

Put on the Full Armor of God

By Nathan Burke

Hello Victory family.

It is an honor to partake in another Unto the Lord Fast together! May the Lord our Savior Jesus Christ produce in us great humility and love and may the fruit of the Holy Spirit blossom in our lives today! To God be the glory. Hallelujah!

In this Unto the Lord Fast, we are meditating on putting on the full armor of God. All you have to do is turn on the news for five minutes to realize it is high time to be putting on God's full armor daily! What a great gift from God that Father extends His mighty hand and gives us armor to protect us. Thank You, God, that it is Your heart to protect us as we carry out Your perfect and holy will on earth as it is in heaven.

Ephesians 6:10 says, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" (NKJV). We should not take it lightly that God gives us the ability and access to be strong in Him and in His power. But how are we able to accomplish this?

One of the ways is by putting on the whole armor of God. This is not normal armor but spiritual armor that is not prone to rust, age, or have human flaws in construction or smithing—it is the armor of the Most High Living God! We have access to this incredible armor as children of God.

There is a problem, however. Many know of the whole armor of God, but it takes "doing" to put on the armor. Here's an example: You are about to go on the front line of a battle and right before you go you are brought to the armory. You see incredible uniforms, protective equipment, and weaponry. You find comfort in the greatness of the armory, yet you don't go in and equip yourself to be battle ready. Then you are sent out to the front line of the battle and suddenly realize you are ill equipped and that the mere admiration of the armor will not save your life. You needed to put on the armor to be protected. Many Christians today face this. They have knowledge of the armor of God, but they do not apply it to strengthen themselves in the Lord and in the power of His might.

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. (Ephesians 6:12 NKJV)

In Ephesians 6:12, Paul uses an interesting word: wrestle. The definition of wrestle in Paul's time was a contest between two people in which each endeavored to overthrow the other. The contest was decided when the victor was able to hold his opponent down with his hand upon his neck. Our fight is against the forces of evil in heavenly places. Evil is trying to overthrow you and pin you down. This is why Paul says three different times to "stand" (Ephesians 6:11, 13, 14). Praise be to God, He gives us everything we need to be victorious in battle by putting on the whole armor of God!

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints." (Ephesians 6:14–18)

We know what the whole armor of God is, but how do we wield it, put it on, and gird ourselves up? Remember the armory analogy I just gave? We do not want to be a people that only admires the incredible heavenly armor of God; we want to wield it with all our might!

The first piece of the armor of God is the belt of truth. We put it on by reading the Word of God and being led by the Spirit of Truth and by believing in Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Next, we put on the breastplate of righteousness. The breastplate is what protects our vital organs, and most importantly our heart. God says to protect your heart for all that you do flows from it. The only way to apply the breastplate of righteousness from God is by faith in His precious Son, Jesus. Please read Philippians 3:8–9 for a deeper study on this.

Fitting our feet with the readiness of the gospel of peace is the next piece of armor. The only way to do this is to make ourselves ready through proper preparation in the gospel. It means to know the gospel and be well-versed in the Holy Scripture. It is every believer's responsibility and commitment to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus commands in Matthew 28:19 (NKJV): "Go therefore and make disciples."

The next piece of armor is the shield of faith. This is one of the most important pieces of armor in a soldier's loadout because of its utility for defense! You unlock access to the shield by walking in faith. The result of this in your life is that every flaming and fiery dart of the devil will be quenched and extinguished. Hallelujah!

Next, we have to protect our noggin, and we do this with the helmet of salvation. It is the assurance of our hope of salvation in God through Jesus Christ that guards our thoughts and mind (1 Thessalonians 5:8). That is why it is a helmet and this is how it equips us.

The last piece of armor, and one of my favorite pieces of the whole armor of God, is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. This is the only offensive weaponry in our armor to fight back the wicked forces in the heavenly realm. Do not have a dull sword, friend. You sharpen your sword by loving and studying the Holy Word of God. I encourage you to wield the Word of God and fight in the environment you are in whether that is work, your family, or your friendships. Push back the devil and his minions with all the authority that Christ Jesus has bestowed to us! Remember, the first piece of armor is the belt of truth. I bring this up because when the sword is not in use it's in a sheath that is attached and upheld by the soldier's belt. It is a beautiful picture that the Word of God is upheld by truth and is truth itself!

Once we have equipped ourselves in the full armor of God, Paul says to be praying always with all prayers. This is a mandate we all carry as soldiers of the Kingdom of God; we are to PRAY!

In closing, I know it can seem intimidating to join the fight, but the revelation is that we are already in it. My questions to you are: Will you fight for the Kingdom of God to come here on earth as it is in heaven? Will you put on the full armor of God and fight as a mighty soldier in God's Kingdom?

I know that you will, and I want to encourage you to engage. Know that you are not alone fighting in this spiritual war! There is One who goes before us who holds the keys to death and hell and His name is Jesus! He is the Lord of Hosts, the Lord of Armies, the Lord our Banner! Exodus 14:14 says, "The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace" (NKJV).

Take great comfort in the Comforter Himself. Stand tall, be bold, give NO place to the devil, and walk in the full victory that we have in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

God bless you in this fast and continue to have a mighty day. I love you guys; peace!