

Lesson 3

THE ARMOR OF GOD

Put on the whole armor of God,
that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil
(Ephesians 6:11).

Satan often uses his wily tactics to make us believe we are battling against flesh and blood. If Satan can draw you into the flesh, then he has the decided advantage over you. But if we fight against him in the Spirit, with the armor God provides, we can't lose. God calls all true believers to engage in spiritual warfare—and equips us to do it!

GIRD YOUR WAIST WITH TRUTH

For a soldier, the belt is perhaps the least noticed part of his armor—but the most important. It holds all his body armor in place. For believers, the truth is like a soldier's belt. If we stand on the truths in God's Word, we will experience victory in our lives.

1. Write Ephesians 6:14a.

If we speak the truth about God, all of our Christian beliefs will remain in place. Our world is full of lies. Yet in Christ we have found the truth about who we are, why we are here, and where we are going. Satan is the father of lies, and when we speak the truth, he must flee.

2. Write John 14:6.

PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The breastplate protected a soldier's vital organs—most importantly, his heart. All Christians should keep their hearts protected from the Devil's wickedness. The Bible tells us that our hearts are prone toward wickedness if left idle and unattended. Therefore, to fill our hearts with the righteousness of the Lord, we must study the Bible daily.

3. Write Jeremiah 17:9.

4. Write Psalm 119:11.

We need to sanctify our hearts unto God so that we're sensitive to hear His voice as He guides us in our daily battles. A righteous heart is a dead end for Satan's attacks.

SHOD YOUR FEET WITH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

Proper footwear is a must-have for any soldier. If Christians are going to fight victorious spiritual battles, we need a firm foundation to stand on. The peace of Christ is that foundation. For the Christian, Jesus is our peace—regardless of the circumstances.

5. Write Ephesians 6:15.

6. Write John 14:27.

7. Write Romans 10:15.

TAKE UP THE SHIELD OF FAITH

A soldier's shield offers protection from getting shot when he is in battle. The Devil will attack a Christian with different fiery darts: persecution, guilt, lies, fears, doubts, temptations, and more. These darts are aimed at Christians when they are tearing down the strongholds of the Devil. If we are idle, he has little reason to attack. But as God uses us, the Devil will constantly attack.

8. Write Ephesians 6:16.

9. Write Proverbs 18:10.

As believers, we need to believe! We need the shield of faith to trust God and trust what He is doing for total victory in every spiritual battle.

PUT ON THE HELMET OF SALVATION

All soldiers need a helmet to protect their heads. A Christian needs the helmet of salvation to guard against Satan's constant onslaught upon our thoughts. It is what we do with those thoughts that determine whether we will sin against God or not. It's crucial to submit our thoughts unto the Lord.

10. Write Ephesians 6:17a.

When our minds are thinking about God's goodness and His great love for us, we will naturally recognize thoughts and suggestions from the Devil. When ungodly thoughts enter our minds, we must cast out those thoughts and replace them with joyous thoughts concerning God.

11. Write 2 Corinthians 10:4-5.

This is how we put on the helmet of salvation. Satan cannot make us sin! He can make suggestions, but we ultimately decide whom we will submit our minds to—Christ or Satan.

USE THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT: GOD'S WORD

For Christians, the Word of God (the Bible) is our primary weapon against our enemy, the Devil. The truth and glory that is in God's Word overcomes the Devil so that he must flee—for he lives in lies and darkness. Jesus gave all believers an excellent example of how we can rebuke Satan's attacks by quoting Scripture (see Matthew 4:1-11).

12. Write Ephesians 6:17b.

13. Write Hebrews 4:12.

As believers, we need to go forward in spirit and truth. Satan will attack us, so we should force him to retreat by using God's Word. Stand on the promises in God's Word and share those truths with those who are unsaved and blinded by the Devil