

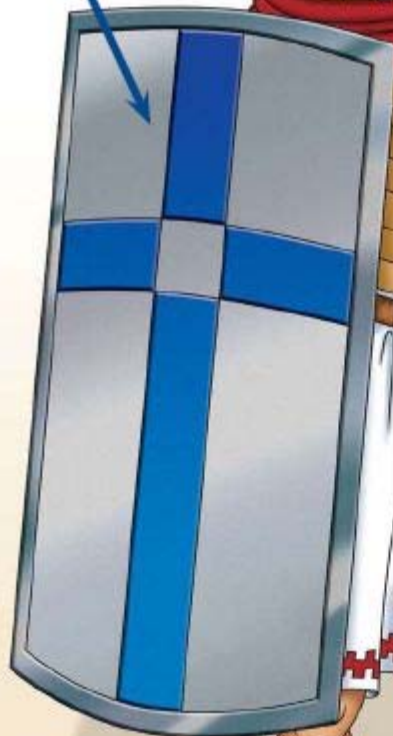
THE ARMOR OF GOD

EPHESIANS 6:10-18

"... Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." v. 10, 11

The Shield of Faith (Eph. 6:16)

Faith is being sure that God will keep His promises. Faith in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.



Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15)

The Gospel of Peace is being right with God and being contented in troubled times. Jesus said peacemakers were blessed.

The Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17)

Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

The Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6:14)

Righteousness is being honest, good, humble, and fair to others. It means standing up for weaker people.

The Belt of Truth (Eph. 6:14)

Truth keeps us from giving in to the world's beliefs. Compare your beliefs and actions to the truth of the Word of God.

The Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17)

which is the Word of God. God's Word is our offensive weapon. When we tell others what the Bible says, the Holy Spirit helps people see their bad thoughts and actions, and makes them want to be forgiven.

The Armor of God (Ephesian 6)

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the **belt of truth** buckled around your waist, with the **breastplate of righteousness** in place, 15 and with your **feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace**. 16 In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the **helmet of salvation** and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God.

How many of you can fight? I'm talking physically, you can stand and fight with anyone right? Your tough right?

What about spiritually? Are you tough spiritually? Are you prepared to stand and fight the spiritual battle against the devil and all those he controls?

In Ephesians 6:10-17 Paul talks about 6 specific items of “armor” that God has for us to fight the devil. These items are not actual physical items but are representations.

The belt of Truth: What does the belt of truth accomplish? What does the devil use to fight? He lies, put thoughts in our minds, the temptations we talked about, the trials and tribulations we go through. The thoughts of doubt and addictions in our lives. The devil can convince us that his lies are true, but we know the truth of God and that is greater and stronger than the devils lies. **USE THE BELT OF TRUTH TO FIGHT THE devil’s LIES!!!!!!!**

The breastplate of righteousness: What does the breastplate protect? Our chests, it protects our hearts which is where the love of God dwells. So doesn’t it make sense that the devil would attack where God dwells the most. We must guard our hearts above all else. **Proverbs 4:23** says Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. God’s righteousness is the breastplate that protects our heart and ensures his approval (New Life Application Study Bible).

The footgear or “shoes”: How does the devil win? By leading you to believe that what you are doing in your life is ridiculous and pointless. That believing is foolish and that you should just give up. The footgear portion of God’s armor is about spreading the word of God spreading the truth of the Word!!! By doing this we can acquire more people for the kingdom of heaven and the army of God. We are in a spiritual war against the devil, and the footgear helps us to recruit more warriors for the kingdom of God.

The shield of faith: As with the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith helps to protect against the attacks of the devil. The temptations, the doubts, the addictions, the relationship problems, the family problems, depression, and insults. All of these negatives things are tools of the devil, tools that he uses to beat us down and to lose faith in God. But with the shield of faith we are able to prevent that and make the devils “tools” useless. In **Philippians 4:13** it says “ I can do all things through him who gives me strength.” By having faith in Christ we don’t have to worry about what the devil throws at us because it doesn’t matter!!!!The devil has already lost, he just hasn’t realized it yet.

The helmet of salvation: What does the helmet of salvation do for believers? It protects our salvation!!! The devil will make you doubt your salvation, the devil wants to make you think that Jesus did not die for you, he wants you to turn away from your beliefs and from God. Put on the helmet of salvation and protect your mind from these ridiculous thoughts and doubts. Know that your belief in Christ and that your salvation is real!! Never doubt that God loves you.

The sword of the spirit: The sword of the spirit is God’s word, the bible. The sword of the spirit is what we are here every week learning about. We must know the word in order to fight against the devil, and I will tell you the devil knows the bible better than any of us and he will twist and distort everything and use it against us. So know the word inside and out, learn as much as you can because the Word is the only effective weapon we have. All of the other items in the armor of God are built to help us defend ourselves, but the sword of the spirit, the word of God, is the only weapon we have to fight back. So learn it!!! Use it!!!!

