that God cannot lie.

Breastplate of Righteousness

The Strong's Concordance states the following concerning righteousness, *"It is used of the gracious gift of God to men whereby **all who believe** in the Lord Jesus Christ are brought into a right relationship with God"*.

The only thing that we can do to become righteous is to believe, trust and hope in Jesus, then we will be brought into a right relationship with God. From that point on we must let God's righteousness be manifested through us. As Christians we always have righteous works that need to be done.

A breastplate is not only for protection. In the days of the New Testament the people knew who a Roman soldier was by his armor. I always say that someone can be around a Christian for a half an hour and know that he/she is a Christian.

Much like truth, righteousness not only deals with our relationship with God, but it also has a lot to do with how we deal with others. When we live our lives in righteousness (doing our best to live righteous before God, and doing righteous works for men), then we are wearing the breastplate of righteousness, which will cause us to receive blessings from God as we can see from the verses below.

Proverbs 15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

Proverbs 18:10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

Proverbs 28:1 The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.

Matthew 13:43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

When we live our lives in righteousness the Lord hears our prayers, keeps us safe, we become bold in doing the Lords work, and on the Day of Judgment we will shine like the sun. Wearing the breastplate of righteousness is living in righteousness (before God and man).

Shod with the Gospel of Peace

The Greek word used for peace is “erienne” (i-ray’-ney) it describes harmonious relationships between men, between nations, order in the state, order in the church, friendliness, and the harmonized relationship between God and man, accomplished through the gospel.

The “Gospel of Peace” is not just the good news of receiving the peace of God. It is the good news of being able to live in a harmonious relationship with God and man. If we are filled with anger, resentment, hate, pride, bitterness, etc... the only person we are hurting is ourselves. We can only find true peace in one place and that’s God. Consider the verses below,

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Galatians 5:22-23 22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

In the first verse we can see that the peace that God (The Father) gives us surpasses all understanding and it will guard our minds and hearts from things like worry, fear, bitterness etc... All we have to do is rely on Him and submit ourselves to His Will. The second verse Jesus promises to leave His Peace with us, and much like the first verse the peace the Jesus gives us will override worry, anxiety, heartbreak, etc...In the last verse we find that one of the fruits of the Spirit is peace. True peace comes from God. We don’t need to run from our problems but stand firm in the Gospel of Christ. Throughout

Psalms and Proverbs we are warned not to let our feet run to violence or the shedding of blood. Peace is attributed to the feet because we are supposed to stand firm, unmovable, and unwavering.

2 Timothy 2:22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Here it says to flee.....and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and **peace**. Below Paul tells us to live in peace with one another.

2 Corinthians 13:11 Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, **live in peace**; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

To shod our feet with peace is not only to be in a peaceful relationship with God, but it also means to be peaceful with mankind.

One final note on peace, if I have peace and I show someone else how to find peace I become a peacemaker, and this is what Jesus says about peacemakers. **Matthew 5:9** "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God".

Shield of Faith

The Greek word for faith is pistis (pis'-tis) It means a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things generally with the included idea of holy fervour born of faith and joined with it.

Faith is not just believing in something, it's a deep conviction of what you know is truth. The two best definitions of faith are;

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

John 20:29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The very basic essence of Christianity is faith. In the following scriptures we'll read that we live by faith, pray by faith, and resist evil by faith.

Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Matthew 21:22 And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.

Ephesians 6:16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

Every aspect of Christianity is deeply rooted in faith, by faith we accepted Jesus, received the Holy Spirit, and it is our faith in knowing that God can protect us from anything that the devil can and will throw at us that attributes it to a shield. We must carry our shield in our everyday life with the boldness and strength of Christ. If we do this there is absolutely nothing that Satan can do to harm us, whether it be emotionally, physically, mentally, or spiritually. Our shield of faith has the ability to withstand anything that Satan has in his arsenal.

Helmet of Salvation

The topic of Salvation must start with the a basic discussion on eternal life, after all isn't that the goal of salvation? **Titus 1:2** states that God promised us eternal life before time began. He tried giving it to us the easy way by means of the Tree of Life, but Adam and Eve messed that up. Mankind now being doomed to die, God in His great love and mercy made a way to save us from death fulfilling His promise of eternal life. There are two aspects of salvation, 1) the source of salvation and 2) the requirements of salvation. The Scriptures that I want to focus on in this section focus deal with those topics.

The Source

Ephesians 2:4-5, 8 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved....For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

Titus 3:4-6 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own

mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior

Acts 4:11-12 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

From the verses above we can see that the source of our salvation is the grace, love, and mercy of God the Father, who sent His only begotten Son to be the sacrifice for our sins so that we may receive salvation. We must keep the knowledge of where our salvation comes from on the forefront of minds at all times. It is the knowledge of this that serves as our helmet, and we must never take that helmet off for any reason.

Our Requirements

John 3:14-18 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Romans 10:8-10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Acts 2:37-38 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 3:21 Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Although our salvation comes from God's grace, love, and mercy, and through His Son, we still have the obligation to believe, confess, repent, and be baptized. These things do not save us but God requires them from us as acts of obedience to achieve salvation.

Again it is the knowing that if we do these that we will receive salvation that acts as our helmets. If we keep God's salvation on our minds at all times then our helmet will block any temptation that Satan throws at us. Remember sin starts in the mind, then moves to the heart and is finally manifested into the physical (sin). So our helmets job is to stop the sin at its very birth, the thought.

Sword of the Spirit, The Word of God

In order to understand the Sword of the Spirit, we must look at the two Greek words for "Word" The first and most common is "Logos" it means "the expression of thought" and is mostly used in The Bible as representing the Word of God in its entirety. The second is "Rhema" the Strong's states the following under Rhema, "*in the singular 'a word'The significance of Rhema , (as distinct from Logos) is exemplified in the injunction to take ' The Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God' Ephesians 6:17; here the reference is not the whole Bible as such, but to the individual scripture which the Spirit brings to our remembrance for use in our time of need, a prerequisite being the regular storing of the mind.*"

When we look at the definition for rhema (the word used for "Word") in the base Scripture, we find that it means individual verses that deal with the situation at hand. Consider how Jesus used the Sword of the Spirit

Matthew 4:1-11 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

We see that Jesus just used Scripture that dealt with each situation. Jesus showed us exactly how to use The Sword of the Spirit. But here's the thing about the sword of the Spirit, we must study the Word of God in order to properly use the Word of God.

The only time that we're allowed to use our Bibles as weapons is when dealing with spiritual matters, and like all weapons the more training you receive, the more proficient you become. So the more we study God's Word, the better we become at using it, this thought can be said about the whole armor of God. When David tried on Saul's armor to fight Goliath, he could not use it because he was not tested (or trained) with it, *see Scripture below*. We must train as often as possible with both our armor and sword to become as proficient as we can and aid others in their training as well. And this training comes only by the study of God's Word.

1 Samuel 17:38-39 Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them." So David put them off.

I pray that this booklet helped you in understanding what it means to wear the "Whole Armor of God". Finally to train is to study, study, study.

God bless You in your daily lives