



Our Christian Defence

Many new believers will not know it, but they are at war. Spurgeon used to say, "Satan never flogs a dead horse!" The moment you accepted Christ as your Saviour, you became the devil's enemy and you are at war with him and his armies. If you are going to win the battle, you must know the enemy and how to resist him and his attacks. God has provided us with armour to protect ourselves and resist our adversary. We find these in **Ephesians 6:10-18**.

Paul emphasizes that the full armour is necessary if we are going to defeat Satan. The area in our life that we leave unguarded will most likely be the place where Satan will attack us.

Let us look at the various bits of armour and how to put them on:



The Girdle of Truth

Satan is a liar and deceiver, so we must stand against him using God's truth. In eastern countries, people would wear girdles to tie up their flowing clothes and hold everything together. In the same way, it's God's truth that must hold everything together in our lives. As Christians, we must love truth, live truth and seek truth.

"I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth."
3 John 4

Page 2/The Breastplate of Righteousness

The Breastplate of Righteousness

The breastplate covered the front of the soldier's body, from the neck to the upper part of the thighs. It protected the vital organs. Paul is referring here to the righteousness of Christ which we receive when we trust him.

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." **2 Corinthians 5:21**

Satan is the accuser, and he attacks us by reminding us of our sins. It is through faith in Christ that we have his righteousness imputed to us.

The Shoes of Peace

Roman soldiers wore hobnailed shoes for stability and mobility. How you stand will determine how you fight. If a fighter loses his footing, he may lose the battle.

The Christian with solid footing is going to have confidence when facing the enemy. He is also going to be able to respond to Satan's various attacks if he changes his strategy.

We stand because of the gospel. We know that

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared." **1 Corinthians 15:3-5**

It is this victory of Christ that gives us a safe and solid standing as we fight the devil. Wherever we walk, we stand on victory ground!

The Helmet Of Salvation

Paul tells about the helmet in **1 Thessalonians 5:8**:

"But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation"

Paul refers to the hope the believer has in the return of Jesus Christ. Satan often uses discouragement, hopelessness or despair as weapons to oppose us. It is when we are discouraged that we are the most vulnerable. We will make foolish decisions and open ourselves up to temptation. When the mind is protected by "the blessed hope" of the Lord's return, Satan cannot use discouragement to attack and defeat us.

When your mind and outlook are focused on the return of Christ, it protects you against the despair and discouragement that always come to the life of dedicated believers. When Paul was in his final imprisonment, facing certain death, forsaken by many of the believers in Rome, he encouraged himself with this hope:

"In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing." **2 Timothy 4:8**

Page 3/The Sword of the Spirit ...

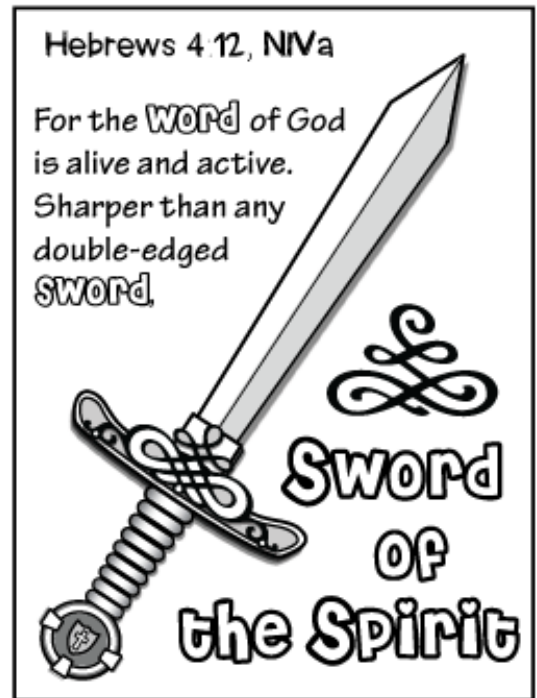


The Sword of the Spirit

This is an offensive weapon; the other parts of the armour are for defence.

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” **Hebrews 4:12**

The spiritual sword of the Word of God is different from any physical sword that man may wield. Word of God will always stay sharp. A physical sword goes blunt after it is used. A physical sword can only be handled by physical power, but the spiritual sword already has life and power in it.



The Spirit of God helps us to use the Word of God effectively! Jesus Christ used the sword of the Spirit to defeat the devil, when he was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. “It is written!” he said, and he quoted the Old Testament Scriptures.

Putting On The Armour

All of this is Christian symbolism unless you know how to put the armour on. We find the answer in **Ephesians 6:18**.

“By means of every prayer and supplication for your need, praying at all times, in the Spirit, and keeping alert with all perseverance.”

Paul tells us what kind of praying we must do. It is persevering prayer—“praying at all times.” It is not enough to mumble a few words at the beginning of the day. This kind of praying will never defeat Satan.

“Now he was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart.” **Luke 18:1**

“Pray without ceasing.”
1 Thessalonians 5:17

This does not mean that we go around saying prayers under our breath. It means that we are in a constant attitude of prayer and trust.

It is also balanced prayer—“all prayer.” What is “all prayer”?

Putting on the Armour continued

All prayer” involves worship, adoration, confession of sin, supplication, thanksgiving. If all we do is ask for things, we will miss the true blessing of balanced praying.

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

Philippians 4:6

It is Spirit-empowered praying. We must pray that the Spirit reveal to us what we should pray about, and that he must empower us to keep on praying.

Finally it must be watchful praying. **“Be on the alert.”** No soldier can afford to close his eyes to the enemy. (By the way, the prayer posture of closing the eyes, bowing the head, and folding the hands is not found in Scripture. The Jews prayed with their eyes open toward heaven and their hands lifted toward God.)

“Watch and pray” was our Lord’s repeated admonition to his disciples (**Mark 13:33, 14:38**). Be alert to what the devil is doing, or he will attack you while you are praying!

“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
Mark 14:38

*“Be on guard! Be alert!
You do not know when that time will come..”*
Mark 13:33

PUT ON THE
WHOLE ARMOR
OF
GOD
THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO
STAND AGAINST
THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL
EPHESIANS 6:11

