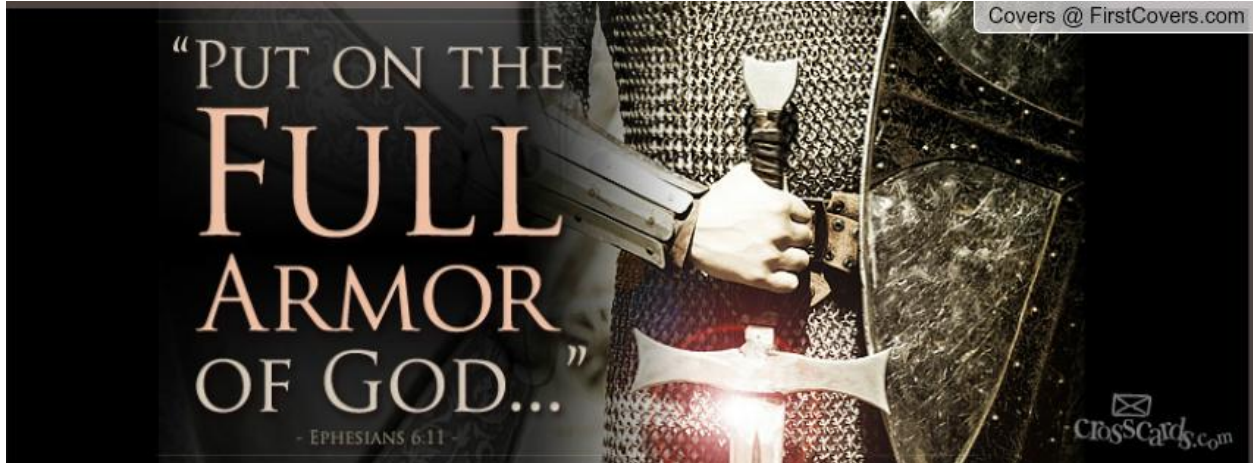


ARMOR of GOD



Think about how much Paul was in prison and that in his day Jerusalem was ruled over by the Romans. So he saw the battle gear of the Roman soldiers continually before him. This is what he based the description of the armor of God on.

Eph. 6:10-18 – Read out about the armor.

I consulted with Pastor Erustus on this teaching. He believes like I do, that we are not just to declare in faith the armor, but live this out in our daily lives. Remember it is not enough just to say something and then not be living it or truly mean it. If you say something you don't understand or are not living, then it is of no effect.



Ready to engage.



The belt was the foundation piece that held much of the armor in place and weapons too.

BELT OF TRUTH

Look at a soldier, the belt holds and carry's most of the things he needs. Clothing ourselves in truth from God shall cause us to be set free. satan is the father of lies and has made many fail for making them believe in lies. But once you hear and know truth and become a doer of truth satan is defeated. People should not just declare the true word but must do and live the word.

John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.

To know truth, you must know Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 3:11 - For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.



Our modern soldiers have things strapped all over their bodies. The belt is still a foundational piece of the uniform and holds many things in place.



Look at a police officer's belt, he keeps weapons and tools to do his job attached to his belt. It is a very important piece of his uniform.

What kind of fiery darts does satan shoot at us to try and get us to take the belt of truth off? Evolution, aliens, humanism, inclusivism, allah is the God of the Bible, God is a mean God, soul sleep, we don't have to obey because our salvation is secure etc.



BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The breastplate covers a soldier's chest, where the heart is. Our hearts must be right with God daily hence live a righteous life. We are to guard our hearts above everything else which is the wellspring of life. God looks at the heart and Satan is after possessing our hearts to sin against God. Many people have hearts which are not right with God thus can't win against Satan and demons.

Prov. 4:23 - Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

How does Satan attack our breastplate of righteousness? Temptation, seduction, lusts, just one time. Like, drinking, smoking, drugging, lusting after sex, lusting after food, lusting after money, lusting after success, lusting after fame etc. Next thing you know you are in an addiction or bondage to the thing you did. You give in to temptation and did not submit to God and resist the devil and he did not flee. What are you watching with your eyes, listening to with your ears? What are you spending your money on? What are you spending your time on?

All of these things are just to drag you away and into sin. When you stay in sin, you have laid your righteousness down.

Matt.6:33 – But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Are you putting God first or yourself? Are you a me, me me type of person or do you think of others?



They were sandals with sort of like spikes on the bottom for digging in to the terrain to help them stand in slippery mud or to climb up steep slopes. A soldier's feet had to stay dry to prevent sickness during battle and the shoes needed to be comfortable so the soldier could walk long distances. Are you willing to go the distance to spread the gospel??

SHOES OF PEACE

God has called us to peace. We are to proclaim His gospel and live at peace with all people if possible. Look at Jesus, He was not violent, arrogant or rough but a

Man of Peace. Paul asked Timothy to avoid arguments but be gentle as preached the gospel and interacted with people.

Romans 12:18 - If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

James 1:19 - Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

Eph. 4:26-32 - read out

Have you ever seen a mean “Christian”? I know I have. Anger and Christianity don’t go together. If someone is angry all the time then more than likely they have not yielded that part of themselves fully to God. If you are a Christian constantly living in anger, then you need to command that spirit of anger to leave in Jesus name. Take this to Jesus and thank Him for setting you free.

How does satan get us to take our shoes of peace off? When you blow your top and decide to just let someone have it even though the Holy Spirit is telling you to stop. Or when you get so mad about something you decide you will get back at the person instead of letting God handle it. Or when you engage in arguing. When you stay in worry and fear. When you can’t say you are sorry. When you can’t forgive. All of these things keep you from walking in peace. You don’t have on the full armor if you stay in any of these states. You must be quick to confess, and repent and get those shoes back on!!! We are to spread the gospel in love and reach out to the lost in love. Remember Paul said in 1 Cor. 13 – the love chapter, that if you do all these great things but don’t have love, it is if you are nothing and profited nothing – of no use and no effect. We must have love. God is love.



The shields were made out of wood with animal hides covering it. The shield had to be rubbed with oil (anointed) so that it would not get dried out and brittle making it susceptible to catching fire when hit by fiery darts.

SHIELD OF FAITH

A shield helped the soldier defend himself from attacks, arrows, spears etc. We must have faith in God always in order to win against satan. Faith is our shield against satan and demons. Look at the Bible those who believed totally in God

won the battle same to us today. If you lack faith then you are living in fear and such can't please God hence God can't outdo satan.

Heb. 11:6 - But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

You need extra oil to anoint your shield. The oil is the Holy Spirit. Remember the 5 wise virgins, their lamps were full (that's us being saved – because the 5 foolish virgins had full lamps to begin with too). Now you need extra oil to anoint your shield – who had the extra oil?? The 5 wise virgins did! To me that is a picture of being baptized into the Holy Spirit. You need plenty of the Holy Spirit, so always be asking Him to fill you up to the top and overflowing continuously. Keep asking to be refilled.

How does satan get fiery darts to hit and ignite our shield of faith? Or get us to lay it down altogether? Maybe a chronic sickness that isn't getting better and you've cried out to God, or you lose a child that you prayed over and believe God for a good outcome, or you lose your job. Then you begin to doubt and question God. Why did this happen? I am your child and yet bad things are happening. Depression and oppression that won't let up etc. Not getting a break through and you are obeying and honoring Him. Remember in MK ultra and SRA they purposely break the faith of a person by teaching them scripture and then doing horrific things to them and telling them to call out to Jesus and He doesn't walk through the door and save them and so then they begin to believe the Bible is a lie, this is an attack on faith. A loved one dies and you don't know why or how come the miracle you prayed for didn't happen? God, don't you love me enough to give me a miracle? Don't you love me enough to have answered that prayer? Hypocrites in church, not truly living for God and it turns others off. Like a pastor that is getting richer by the minute and yet there are even some lacking right in his own church. Or Christians that don't live the Word but act just like the world. Greedy Christians that don't want to help where help is truly needed. Not being disciplined correctly (like at "feel good church") and so not making a connection with God and not getting freed up through deliverance from bondage. If God loves me, why did He let this bad thing happen to me? A homosexual or someone disfigured or disabled, might say if God loves me, why was I born like this? Selena on YT reminded me of TI'S who are tortured and targeted and isolated and many

have cried out to Jesus and yet it continues. This is to break their faith and make them give up thinking there is no hope and no help.

We have some personal friends that had something tragic happen in their lives when their little baby was about 9 mos. Old. She got a virus that began to eat her brain and it was so fast moving that by the time they got it stopped she was permanently disabled. For more than 30 years they have had to feed her, change her diaper, lift her in and out of her wheelchair to go to bed or the bathroom. She cannot speak except for some hand signs that she learned. You want to see a test of faith, that's a major one right there. How easy would it be to get angry at God over this and bitter inside? Another friend of mine had something similar happen but in an opposite kind of way. She and her husband were in their 40's when this happened. Her husband was waiting on a kidney transplant when he got terribly sick and passed out at home. From that point on he was in the hospital for a while and then he went to a rehabilitation center and now he is at home. He reverted back to the state of a child with his mind. He did not remember things for a while and still doesn't remember completely. He had to relearn how to do many things. Did his wife or kids sign up for this? No, certainly not, but you know what, this is a great picture of "for better or worse, in sickness and in health." Look at Abraham and Sarah, God promised them a child that through him all the nations would be blessed. They waited and grew impatient and tried to make it happen on their own. They botched it all up and God said, no, this is not what I said, you will have a child between the two of you and through him the nations will be blessed. They had to wait 25 years for this to come to pass.

I looked online to see what were some of the reasons that people walk away from God and leave the faith. The number one reason was their prayers not getting answered.

Why are we so fast to give up on God? We make deals like this, if you don't come through for me next week, then just forget it, I'm done! Or look, I've prayed and gone to church and paid tithes and did all of these things so You need to do Your part now.

What kind of God would He be if we were able to push Him around? If we could manipulate Him? If we could give Him ultimatums? A pretty wimpy one, I guarantee you that much. Our God is a ROCK! His Word is final authority in

heaven and on earth! He knows what is best for us, in what we ask for, in the timing of answered prayers. This is where faith comes in. It takes great faith to stand even when you don't see God move. Even when you don't hear God speaking to you. He honors faith!!! God's answers are always yes and no. The problem is when it is a yes and we don't see it happen instantly. Then we think it was no and give up too soon or too easy.

Are you mad at God about something? Angry and bitter about something tragic that He didn't stop or change or about the miracle you prayed for and it didn't come? I want to tell you something, and especially new Christians, being a Christian is not easy. This idea that it's a big birthday party and nothing bad happens is a lie. As a matter of fact, once you step out and stand for God, satan is madder than ever and he will be coming at you in full force. He wants especially to pick off new Christians so that they give up and say forget it, it is too much. It was better when I wasn't living for God. That is what satan wants you to think. It is a lie, he is the father of all lies. This is why you need your brothers and sisters in Christ to help lift you up and keep going.

Remember that part of the movie "God's not Dead" when the old mother who has dementia has a moment of clarity and begins to speak and says that sometimes satan will bless you to keep you away from God. You are a bird in a cage but the door is open and at the right time – the door will slam shut!! When you walk as a Christian and you look over at neighbors and others who are not living for God and you see that their life looks so easy and blessed beyond measure, please remember what that lady said.

1 Peter 1:6-9 – Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in Whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

Sometimes when prayers aren't answered or don't seem to be going our way, it can be because we don't realize we have an open door (could be sin or

generational curses) or the Bible says we ask amiss, meaning that we are not asking in line with God's will.

Even if God never did one more thing for us, He has done enough in sacrificing His only Son, Jesus Christ so that if we just believe in Him we would not perish but have everlasting life. Jesus Christ is enough. Believe in Him even if things don't seem to go your way – that is faith – stand therefore.

CLOSING

2 Tim.2:3 -4 - Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him Who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

Mark 4:18-19-And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the Word, and the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things enter in choke the Word, and it becometh unfruitful.

I just need to work a little more to get that promotion. I just need a little more money to be happy. If I am rich people will like me. I have my kids enrolled in so many programs I just don't have time to focus on God. I'm tired because I'm over booked and can't say no or let anything go so I let God be last in my life. I don't seem to hear God so I'm just going to go on and have fun with my friends and not miss out on life while I'm young. Zombie and vampire movies aren't that big of a deal, God understands, it's not like I'm trying to be one, I don't see anything wrong with them. Busyness and telling yourself God is ok with what you are doing in life will pull you away from the truth of His Word and away from Him.

Hebrews 12:1-4 – read out set aside the sin that so easily besets you – give it to God.

PRAYER