

2018 Word of the Year: VICTORY

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV)

The Armor of God

10“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. 12For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13Therefore 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. 14Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18And 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.”

-Belt of Truth

-Breastplate of Righteousness

-Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

-Shield of Faith

-Helmet of Salvation

-Sword of the Spirit (Word of God)

1. The Belt of Truth

“Backbones of truth AND hearts of compassion; we must have BOTH! If all we have are hearts of compassion, we’ll fall for anything but if all we have are backbones of truth, we’ll turn off everyone.”

Two ways in which truth functions as a part of the Armor of God:

-First, it refers to the truths of Scripture as opposed to the lies of Satan.

Satan is the father of lies (**John 8:44**) but Jesus says *“you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”* (**John 8:32**)

-Secondly, truth serves as a belt, holding us together, in our personal commitment to truth—to living a life that is upright, transparent, and without deceit.

2. The Breastplate of Righteousness

“Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.” (**Proverbs 4:23 NLT**)

The breastplate keeps our heart covered from the attack of the enemy which enables us to stay pure in motive and keep our hearts full of compassion.