

Under Armor - Up!

Ephesians 6:13-17

“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.”

What are we fighting against?

You don't have to be a parent long before you realize that there are forces coming against your children to take them down. The Bible tells us that the unseen forces can be arrows of the evil one aimed at our children to destroy their lives.

What are we fighting for?

If you are like me, I am fighting for a good path for my children to walk on. A direction of light and not darkness. A Way that leads them to life and not death. Basically, I am fighting for them to have an abundant life.

How do I fight against unseen flaming arrows?

Visible attacks can be defeated with physical action. Spiritual attacks *must* be defeated with spiritual action.



Game Plan

Good parents will make great sacrifices of their time, money, and energy to put their children in the best position to succeed in life. We put them on the best teams, with the best coaches, and the best training to prepare them to win the battles the game brings. With all of our physical efforts and preparations, we still cannot protect our children from the unseen battles that will inevitably enter their minds and their surroundings without our permission. Since everyday of life will be a battle - never begin a single day unprotected, unprepared, or unarmed. God's Word tells us how to armor up every morning so that we are ready for what's coming that we can see, and what we can't see. Become a spiritual warrior by putting on the armor of God each day and hitting your knees





How do I take spiritual action?

God provides armor and weapons to all soldiers that fight for His Kingdom purpose:

- **Belt of Truth** = reading and knowing the *Truth*
- **Breastplate of Righteousness** = reading and obeying the *Truth*
- **Feet fitted with the readiness of the gospel of peace** = reading and spreading the *Truth*
- **Shield of Faith** = reading and trusting in the *Truth*
- **Helmet of Salvation** = reading and being secure in the *Truth* of our salvation
- **Sword of the Spirit** = reading and using the *Truth* to fight the lies of the enemy

There is one common thread that secures every piece the Armor of God, and that is *Truth* - which is the Word of God - or reading the Bible. It is impossible to win spiritual battles for your children or yourself if you have no armor on and no weapons to fight with.

in prayer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - the One that can win the spiritual battles that we cannot see.

Coaching Perspective

Studies show that coaches are now the most influential role models in the lives of American children today. Not parents, not teachers, and unfortunately, not even youth pastors. This is a big responsibility for coaches and we should be careful how we live our lives in light of this truth. If I were the enemy of the children you are coaching - I would hit you the hardest so that it will not only take you down, but also all those under your leadership as well. This is why we need to know our enemy and how we should protect ourselves from his offensive blows. Calling all Christian coaches that are aware of the role and impact we are making on the youth of today - join me in committing to reading a portion of God's Word daily. This will provide the battle gear we need to endure whatever flaming arrows are pointing at us today. The enemy's goal is to destroy and remove any role models that might resemble the character and heart of Jesus - and that might be you!

