

2018 Word of the Year: VICTORY
Part 2

Ephesians 6:10-18 (The Passion Translation)

Spiritual Warfare

10 Now my beloved ones, I have saved these most important truths for last: Be supernaturally infused with strength through your life-union with the Lord Jesus. Stand victorious with the force[i] of his explosive power flowing in and through you.

11 Put on God's complete set of armor[j] provided for us, so that you will be protected as you fight against the evil strategies of the accuser![k]**12** Your hand-to-hand combat is not with human beings, but with the highest principalities and authorities operating in rebellion under the heavenly realms.[l] For they are a powerful class of demon-gods[m] and evil spirits that hold[n] this dark world in bondage. **13** Because of this, you must wear all the armor that God provides so you're protected as you confront the slanderer,[o] for you are destined for all things[p] and will rise victorious.

14 Put on truth as a belt to strengthen you to stand in triumph. Put on holiness as the protective armor that covers your heart. **15** Stand on your feet alert, then you'll always be ready to share the blessings of peace.

16 In every battle, take faith as your wrap-around shield, for it is able to extinguish the blazing arrows coming at you from the Evil One![q] **17–18** Embrace the power of salvation's full deliverance, like a helmet *to protect your thoughts from lies*. And take the mighty razor-sharp Spirit-sword[r] of the spoken Word of God.

Pray passionately[s] in the Spirit, as you constantly intercede with every form of prayer at all times. Pray the blessings of God upon all his believers.

Armor of God

Sunday 1/21

1. Belt of Truth
2. Breastplate of Righteousness

Sunday 1/28

3. Shoes of the Gospel of Peace
4. Shield of Faith

Sunday 2/4

5. Helmet of Salvation
6. Sword of the Spirit (Word of God)

3. Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

Soldiers must have shoes that are well-equipped for the battles that lie ahead. As soldiers of Christ, we must put on our “gospel shoes” that will allow us to go wherever our God leads. The apostle John says, “*By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*” (1 John 2:5b-6 ESV).

Jesus said, “*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*” (John 10:27 ESV). Satan will place obstacles in our path, but in Jesus’ strength, and by His Spirit, we can walk forward, following God’s direction for our lives, obeying Him, and advancing the Gospel.

4. Shield of Faith

In listing the different pieces of the Armor of God, Paul says, “**Above all, . . . [take] the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one**” (Ephesians 6:16 KJV). When Satan attacks us with doubts, the shield of faith deflects the blow. When temptations come, faith keeps us devoted in following Jesus. We are able to withstand all the devil’s fiery darts, because we KNOW the one we have believed in (2 Timothy 3:12).

This faith isn’t something that comes from within us. It is God’s gift to us. He gives each of us a measure of faith (Romans 12:3). Then, as we partner with Him more and more each day, that faith grows and develops until it becomes a shield, protecting us and allowing us to live a **victorious life in Christ!**

This was Paul’s experience. He said, “*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me*” (Galatians 2:20 ESV).

And at the end of that life of faith, he declared, “*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith*” (2 Timothy 4:7 ESV). That can be our experience as well, as we use the shield of faith to turn aside everything Satan hurls at us.

"We Will Not Be Shaken" (A Song of Victory)

For we trust in our God
And through His unfailing love
We will not be shaken,
We will not be shaken,
We will not be shaken
[x2]

Though the battle rages
We will stand in the fight
Though the armies rise up against us on all sides
We will not be shaken
We will not be shaken
We will not be shaken

For in the hour of our darkest day
We will not tremble, we won’t be afraid
Hope is rising like the light of dawn
Our God is for us He has overcome

All those against Him will fall
For our God is stronger
He can do all things
No higher name we can call

For Jesus is greater
We can do all things

Communion

Benediction

Ephesians 6:23-24 (NLT)

“Peace be with you, dear brothers and sisters, and may God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you love with faithfulness. May God’s grace be eternally upon all who love our Lord Jesus Christ.”