

The Armor of the Christian (Part 2)

Ephesians 6: 13-18

We have been considering the spiritual warfare all believers encounter at some point in their Christian journey. We face a determined adversary who seeks to do all he can to defeat and discourage those who desire to serve the Lord. He is certainly not a novice in the art of spiritual warfare, having thousands of years to work on his approach and tactics.

Although the enemy is strong and capable of creating havoc within our lives, we do not have to be defeated. We can overcome in the Lord if we are properly trained and equipped for battle. One of the greatest advantages we possess is our spiritual armor. It is available to every Christian, but it is up to us to ensure that it is worn and used properly. Armor will be of little benefit to the soldier if it is left behind or not used to its fullest potential.

Last week we began to consider the particular elements of our spiritual armor. I want to continue examining those individual [elements](#) as we consider: [The Armor of the Christian](#).

IV. The Shield of Faith (16) – [Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked](#). This wasn't the small, round shield often thought of. It was large, usually about 2' by 4'. The soldier was protected from the spears, arrows, and fiery darts behind the shield. The shields were usually constructed of wood covered with tough leather, often multiple layers. The soldier would soak the shield in water or anoint them with oil, keeping them in better working order against the "fiery darts".

- Are you beginning to see some parallels with our faith? The shield of faith must be large enough to protect against the enemies attack. What a weapon we have in faith. As our faith in Jesus grows and matures, the protection we have in faith strengthens.
- **Consider the anointing of the shield.** Water and oil in Scripture often represent the Holy Spirit. Now, Scripture doesn't point out this anointing, history does, but there is still a powerful parallel. As we saturate our faith in the power of the Holy Spirit, we will be better equipped to quench the "fiery darts" of Satan. That shield of faith will never fail. Faith provides strength, even when it appears we are defeated. Faith says, Continue the fight; we shall overcome!
- I cannot emphasize the importance of faith enough. We are told, [above all](#), take the shield of faith. It is essential to the Christian soldier. You cannot please God without it. [Heb.11:6 – But without faith it is impossible to please him](#).
- One more interesting fact history reveals is the construction of the sides of the shield. They were made so the soldiers could interlock the shields, effectively creating a wall as they marched.

Imagine what we can do with our faith locked together; moving forward for the cause of Christ! There may be times when our armor is weak or lacking, but faith must always be available!

V. The Helmet of Salvation (17a) – [And take the helmet of salvation](#). The helmet was worn by the Roman soldier to protect his head, the brain and thought processes. It is essential for the soldier involved in this spiritual warfare to have the assurance of salvation. The enemy loves to use discouragement and doubt to defeat believers. If he can cause us to think there is no way we can overcome or create doubt concerning our relationship with Christ, he has succeeded in his efforts.

- At the moment we are saved, we are created a new creature in Christ. The old man has passed away; we are resurrected a new man. The heart and mind at that point are pure and clean. As we continue our Christian life, we must guard the mind from the attack of the enemy. Satan is a master of mind games. This strategy was used against Eve in the garden. [Gen.3:1, 4 – Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? ^{\[4\]} Ye shall not surely die.](#) *Satan's deceptions appeal to the unregenerate mind. They seem to make lots of sense and they appeal to human pride. To the unsaved, the theory of evolution is more plausible than the story of creation...A creed demanding works seems more logical than the cross. Humanism is more attractive than holiness. Psychology seems more reasonable than salvation. Satan never gives up his attacks on the thought processes.*ⁱ

- We must protect our minds against his lies. Satan likes to plant seeds of doubt, compromise, confusion, fear, etc... We must fill our minds with the things of God. Study the Bible and meditate on what you've read. Don't allow Satan to fill your mind with the filth of this world. You may have to change the radio station, turn off the TV, or walk away from that crowd who is telling dirty jokes. It is important to keep that kind of stuff out of your mind.

- With God controlling our thoughts, we won't easily be led astray. With the head protected, the soldier is better equipped to defend against the contaminants of the mind. [2 Cor.10:5 – Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; Phil.4:8 – Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.](#)

VI. The Sword of the Spirit (17b) – [And take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God](#): Up to this point, all of the armor has been designed to protect; it is defensive. Now, we come to the offensive weapons. It is with the last two weapons, that we can take the battle to the enemy.

- Sometimes the nature of this warfare requires an offensive strategy. The sword referred to here wasn't a large one, but the short sword that was kept in the girdle. It was very effective for hand to hand combat. It was essential to the survival of the soldier. It was used when he came into close proximity with the enemy.
- The Bible is clear that the sword is the Word of God. If we are to overcome, we must attack with the Word. Every Christian soldier **must** be familiar with this vital weapon! You must study God's Word, know God's Word, live God's Word, and use God's Word effectively.
- We need to consider an important aspect of the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. Most of the time, the Greek word *logos* is used in Scripture for the Word. However, in this verse, the word used is *rhema*. *Logos* refers to the entire Word of God: Genesis – Revelation, the entire armory. *Rhema* refers to specific passages or verses. It gives the idea of a specific weapon out of a vast and capable arsenal.
- Jesus used the Word to overcome Satan while He was tempted. With each temptation, Jesus responded, “**It is written.**” He used specific verses to defeat Satan.
- We must be familiar with the entire Word (*logos*), so that we know which specific verses (*rhema*) to select. God's Word is a powerful weapon. [Heb.4:12 – For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.](#)

Conclusion: We have covered most of the Christian's armor. We will look at a piece of armor that is often left out, but is of utmost importance next week. I trust you are protected with every piece of armor available and are familiar with how to use it. We can be victorious over Satan. Remember, we aren't fighting for victory; we're fighting from victory.

Do you have a need today? Is your armor prepared and being used consistently? Most importantly, do you possess the helmet of salvation? If there are needs in your spiritual life, Christ is the answer. He can equip you for the task at hand.

¹ Phillips, John *The John Phillips Commentary Series – Exploring Ephesians and Philippians*. Michigan: Kregel Publications, 1995.