

“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.”

Ephesians 6:13

How does the apostle Paul describe the armor of God?

Ephesians 6:14-17. “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.”

Paul used clear visual representations of what the armor of God consists of, so as to guide us on how to protect ourselves against the temptations of the enemy, and accordingly live victoriously in Christ.

Why?

1 John 5:18: “He who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.”

Therefore:

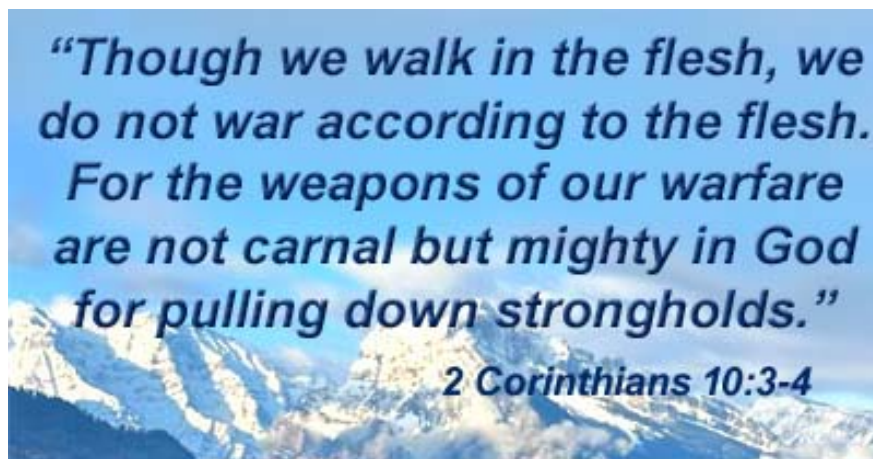
Romans 13:12: “Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.”

As such:

James 4:7: “Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

Am I presently wearing the armor of God, so I am on guard against the temptations of the enemy, and live victoriously in Christ?

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How important is it to put on the armor of God?

Ephesians 6:11-12: "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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."

We know that our world is pervasive with aggressive temptations for sin, so we are involved in a constant spiritual battle. This battle requires that we protect ourselves in wearing the armor of God, so we are equipped to reject sinful lifestyles that offend God, and live victoriously in Christ.

The intent being:

Ephesians. 4:14: "That we be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive."

Therefore:

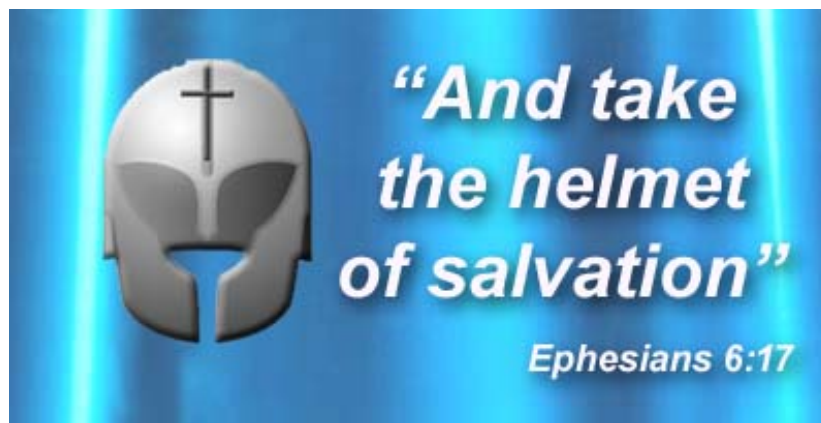
1Peter 5:8-9: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

And...

Romans 13:14: "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts."

Have I put on the armor of God, so I stand with Christ no matter the circumstances of life?

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Why is the helmet of salvation required for eternal life with God?

Romans 6:23: “For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

As such:

John 3:16: “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

What’s more?

John 3:17: “God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

Therefore:

John 3:18: “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

The reason Jesus declared:

John 14:6: “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

As born again believers, our spiritual warfare is 24 hours a day, and thereby necessitate that we resist the world’s temptations and stand by God in following Christ, so we are truly wearing the helmet of salvation.

That’s why by following Christ as Lord, salvation is imputed to us and we thereby have put on the helmet of salvation for protection, the proof and testimony of our faith in God.

Have I put on the helmet of salvation through Christ Jesus?

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How does the knowledge of the Word of God empower a believer?

Hebrews 4:12: "The Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

God's Word is useful to both protect us against temptations from the enemy, but as well as an offensive weapon to proclaim the message of salvation to the lost.

As such:

2 Corinthians 10:4-5: "The weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

That shows us the importance of studying God's Word steadfastly so we live by His Word and not by the world's deceptions.

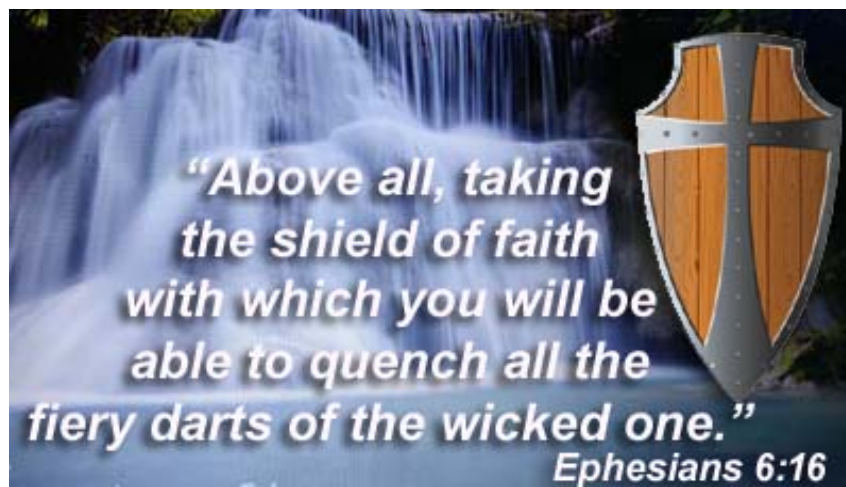
What's more?

Psalms 119:105: Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path."

The knowledge of the Word of God is a most powerful weapon against the enemy, but as well our guarantee that whenever we stand on, proclaim, and live by God's Word, we have the light of Christ for protection in anticipation of our eternal reward.

Do I carry the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God in my heart?

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Why must we trust God by faith?

Hebrews 11:6: "Without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

As such:

Romans 1:17: "The just shall live by faith."

Proverbs 30:5: "He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him."

In totally relying on Christ at all times, in all circumstances and without doubt, we are assured of God's protection against the attacks of the enemy of our faith.

The reason why:

James 1:6: "He who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind."

Then, how does the shield of faith act as a defense?

Ephesians 6:16: "Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."

What's more?

1John 5:4: "Whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world, our faith."

Finally, how do we build our faith?

Romans 10:17: "So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

In other words, being immersed in God's Word will act as a shield to our faith, and therefore will build up our reliance and trust in God.

Therefore:

Romans 8:31: "If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?"

Is my heart shielded by faith in God, in trusting Christ our Lord?

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***“Stand firm therefore,
having put on
the breastplate
of righteousness.”***

Ephesians 6:14



Why must we live righteously in Christ?

2 Corinthians 5:21: “For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

As such:

Romans 10:4: “Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”

And:

1 John 2:29: “If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.”

In essence, Christ and Christ alone is the righteousness we must embrace. It is not how self-righteous we can become, but rather abiding in Christ alone is the righteousness of God.

Why?

Matthew 5:20: “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”

What does that mean?

It is to live the righteousness of Christ in us, and not wear the breastplate of the world which is pride, lust of the flesh, desire for power or to be self-righteous. As such, we must live to abide in Christ by His Word.

Therefore:

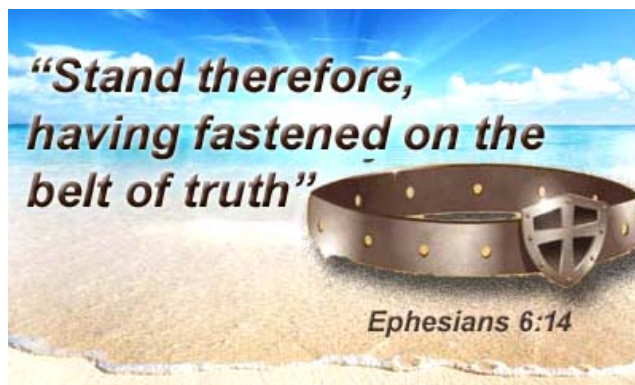
Matthew 6:33: “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.”

2 Timothy 2:22: “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

Is the righteousness of Christ evident in my life?

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How do we so live with the belt of truth?

John 8:31-32: "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Why?

Psalm 145:18: "The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth."

As such Jesus said:

John 14:6: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 17:17: "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your Word is truth."

The reason being:

1 John 5:20: "We know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life."

Therefore:

2 Timothy 2:15: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

How?

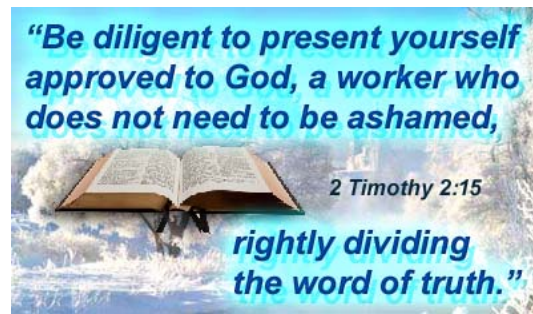
Philippians 4:8: "Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."

With the result that:

Ephesians 4:15: "We will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ."

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In addition to wearing the belt of truth, how must we live as faithful followers of Christ?

Ephesians 6:15: "With your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace."

Why?

1 Peter 2:21: "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps."

How?

Acts 1:8: "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me."

As such:

Romans 8:14: "Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God."

Our true secure foundation being:

2 Timothy 3:16-17: "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

What's more?

2 Timothy 2:4: "No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him."

Therefore:

1 Peter 3:15: "Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear."

What's more?

Proverbs 30:6: "Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar."

How wholeheartedly and faithfully do I follow Christ?

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