

Ephesians 6:14-20

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, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak."

In Warfare Remember This:

1. God has already defeated Satan and his agenda.
2. What we have "in Christ" is enough for everything we need especially in warfare with the enemy.
3. There is a responsibility on our part to put what God has provided (the armor of God)!
4. Most spiritual warfare never needs to go beyond us daily walking by the Spirit and in the truth of who we are "in Christ". Living by our identity in Him takes care of most of the victory needed in battle.

The Armor in Warfare:

1. Belt of Truth

- **Roman Soldiers Belt:**
 - Everything else connected to the belt, thus it's central.
 - Even clothes were tucked into belt so they could move freely and get to other weapons or pieces of armor.
- **"Truth"** - "refers to the subjective, practical application of openness and honesty in all things with God and people".ⁱ
- **Deception**-It protects us from the number one tactic of the devil against us is **DECEPTION!**
- ***eve** didn't think she was wrong when she was deceived. She thought she was right.
- **Process**-Wearing the belt is a process of living a life with God.
- **Question**-When the peace dissolves away and we sense a disquieting voice in our minds what do we do? Cover it up or respond with obedience and a desire to change?
- **John 14:6**-"Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, the life, no one comes to the Father but by me."
- **Isaiah 11:5**-" Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
- **Edwards**-"The devil can counterfeit all the saving operations and graces of the Spirit of God"-**Jonathan Edwards**
- **Questions**
 - Has your belt of truth slipped?
 - How can understanding this reality help us take off the masks we wear to disguise the truth?
 - When deception is pointed out to you (by God or others) how do you respond?

2. Breastplate of Righteousness

○ Roman Soldiers Breastplate

- Made of bronze
- More affluent soldiers chainmail- (Mail was available only to the gentry of the day, as its labor-intensive production made it prohibitively expensive to the common foot soldier. It was the principle armor of the knights of the Crusades. The typical knight would be covered head to toe in mail with a Heaume (helmet) and Shield besides.)
- Also called the “heart protector”
- WE have imputed righteousness and it is out of that we live-**2 Cor. 5:21**
- **“Righteousness”**-“the practical application of truth to our lives. Simply put it’s putting into practice what you know is right.”ⁱⁱ
- Satan attacks GRACE. Thus, this gives us protection from CONDEMNATION
- **1Cor. 1:30-31**-“And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

3. Shoes-readiness of the gospel of peace

○ Roman Soldiers Sandals

- strapped up to the knee and fastened to the leg.
- Soles had knobs or nails on the bottom (like cleats)
- **“readiness”-(hetoimasia)** means “establishment, preparation”
- Satan attacks GRACE. So we must be ready by knowing it and sharing it!
- **Ephesians 2:14**-“For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility,”
- Do you find your self most vulnerable and in doubt when you are pursuing a better understanding of the gospel and sharing it with others or when you are not?
- Do you realize you are fulfilling Satan’s plan for you when you do not share the gospel with others?

4. Shield of Faith (extinguishes flaming darts of the evil one)

• Roman Soldiers Shields-2 kinds

- One small and round
- Other was 4ft tall by 2 1/2ft wide.
- Had hooks on the sides to connect to OTHER shields
- Made with iron, 2 layers of wood, wrapped in linen then wrapped in leather so the flaming arrows could penetrate but then be extinguished.
- **“shield”-(thureos)**—a door or stone used as cover or a gate
- **Faith-“absolute confidence”**

- “**dart**”-(**belA**)-missile or arrow

Eph. 2:8-“ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,”

5. Helmet of Salvation

- **Roman Soldiers Helmet**
 - Made of bronze and leather
 - Salvation from a threatening enemy

Luke 3:6-“ ...and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” (referring to Jesus)

- **MIND**-Many Christians think the war is in their circumstances or what they are doing, or their work or relationships but it’s in THE MIND
- **2 Cor. 4:4-4**-“In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”
- **2 Cor. 10:3-5**-“For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every *thought* captive to obey Christ,
- **Rom 8:6-7**- “For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot.”

Ridiculous-Christians not filling their mind with Scripture is like going out into battle without a helmet.

6. Sword of the Spirit-Word of God

***“The deceit, the lie of the devil, consists of this: that he wishes to make man believe that he can live without God’s Word.”-Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

- Roman Soldiers Sword
 - Light and about 2ft long.
 - Strategic weapon used when enemy was close.

“Word” (of God)-**rhema** (not logos)

*Matthew 4 He was quoting the logos but battling with the rhema-the logos applied to his specific situation

Heb. 4:12-“ For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

Psalm 119

Prayer is the battlefield transmitter!-Piper

“perseverance”-proskartērēsis-unremitting persistence

ⁱ Chip Ingram, *The Invisible War* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2006), 83.

