

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 11 – The Armor of God & Spiritual Warfare

Lesson 47 - The Armor of God Part 7

Ephesians 6:10-17 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Faith is the substance of things hoped for. One of the best definitions I've ever heard for hope is "a desire with an absolute expectation for fulfillment." Hope is much stronger than wishing; hope is much stronger than the way we use it today. We use the word so glibly. What we usually really mean is that we are kinda wishing it will happen.

In the book of 1 Corinthians it says that these three abide: faith, hope, and love. Isn't it interesting that we hear a fair amount of teaching about love, and a fair amount of teaching about faith, but we hear much less teaching about hope. Hope is a powerful weapon. It's far beyond just wishing. It drives you in a particular direction.

Hope is a desire with an absolute expectation for fulfillment.

When a woman is pregnant, as she goes from month to month, her womb begins to grow. Her belly grows, she feels the kicking in her belly, and she grows in a development of a hope. She has a desire to see this baby born. She has an absolute expectation that she is going to give birth to a baby. She, as the whole process is going on, has this hope. It's a desire with an absolute expectation for fulfillment. She doesn't go through the pregnancy just wishing she will have a baby. She has a hope with an absolute expectation for fulfillment. She goes out and starts buying baby clothes often before she knows what the sex of the baby is. She starts preparing a room for the baby. The mother and father start gathering together the things the baby will need. They're acting on a hope. They have not yet seen the baby. The baby has not been born, and there are still things that could go wrong. But they're not thinking about what could go wrong. They're thinking about a hope.

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How will you act when you have true hope?

You will begin to act like it has already happened. You're going to act as if it is a done deal.

We diminished the power of that word so much because we use it so casually. "I hope it doesn't rain today." We're really kinda just wishing. When you have a true hope it's a desire with an absolute expectation for fulfillment.

If we are really hoping for revival, we will be doing things to prepare for revival. If you are truly hoping for the Lord to do something, you're going to do things to prepare for that which you are hoping for. When you have a true hope, then you have a desire with absolute expectation for fulfillment. It has a driving force to it.

The Bible says that faith is the substance of things hoped for. If you don't have anything that you're really hoping for, there is nothing for your faith to attach itself to. Faith is not the substance of things wished for. Faith is the substance of things hoped for.

The Helmet of Salvation

Ephesians 6:17a *And take the helmet of salvation.*

The word salvation here does not speak simply of your born again experience. The word salvation here speaks of your final deliverance.

1 Thessalonians 5:8 *But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.*

This helmet of salvation is the helmet of the hope of salvation; not the hope of being born again, but the hope of our final salvation. It's the time when we will shed this mortal body, we will leave the corruptible, and we will take on the incorruptible. It's that point and time when Jesus comes back and we go to be with Him. It's when we have escaped the limitations of this life; when we've escaped sin, sickness, death, and destruction. It's that time when we will spend all eternity walking by His side, worshipping His name, living forever feasting on the eternal tree of life.

What is the final salvation that putting on the helmet represent?

Put on this helmet of hope, this desire with an absolute expectation for fulfillment that there is coming a day when Jesus is returning for us.

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There is a salvation that is yet to come. There's a salvation that delivers from this present darkness. There is a deliverance from the limitations of this world. The Bible says to put this on as a helmet to protect. A helmet protects your mind; it protects your head. Put on as a helmet the hope of this final salvation. We are going to escape the limitations of this mortal life and take on an eternal existence with Him. There is a strength in this hope.

Entering into the experience of the revelation of the helmet of salvation is the revelation of the hope of the final, eternal deliverance that you and I shall have. We shall be caught up with Him. We shall be joined together with Him. We shall become one flesh and joined with Him for eternity. We will live forever and ever. There is a hope of salvation. This hope is a helmet to protect you against the assaults of the enemy.

The Bible teaches us many principles. One of the things the Word teaches us is that we are to set our minds and our hearts on things above, not on things here on the earth. Jesus taught that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Luke 12:34) The heart is the mind, the will, the emotions, the imaginations. We've been talking about these two battle fronts that were fighting in this spiritual battle. It's the battle front of the mind, and the battle front of the spiritual atmosphere that's out there. Here in the battle front of the mind he says you need to put on this hope of salvation as a weapon to guard your mind, because when you have a hope you are looking forward to something that is yet to be fulfilled. You are acting on that hope and are doing different things now for that hope.

When that mother is expecting that child she is doing things now in preparation for what is coming. She'll even change her diet. She'll change her habits, she'll change her lifestyle, so that she can create the right atmosphere and prepare herself for the birthing of that baby. All truth is parallel when we have this hope in our minds, when we have the hope that Jesus is coming back, it causes our minds to be stayed on Him. It causes our minds to be focused on Him.

The Bible says that he whose mind is stayed on the Lord is at perfect peace. (Isaiah 26:3) He whose mind is stayed on the Lord is at one with God. Keep your eyes on things above. When you set your hope on the return of Christ, when you set your hope on the final salvation, when you set your hope on eternity with Him, you will invest time, energy, talent, and resources that you have now in preparation for what you're hoping for. Just like the mother will spend time, money, her talent, and resources preparing now for the expectation of that baby.

When your hope is heaven, when your hope is the final salvation, when your hope is the second coming of Christ, you will invest your treasure, your time, your talent, your resources now on what you're hoping for. When we are eagerly anticipating the second coming of Christ and eagerly looking for Him to come back with a hope in the final salvation, we will spend our time, our energy, and our talent preparing for that eternal life. Our life here on earth is but a blip in time. On a tombstone when they have the years of someone's life there's that little dash in between the dates. That little dash is your whole life. That's all your life is here. It's one little

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dash; it's one little blip in comparison to eternity. Those who have their hope on an eternity with Christ look at this life as a little blip in their existence. Can you even begin to try to comprehend what it's going to be like? Ten million years from now when we're with Jesus we're going to look at our life here as so far in the background as if it never even existed.

Those who have this hope of spending eternity with Christ, of the total deliverance of the final salvation will spend their time, their talent, their resources, the focus of their minds, and their actions on what they're expecting to come to pass. They'll spend time now changing their lives. They'll spend time now preparing themselves. They will make sure that their life is pure so that they don't miss this hope.

1 John 3:2-3 *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

When you have the hope of the return of Christ it gives you the drive and focus to purify yourself.

Proverbs 29:18 KJV *Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*

The word perish there means to become unrestrained or undisciplined. Vision brings about hope. Vision is seeing into the future. It's the revealing of something that is coming. When you have a vision you're looking forward to something that hasn't yet come to pass, but you see it by revelation. You see it with the eyes of the spirit. You have a hope; you have a desire with an expectation for fulfillment.

Where there is no vision the people become unrestrained or undisciplined. The opposite is also true. When you have a strong enough vision, or hope, it will give you the power to restrain or discipline yourself. Ask anybody that works out. When they work out they have a hope. Some put up a picture of a body builder with the perfect body; the kind of body they want. They know they're not anything like that picture, but they will look at it and they will get a vision for becoming like it. They will discipline themselves. They will eat differently. They will work out hard. They will push themselves. They have a natural hope, but they have a hope that they will one day be like that picture, and that hope gives them the ability to discipline themselves. But when you remove hope it causes people to lose the power of self discipline, the power of self-restraint.

Remember we're talking about the two battlefronts. We have the battlefront of the mind, but also the battlefront in the spirit. The helmet of the hope of salvation is not only a defensive weapon, but an offensive weapon. It's a defensive weapon to guard your mind, to keep your mind focused on God so you can stand pure before God.

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It's also an offensive weapon. One of the greatest spirits the devil is throwing against this generation right now is the spirit of hopelessness. In the inner cities there are young people who are involved in gangs and they don't expect to live beyond the age of 25. Therefore they see no reason to discipline themselves. They have no reason to not rob people or to not do every vile thing. They believe they are going to die anyways and have no hope of an eternal life. They have no hope of an existing life here, and when you rob people of their hope they will become unrestrained and undisciplined. It's a spirit of hopelessness.

What are the two areas of hope in putting on the helmet of salvation?

[Not only are we to take up the helmet of the hope of salvation for ourselves, but we're also to begin to preach the good news of the Gospel; the hope that there is an eternal life with Jesus.](#)

The hope that no matter how bad your life is here, no matter how messed up your family is here, no matter how poor you are, no matter what you go through, if you surrender your life to Jesus Christ He will forgive you of your sins, and He will make a mansion for you in heaven. He will prepare for you a place that is like no other place, beyond what you can possibly imagine. There is a hope of an eternity free from sickness, free from sin, free from suffering, free from pain, free from death. There is a hope of Christ in you, the hope of glory; the hope of all that God is and all that God has.

That message of hope is powerful. That Word of hope is such a powerful force against the forces of darkness and against the voices of wickedness. The devil knows that he who has this hope will purify himself. He that has this hope will discipline himself. He that has this hope will restrain himself. That's why Jesus preached about heaven over, and over again. He talked about His second coming. The Bible says over and over again to watch and pray, to get ready, to prepare yourself for the King is coming.

There is a hope. There is a heaven. There are streets of glory. There are angelic beings. There is life forevermore. There's life eternal, and we will rule and reign with Him. There's going to be a new heaven and a new earth. All this junk is going to pass away. The devil is going to be bound and cast into the lake of fire. Sin is going to be cast down with him. Sickness is going to be cast down with him. Death is going to be cast down with him.

There is a hope, and that hope of the final deliverance is a mighty helmet to protect your mind from the distractions, the lies, the deceits and the assaults of the enemy when you have your mind focused on the fact that the King is coming. It is true that God will bless you here, but when your hope is focused on the things here it is not a helmet. It is the helmet of the hope of the final deliverance. That is the armament of God; the mighty weapon that'll protect your mind in Jesus name. Put on as a helmet the revelation of the hope of your final salvation.

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For Further Study:

Romans 8:24-25 *For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.*

Ephesians 1:17-18 *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints..*

2 Timothy 2:10 *Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*