

Lesson 3 THE ARMOR OF GOD

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil.” (Ephesians 6:11)

Satan often uses his wily tactics to make us believe we are battling against flesh and blood. If Satan can draw you into the flesh, then he has the decided advantage over you. But if we fight against him in the Spirit, with the armor God provides, we can't lose. God calls all true believers to engage in spiritual warfare—and equips us to do it!

Read Ephesians 6:14: Gird Your Waist With Truth

For a soldier, the belt is perhaps the least noticed part of his armor—but the most important. It holds all his body armor in place. For believers, the truth is like a soldier's belt. If we stand on the truths in God's Word, we will experience victory in our lives. If we speak the truth about God, all of our Christian beliefs will remain in place.

Our world is full of lies. Yet in Christ we have found the truth about who we are, why we are here and where we are going. Satan is the father of lies, and when we speak the truth he must flee.

1. Write John 14:6.

Put On the Breastplate of Righteousness

The breastplate protected a soldier's vital organs—most importantly, his heart. All Christians should keep their hearts protected from the Devil's wickedness. The Bible tells us that our hearts are prone toward wickedness if left idle and unattended. Therefore, to fill our hearts with the righteousness of the Lord, we must study the Bible daily.

We need to sanctify our hearts unto God so that we're sensitive to hear His voice as He guides us in our daily battles. A righteous heart is a dead end for Satan's attacks.

2. Write Psalm 119:11.

Read Ephesians 6:15: Shod Your Feet with the Gospel of Peace

Proper footwear is important to any soldier. If Christians are going to fight victorious spiritual battles, we need a firm foundation to stand on. The peace of Christ is that foundation. For the Christian, Jesus is our peace—regardless of the circumstances.

3. Write John 14:27.

4. Write Romans 10:15.

Read Ephesians 6:16: Take Up the Shield of Faith

A soldier's shield offers protection from getting shot when he is in battle. The Devil will attack a Christian with different fiery darts: persecution, guilt, lies, fears, doubts, temptations and more. These darts are aimed at Christians when they are tearing down the strongholds of the Devil. If we are idle, he has little reason to attack. But as God uses us, the Devil will attack constantly.

As believers, we need to believe! We need the shield of faith to trust God and trust what He is doing for total victory in every spiritual battle.

5. Write Proverbs 18:10.

Read Ephesians 6:17: Put On the Helmet of Salvation

All soldiers need a helmet to protect their head. A Christian needs the helmet of salvation to protect against Satan's constant onslaught upon our thoughts. It is what we do with those thoughts that determine whether we will sin against God or not. It's crucial to submit our thoughts unto the Lord.

When our minds are thinking about God's goodness and His great love for us, we will naturally recognize thoughts and suggestions from the Devil. When ungodly thoughts enter our minds, we must cast out those thoughts and replace them with joyous thoughts concerning God. This is how we put on the helmet of salvation.

Satan cannot make us sin! He can suggest that we sin, but we decide whom we will submit our minds to—Christ or Satan.

6. Write 2 Corinthians 10:4-5.

Use the Sword of the Spirit: God's Word

Ephesians 6:17 calls the Word of God "the sword of the Spirit." For Christians, the Word of God (the Bible) is our primary weapon against our enemy, the Devil. The truth and glory that is in God's Word overcomes the Devil so that he must flee—for he lives in lies and darkness. Jesus gave all believers an excellent example of how we can rebuke Satan's attacks by quoting Scripture (see Matthew 4:1-11).

7. Write Hebrews 4:12.

As believers, we need to go forward in spirit and truth. Satan will attack us, so we should force him to retreat by using God's Word. Stand on the promises in God's Word and share those truths with those who are unsaved and blinded by the Devil.