

2018 Word of the Year: VICTORY

Part 3

As a church family, we are believing God that 2018 will be a year of VICTORY for us in _____ . (You fill in the blank!)

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.”*

5. Helmet of Salvation

The helmet protects the head—one of the most vital parts of our body, since it houses all thought in our minds. When we have a confident knowledge of our salvation, we will not be distracted by Satan’s lies. When we are certain that we are in Christ with our sins forgiven, we will have a peace that nothing can disrupt.

Can we be sure of our salvation?

Yes.

“If we confess our sins, He [Jesus] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9 ESV)

“And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” (1 John 5:11-12 ESV)

6. Sword of the Spirit (The Word of God)

It’s interesting to note that the Sword of the Spirit is the only weapon of OFFENSE listed in the Armor of God. All the other parts are defensive in nature.

The Sword of the Spirit—God’s Word—The Bible—is described in the Book of Hebrews in this way:

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

Think of how Jesus Himself used this weapon when Satan tempted Him in the wilderness. In response to each of Satan’s attempts to lead Him into sin, Jesus replied, “it is written. . .” and proceeded to quote Scripture to destroy The Devil’s temptations.

God’s Word is truth:

“Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.”

John 17:17 (NLT)

That’s why it’s so powerful. That’s why it’s so important that we study The Bible and become familiar with its truths and its power.

David wrote, *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”* **(Psalm 119:105 ESV)**

The sword of God’s Word BOTH protects us AND destroys our enemy—the devil and his temptations.

Remember...

- 1. Victory comes through FAITH (1 John 5:4-5)**
- 2. Victory comes when we LET THE LORD FIGHT FOR US (Deuteronomy 20:4)**
- 3. Victory comes through GAINING PEACE IN OUR HEARTS (John 16:33)**

Benediction: 1 Chronicles 29:10b-13 (ESV)

“Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the VICTORY and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.”