

Power and Protection of the Armor of God

Hello Friends,

I hope that each of you is well.

A few weeks ago @Cyrus shared with all of us a devotional that spoke to God's plan even despite the pain that we sometimes, or even often experience. Similar to Cyrus and his family, the past 2 plus months have been a difficult season for our family. We are so grateful for family and friends that have come alongside us to encourage us, pray with us and be the support that we have needed. @Britan spoke about this 3 weeks ago when he shared about the importance of staying close to and connected to our brothers and sisters in Christ. There is power when

In the midst of some challenging days, we have leaned into God and His promises. Reminding ourselves to walk in the power and protection of the armor of God has been a new rhythm for my wife and I, as some of our recent challenges seem to be full blown attacks from the enemy.

How do you stand against spiritual attacks from the enemy that are intentionally aimed at you, or your loved ones?

In Ephesians 6:13-18 the Bible says, "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

As followers of Jesus, God has given each of us spiritual armor that has the power to protect us from any plans the enemy has to come against us. To be fully protected, we need to use every piece of armor that God has given us.

Think about a soldier that goes to battle. Imagine the soldier has been given a full set of armor or tools to protect them against their enemy. What if the soldier chooses to not wear each piece of armor they have been issued? Or what if the soldier has never practiced using his or her armor? In either of these scenarios, the soldier is going to step into their battle not fully protected. Each piece of armor that God has provided us has a unique purpose and is there to protect us in spiritual warfare.

The challenges you are facing now, may be different than the challenges that our family has been facing, but I know that we all in the midst of a spiritual battle, as followers of Christ. Today I thought it would be helpful, to simply walk through the armor of God.

The "Belt" stands for truth. Where do we find truth, as followers of Jesus Christ? We find truth and hold on to that truth from God's word. The Bible is the foundation of truth and knowing the truth of His Word sets us free and protects us from any lies or deception that the enemy tries to put in our minds. You and I are also called to be truthful.

The “Breastplate” represents righteousness. Each day we have to decide whether we’re going to live in the ways of the world or live according to the commands and directions of God’s Word. None of us is righteous on our own, but only made righteous through the saving grace of Jesus Christ. We are a newborn creation in Jesus Christ.

The “Shoes” represent peace from the Gospel. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the “good news” that because Jesus came as the Son of God, died to take on our sins, was then resurrected on the 3rd day – those that repent of their sins and believe in Him, will have eternal life in Heaven. As Christians, we are strengthened by this foundation of peace that we can stand firm on.

The “Shield” represents our faith in Jesus. Our faith in Jesus and His power to overcome anything that the devil may use to throw at us, gives us strength and protection because His Spirit lives within us.

The “Helmet” represents our salvation. A helmet protects our head. One of the first places the enemy likes to attack us is in our thoughts. When we remember that we are saved because of what God did for us through Jesus Christ, we can protect ourselves against the thoughts of doubt, anxiety, hopelessness, or fear the enemy wants us to believe.

Finally, the “Sword of the Spirit.” In the passage we read earlier it says, “and the sword of the spirit, which is the Word of God.” There is authority in the Word of God! When we know what it says, it is a weapon that God gives us to speak directly into any battle or conflict we are facing.

We need each piece of the armor that God has given us. I want to challenge each of you to review the armor of God in this devotional... what each piece of armor represents and then put them into practice. The more you practice using the tools or armor that God has given you, the better protected you will be in those times when the enemy comes to attack.

Let’s pray....