

Intro: Glad to be here/ Pjohn

I. Well, 2 weeks ago, I started a 2 part series talking about the Armor of God...

- A. And I discussed a story about a painting called the Chess Players.....
- B. This young man was overwhelmed..... Worried about his situation, his life, and his soul.... He was overwhelmed
- C. And, I told you last time, that I thought that a lot of people felt overwhelmed right now in their world
- D. Overwhelmed by what's going on in the world.... war/inflation//lots of stuff
- E. Overwhelmed maybe by what's going on in your own life: health, finances, relationships, family
- F. Or even overwhelmed by what's going on in your own soul or mind: lack of faith, depression, ?'s if God is really there.

II. Listen, God is really here and He cares for us

- A. And even though things are going on today and they are crazy and concerning.... God wants to help us right now/ Where we are..
- B. Remember what Paul tells us in **Ephians 6:** ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 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 firm.
- C. Right now, during these evil days with the enemy scheming; God wants us to be Strong.....

III. See there is an enemy out there that hates our guts

- A. Since, we were born we have been in a War.
- B. Satan has been in full attack mode against human kind
- C. The reason why.....
- D. The enemy is stalking us, He is cunning, He is the tempter,
- E. **1 Peter 5:8** Be sober-minded, be watchful, Your Adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
- F. So the devil, who was a created being, when he fell, took 1/3 of the angels with him (demons)
- G. And He is trying to hurt us, deceive us, lie to us, and destroy us

IV. But, the good news is **Hebrews 2:14 Jesus came to render powerless the works of the devil**

- A. **1John 3:8**, The reasons the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil
- B. **Romans 16:20**; The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

- C. Isn't that awesome. Jesus came and satan has been defeated and he knows it
- D. Yet, He is still attacking us, until we die or Jesus comes back

- V. Not only has Jesus defeated satan, but we are called to defeat him too
 - A. Every time he attacks we are called to shake him off and defeat him
 - B. And the good news is; God gave us a means to do this
 - C. He did not just create us and leave us alone empty handed to try and figure it out....No He gave us a lot of help
 - D. And One of the main things to help us defend ourself from the enemy and in-fact attack him and win is the Armor of God**

- VI. Go back to **Ephesians 6:12**: ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places, **Ephesians 6:13**
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 firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

- VII. Paul writes down the solution to overcoming the enemy in this spiritual war that we are in..
 - A. The enemy of doubt, the enemy of fear, the enemy of depression, the enemy that wants to destroy your soul
 - B. We simply must put it on The Armor of God
 - C. The Armor of God: strengthens us, gives us stability, and encouragement!
 - D. And more importantly it allows us to Defeat the enemy in this day of trouble
 - E. This Armor is Spiritual but it has physical aspects, just like real Roman Armor from the 1st century

- VIII. So, what I endeavored to do last time and I will endeavor to do this week: is give a brief overview of each piece of Armor, what it really means, and how we are supposed to use it
 - A. Come on, we are in evil days: What are evil days?
 - B. The day that the enemy messes with you
 - C. The only way to defeat the enemy right now, in this spiritual war that we are in, is to Stand up to him!!!

- D. We stand up to him, by putting on the Armor of God
- E. And again, The picture of believers putting on the Armor of God isn't so you just can take blow after blow... or be a punching bag!
- F. No, its so you can fight and win!!!!

IX. We are called to defeat the enemy!!

- A. We aren't called to be defeated, or walk around less than, or helpless, We are called to get battle ready and whoop that Dude!!
- B. The solution is to take up the Armor

X. Today I am going to look at the last 4 pieces of Armor and we are going to see how God intends us to use them

- A. Last week, I hit on the 1st 2 pieces
- B. **1st Belt of Truth:** in this hour our great defense against the devil and a great offense is knowing the Truth..... no believing lies.... Daniel.....
- C. 2nd; **Breastplate of Righteousness;** 2 things imputed Righteousness of Christ, 2nd Right living (Got to live like your righteous
- D. Now, as we move forward, this isn't going to be exhaustive, we could spend an hour or more or each..... but I think it will help
- E. **Pray**

XI. **Ok, the THIRD piece of Armor that we are called to put on is: shoes for the readiness given by the gospel of peace**

- A. Ok, How many ladies in the house like shoes? My wife likes shoes and feels like she has to have a certain pair for every occasion
- B. 2 of my little girls are the exact same way.... Always need a new pair of shoes
- C. So shoes are important in this day and time for style, but for function as well
- D. Guys that have certain jobs need steel toe boots, if you're a nurse you want comfortable shoes because your going to be on your feet all day, if you're a baseball or football player you need cleats so you won't slip down as you run on grass or turf

XII. In Pauls day, while he is writing this letter to the Ephesians, as lead by the Holy Spirit, he is imprisoned. Where is He imprisoned? Rome

- A. A lot of imagery that Paul writes in, for sure when He talks about the Armor of God, has to do with the Romans...
- B. Why? Because Rome controls a lot of the World.. Remember Israel is under Roman rule

C. So, Paul writes in imagery that 1st century believers were very familiar with, They saw these Romans soldiers every single day

XIII. In this Day and time in the Roman empire, the types of shoes that soldiers wore were very important

- A. The soldiers armor weighed around 125 lbs, and when you are in the muck and mud fighting, with 125 lbs of armor on, you need to have sure footing
- B. And the Roman Soldiers did
- C. The Roman soldiers had tough, well made, leather sandals, with a type of nail that was pushed through from the inside/// like a cleat
- D. So as the Soldier was in battle, that he wouldn't slip/ He would be sure footed/
- E. So His feet would be planted in battle... So the Soldier could take a firm stand and wouldn't be sliding and slipping everywhere!
- F. That is what the Romans are doing and wearing when Paul writes this letters to the Believers in Ephesus
- G. The Romans were great fighters and one of the reasons was they didn't slip in battle

XIV. So Paul, is telling us to put on shoes given by the Gospel of Peace!

- A. So, what does that mean? When the enemy comes and attacks you; What plants you, what gives you grip, what keeps you balanced, what keeps you from falling down?
- B. The Gospel of Peace
- C. **Romans 5:1** says, Therefore since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- D. We fight the enemy by knowing we are saved! And that we have made Peace with God
- E. See, there was a time when we were enemies with God, before we were saved.. God was infact against us... We had no peace between us and God
- F. But since we have: repented of our sin, made Jesus Lord of our life, and believed that He is who he says He is... We are now not enemies with God, but Children of God.....
- G. We are on his team!!**

XV. I want to give you a great illustration of this: remember Peter in the Garden when Jesus is betrayed

John 18: ³ So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" ⁵ They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he."⁶ Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus⁶ said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷ So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." ⁹ This was to fulfill the word that he had

spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant¹¹ and cut off his right ear.

- A. Why is Peter so amped up; Jesus is on his side, The power of Jesus just knocked all the bad dudes down, and Peter is like,, lets go, I'm on His Team!
- B. Listen, when you have been saved, and there is a fight coming against you..... You can have confidence knowing that your on God's team!

Romans 8:31 ; ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be¹² against us?

- C. When the enemy comes, which He will, what gives you footing and grip, and security to hold your ground is your Salvation
- D. When I was a Freshman in Highschool I got to play most of the season on the Varsity..... At that time, not one of the strongest player on the team..... But I new, if I was struggling, I was on a Great team, and they had my back
- E. Remember Guidion: Israel shows up to fight against the Midian with 32,000 soldiers///// God said I only need 300. (he didn't even need that many)

XVI. What I am trying to tell you the greatest defense against the enemy is Gospel of Peace/ the fact that you are at peace with God

- A. And the battle your in, at the end of the Day you are victorious, because Jesus already won
- B. So when the enemy comes; " you start declaring; " I am saved", I am a child of God
- C. It builds up your faith, gives you courage, Because God is with you
- D. We must operate with the mindset that God is on our side!!! (Daniel,shadrack..)
How were they Bold, They were on God's team
- E. When the enemy comes with lies and intimidation; Straitgen those shoulders, puff that chest out...

XVII. To wrap this point up; Its not only a defense, but a weapon.

- A. What does the enemy hate?
- B. When we share this gospel of peace..... with other
- C. He increases the army of people that have denied him lordship and ownership
- D. Everyday we are supposed to plunder hell? How we take back stuff from the prince of this world.
- E. Ok, too much....Keep going

XVIII. **Ok, the next piece of Armor is the Shield of Faith:** In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

- A. Ok, lets think back to Roman armor for a second
- B. When in battle, The Romans were famous for having great shields
- C. Picture
- D. Their Shields were oval, 4foot by 2 ft, that were made from 2 pieces of wood.
These 2 sheets of wood were glued together, then covered with canvas and leather

- E. This leather, during battle, was doused in water and a type of oil that would put out flaming arrows when they hit their shield
- F. So in Battle, the shield was big enough that the soldiers could squat behind it, and was flame retardant so when the enemy shot that arrow, the flame would be put out on impact.

XIX. So, what does Paul call our Shield in the Spiritual War? A shield of Faith

- A. So Faith in essence does what? It protects us
- B. And so what is Faith?....
- C. Faith 1st is putting our trust in Christ as Savior
- D. We are saved through, What?... Faith
- E. We put our faith in the finished work of Jesus on the Cross, Faith that Christ has forgiven our sins, Faith that Christ has saved us, faith that we will spend eternity with God, Faith that we have been reconciled, and Faith that He is with us right now!!

Hebrews 11 gives us a great definition of Faith: ¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

- XX. So faith is what you believe, I believe who God says he is, I believe what the scripturew say about me, and God, and Jesus, and other people, I believe I am supposed to live a certain way.. That's faith
- A. But What else is faith? ; its an action
 - B. **2 Corinthians 5:7**; ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight.
 - C. Faith is an action that we must take!
 - D. Hebrews 11 is referred to the Hall of Faith. It goes through a whole list of people that had faith
 - E. ⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, ⁵ By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, ⁷ By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. ⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. ¹¹ By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ²¹ By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. ²² By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones. ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁹ By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

- F. Did you see the common theme; The people that were called faithful; had to do something.
- G. See our faith is an action; It leads us to do what God wants us to do
- H. I find it so interesting that we Trust God for eternal security, but a lot of times not in the day to day???

XXI. So the shield of faith is about: putting our trust in Christ, living out that trust with our daily lifestyle:

- A. What else does this shield of Faith do? Well it says that it puts out the flaming/fiery darts of the enemy
- B. What are the flaming darts of the enemy?
- C. What does the enemy throw at us?
- D. I believe its clear scripturally that the enemy throws temptation at us
- E. In Matthew 4:3 , the devil is known as the tempter
- F. And ever since Adam and Eve, his job has been to temp us to fall!

XXII. And what is the root of every temptation that He has ever thrown at man-kind?

- A. He tries to shake our Faith; You know better than God
- B. Think about Adam and Eve..... (God said this, but..... do you really believe him?? You know better than God!
- C. Think about the temptation of Jesus: (turn stones into bread, (God knows your hungry/why isn't he feeding you///// bow down to me and I will give you the kingdoms/ why is God making you go through this//////// 3d temptation throw yourself down from the temple in Jersalem/ so people will know you're the Messaih..)
- D. Every temptation was to get Adam, Eve, Jesus and you and I to pick ourself and our way over God's way
- E. What is Pride: I know better than God... What is Lust: I know better than God (I don't need to be pure) What is lying...Same thing!

XXIII. So what Is Paul saying when the devil throws temptations at us?

- A. Put up your shield; take up your faith
- B. God's ways are better, God has the best intentions for me!
- C. Trinity running off..... (spanking...)

XXIV. And not only is this a defense mechanism, but its also an offensevie weapon

- A. When we walk by faith; God gives us Favor
- B. When we walk by Faith; God keeps us from falling into sin
- C. When we walk by faith; we are a living testimony to God
- D. When we walk by faith; We crush the enemy!!! Jesus faith in God, sent the devil away
- E. Keep Going

XV. The 5th piece of the Armor is the Helmet of Salvation

- A. Like I said; I don't have the time to completely cover every point exhaustively, but I want to make 3 keys points for the importance of this helmet of Salvation
- B. Here is **1st point**: Putting on the helmet of Salvation is everyday identifying as Christ's child
- C. Because again, what Jesus did on the Cross, dying for us; when we repent of our sin and believe... We are saved!!! Thank God!!!!... Right
- D. So putting on the Helmet, particularly when the enemy is attacking is reminding yourself that your God's, not the devils....
- E. Your no longer a slave to Sin.....
- F. **2Corinthians 5:17**; We are a new Creation in Christ. The old has gone and the new is here!
- G. **Romans 12:2** says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will."

XXV. Paul is telling us, We defeat the enemy by remembering, again that your saved, your God's, not the devil's

- A. And we are called to live like it.....
- B. How many people remember the name **Benedict Arnold**.....(synomis for traitor)
- C. **Benedict Arnold** was a Hero in the American Revolution, he rose to the ranks of Major General under George Washington, he was placed in command of West Point in New York,
- D. Well if you read his story, several things happened, one being he got jealous of not being recognized like he though He should, and he defected to the British Army and ended up fighting against the same people he lead..
- E. He switched teams....
- F. Paul, through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit is reminding us when the enemy comes at us; throwing darts, throwing temptations, we remember who's team we are on!!

XXVI. The **2nd point**: What does the Helmet in the physical protect? Your mind

- A. Where does the enemy mostly attack us? Our mind
- B. I'm not going to make it; God isn't real, I'm not really saved; I want to have an affair, I want to be judgemental or jealous
- C. Most of our battlefield is our mind.....
- D. And what does God tell us to do?
- E. **2 Corinthians 10:5**: Take every thought captive
- F. Don't give in to those bad thoughts, don't believe the lies
- G. Then James tells us in **James 4:7**; Resist the devil and he will flee

XXVII. To win this spiritual battle, we must remember who we are; we must protect our thoughts and beliefs

A. Again that's why the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, shield of faith.. they are so important.....

B. 3d point to Helmet of Salvation is to Bring you Hope

C. This life is tough, and we most certainly can overcome while we are here, but there is Hope, that one day, this will all be over and we will be with Jesus forever...

D. Because it will be: One day we will see Jesus face to face; One day there will be no more sin, or pain, or tears, or taxes!!! Hello

E. Until then; you remember who's you are, put on that Helmet!!

XXVIII. Finally our last piece of Armor: the Sword of the Spirit