

Putting on the Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-13 NKJV

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. (11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (13) 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.”

Ephesians 6:14 NKJV

“Stand therefore, having **girded** (literally: to wrap around and fasten) **your waist with truth**, having **put on** (literally: to sink into or invest) **the breastplate of righteousness**,”

The Belt of Truth:

John 8:32 HCSB “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

This is the beginning place. You will go no further with God until you come to Him in genuine honesty about who you are and who He is.



PUTTING IT ON:

Ask the Father to reveal all deception to you. As He does, do not argue with Him about it! Simply confess it, repent of it, and renounce it and ask Him to remove it. Ask Him to reveal the truth that counteracts the lies He has revealed to you. In Jesus' name, by faith receive the belt of truth. Believe in your heart that God is clothing you with His truth.

The Breastplate of Righteousness:

Philippians 3:9 HCSB “and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ—the righteousness from God based on faith.”

God is repulsed by sinful flesh, especially sinful flesh attempting to be righteous. We must renounce our own righteousness and learn to rely wholly on God's righteousness in us. We cannot allow ourselves to believe that God is impressed or satiated with our good works. The only basis of my holiness is and always will be the life and presence of Jesus in me. The extent to which He lives in me is directly proportionate to the degree that I have submitted to Him. Therefore:

PUTTING IT ON:

Ask the Father to reveal and remove all self sufficiency, arrogance, and self righteousness in you. Renounce all righteousness that is not of Him, including your righteousness and attempts to be righteous and ask the Father in Jesus' name to clothe you in His righteousness. In Jesus' name, by faith receive and put on the breastplate of God's righteousness.



Ephesians 6:15 NKJV

“...and having **shod** (literally to bind under) **your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace**,”

The Shoes of the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace:

James 3:18 HCSB "And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."



This is not simply peace or the gospel of peace. This is the PREPARATION of the Gospel of Peace. The association of this aspect of spiritual armor with shoes is indicative of the emissary nature of our Christian life. We are to be ambassadors for God wherever we are and wherever we go, and we are to be prepared daily for this calling. I must be prepared to allow the Lord to use me as His representative and instrument of peace in all circumstances. This requires a constant awareness about who I am and who I reflect.

PUTTING IT ON:

Ask the Father to prepare and equip you to be an agent of His peace. Accept His call on your life to be His representative and ask Him to lead you where He desires. Ask Him to fill your mouth with His words and your mind with His thoughts. Turn yourself over to Him and concentrate on surrendering to His presence, letting His peace inhabit you. In Jesus' name, by faith receive the Shoes of the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace.

Ephesians 6:16 NKJV

"above all, taking (literally to seize or lay hold of in order to use) the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."

The Shield of Faith:

Hebrews 12:2 HCSB "keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith..."

Hebrews tells us that Jesus is both the supplier and sculptor of our faith. He gives the faith we need and makes that faith perfect as we allow Him to work in us. Faith is released to us by hearing His voice to us. We hear His voice to us by learning, meditating on, believing and obeying His word.

PUTTING IT ON:

Proclaim to the Father that you fully believe, claim, and stand on the Holy Word of God and the promises He gives us in it. Ask Him to open your ears to His voice and to give you the faith He desires you to have as well as strengthen it in you as He desires. If there are promises in His word He has given you, tell Him that you stand upon them and ask Him to remove any doubt you may have. In Jesus' name, by faith, receive and take up the Shield of Faith.



Ephesians 6:17 NKJV

"And take (literally to receive, embrace, accept) the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;"



The Helmet of Salvation:

Romans 12:2 HCSB Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

1 Corinthians 2:16 HCSB "For who has known the Lord's mind, that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ."

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 HCSB (3) "For although we are walking in the flesh, we do not wage war in a fleshly way, (4) since the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments (5) and every high-minded thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."

The battlefield of the soul begins in the mind. Satan first deceived Eve by attacking her mind with sinful reasoning. The transforming work of salvation begins as Christ gives life to our dead spirit, however, it continues and is maintained as the Holy Spirit restores our mind and teaches us to think as He does. The Helmet of Salvation is the mind of Christ that guards and evaluates the thoughts that enter our mind and the thought processes that cause us to think the way we do.

PUTTING IT ON:

Ask the Father to transform you by renewing your mind and shaping it the way He desires. Ask Him to reveal and remove or reshape any ungodly thoughts or thought processes in your mind. According to the Word of God, claim the mind of Christ and command your thoughts to be captive to the obedience of Jesus Christ. Plead the blood of Jesus over the portals of your mind, will and emotions. In Jesus' name, by faith, receive the Helmet of Salvation.

The Sword of the Spirit:

Hebrews 4:12 HCSB "For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as to divide soul, spirit, joints, and marrow; it is a judge of the ideas and thoughts of the heart."

2 Timothy 2:15, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."



The Sword of the Spirit is the only offensive weapon in this armory. The reason for this is that it is the only one we need. The Scriptures contain every teaching and promise that we need to defeat the enemy. We obtain this weapon through the reading, meditation, and application of it in our lives. We learn to wield it through the power of the Holy Spirit. As the enemy attacks, the Holy Spirit brings the Word of God to our mind or gives us understanding of His word as we daily read and meditate upon it. Our effective use of the Word of God is directly proportionate to the time we spend in it and the degree to which we have allowed the Lord to teach us from it and apply it to our lives. The Greek word used here is "rhema" which literally means "that which flows forth". The Sword of the Spirit is used when we demonstrate our belief and dependence on God's word by confessing out loud with our mouth the truth that God has revealed to us in His word.

TAKING IT UP:

Ask the Father to lead you to what He wants to teach you. Ask Him to give you understanding of His word and to help you commit His word to memory. Ask Him to help you to "hide His word in your heart." Ask Him to bring to your mind His word when the enemy attacks and to powerfully wield the weapon of His word through you. In Jesus' name, by faith, confess the word of the Lord to your situation. Take up the Sword of the Spirit.

Note: These are the only two pieces of armor we are told to receive.

Ephesians 6:18 NKJV

"praying *always* (made of three words: 1st – through, among, in, 2nd – any, all, 3rd – occasion, opportunity) *with all* (any, every) *prayer and supplication* (to ask with great desire – from the root word "deo" meaning to bind) *in the Spirit, being watchful* (literally sleepless) *to this end with all perseverance* (from a word meaning "to adhere to") *and supplication for all the saints—*"



Prayer and Supplication:

The armor of God is not simply for defensive purposes against the enemy. It the proper attire for battle. The battle is fought through prayer and supplication. Christ is the Lord of the Battle and it is on our knees before Him that we become dependant on Him to fight.

Someone said, "You can do more than pray after you've prayed, but you can do no more than pray until you've prayed."

The prayer life is the respiratory system of the believer. We do it at all times, in every circumstance, at every opportunity. The armor of God prepares us to hear the voice of our Captain and think and act as He directs.

Below is a prayer model based on the Lord's prayer that may help you develop a consistent daily prayer life. Don't be in bondage to the format. God is concerned with your relationship, not your rituals.

Prayer Guide

1. "Our father in heaven, hallowed be Your name"

- Begin your prayer with praise to the Father ...
 - this day - blessings - for who He is
 - He heals - He saves - He sanctifies
 - He delivers - He provides - He is all powerful

There is no need in your life today that He cannot provide. Tell Him how much You love Him

2. "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"

Remember, you cannot pray God's will to be done anywhere else until it is first done in Your own life.

Four Kingdom Areas to Pray For:

1. Yourself 3. Your Church
2. Family 4. Nation

3. "Give us this day our daily bread"

- This is a good place to read the word of God
- Now present your daily needs to the Father

4. "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"

- Ask the father to forgive you if you need to.
- Listen for the Father's voice concerning anyone that you hold something against.
- By an act of your will, in the name of Jesus, forgive and release others just as God has forgiven you.

5. "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

- Ask the Father if there is any sin, bad attitude or habit that has control over your life.
- Pray for your family members and friends to be delivered from Satan and be saved

6. "For Yours is the kingdom, power, and glory forever."

- Return to praise and thank the Father for His love for you. End your prayer in adoration of Him.