

# GOD'S E.R.

## FREED FROM ALL THINGS

Acts 13:39 and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things

### Class 2 – Basic Training for Christians - Lesson Two

#### ARMOR OF GOD- PART A

Believe it or not – we are in a war. We are in a war for our souls and the souls of our family! The good news is, the Lord has given us every weapon and every piece of Armor we need to win the battle!

This is what the Word of God says about our battle Armor and our weaponry:

**Ephesians 6:10-18:** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full Armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take up the full Armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with Truth, and having put on the breastplate of Righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace; 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of Faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take the helmet of Salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

Twice we see in these verses that the Lord tells us to put on the “*full Armor of God*.” By logical deduction, we really could only wear part of the Armor, which would mean we were leaving ourselves vulnerable and exposed in areas!

Twice we see the Lord tell us to “*stand firm*.” Anything repeated in Scripture means to take special note of, like saying “*may I have your attention please? Attention!*” This passage of Scripture bears so much critical information for the children (warriors) of God, that we have to make certain we are applying (standing firm in) these principals to our lives.

Remember, when we give our lives to the Lord, it is an exchange, our life for His life. What a deal! We have nothing, He has everything! And this is what He desires! To give us everything we need! Now we just need to know how to use it! We need to know how to put on the Armor, how to wear it, so that it is effective in doing what the Lord intends for it to do: protect us and defeat the enemy! Praise the Lord!

You may remember the story about David when he went to battle against Goliath, who was a giant of a man. David was not afraid, but wanted to defeat the “uncircumcised Philistine that taunted the armies of the living God.” King Saul gave David his own Armor to fight with;

but it did not fit and David refused to fight the battle with armor that was not his own. David then went to battle with what the Lord had taught him over the years as he tended his flocks in fighting off the lions and the bears. David easily killed Goliath.

The Lord has shown us in the Word what our Armor consists of, and the way in which to use it. This is the same Armor that Jesus wore in battle with the enemy as He walked this earth. This Armor is fitted to us and grows with us as we grow in Him!

**Peter 5:8** Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

This is just one verse that tells us we have to be aware that the enemy is trying to destroy us! As in any battle, armies set out to destroy one another. This is our confidence, that we are assured victory when we walk in the Armor of God!

### **EXAMINING AND APPLYING THE SEVEN PIECE ARMOR OF GOD:**

We must be aware that reading **Ephesians 6** above is not a “magic” prayer. We cannot just say we “have the belt of Truth” and each of the other pieces of the Armor. We must understand *what* each piece represents and *walk in* the application of these pieces in our lives. An examination of each piece of Armor and how to appropriately “put on” each piece in order to be properly “covered” will ensure that we are victorious over the enemy!

#### **1. The Belt of Truth:**

**vs. 14** Stand firm therefore, having *girded your loins with Truth,*

The Armor in the time of David had a waist belt known as the girdle. This piece was cinched up tightly and held some of the other pieces of the Armor in place. It was also the part of the Armor which held all offensive weapons in place (similar to a policeman’s belt which holds all of his contemporary weapons of justice).

As a Christian, our *belt of Truth* can be exhibited in the following Scriptures:

**John 14:6** "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

**Hebrews 1:2** in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature,

**Deut. 4:39** Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.

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

The Word of God, the Living Word, Jesus, is our Truth. The Belt of Truth, then, is our foundation, it is what “stabilizes” our life.

Here is the test: If we do not know Truth, if we cannot make a decision between right and wrong, we are not wearing this part of the Armor. As the Scriptures above show, you must acquire the Truth through the Word only. It is not Truth otherwise! It is a distortion from the enemy! There is only one Truth, and that is the Truth that comes from the Word of God.

Understand that no human being has or knows all the answers. However, we can *stand firm* on the Word of God, knowing that the Word is 100% Truth! Jesus is the living Word, therefore we trust Him in all things and know that we can rely on what He has imparted to us in the written Word! If we do not yet understand part of the written Word, it is OK to not have an answer or an opinion! It is much better to have no answer, than to believe a lie of the enemy!

Do not let the enemy put a belt of lies around you that will cause all the other pieces of Armor not to fit! This gives him inroads and ways to manipulate and cause havoc in your life if you “wear” his lies. Wear the belt of Truth! Read the Word of God, decide to believe it, and then “put it on” in your life!

## **2. The Breastplate of Righteousness:**

**vs 14** ... having put on the *breastplate of Righteousness*,

What is Righteousness and what does it mean to be *righteous*?

**Psalm 119:172** My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness.

*Strongs # 6666 (Hb): (Righteousness):* Justice, truthfulness, ethically right, justification;

*Strongs #1343 (Gr): (Righteousness):* the condition acceptable to God, right standing; integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking feeling, and acting.

To be righteous is to do what is right in God's eyes. God's commandments are righteousness. In contrast, lawlessness is sin, and sin is the opposite of righteousness. So to be righteous is to obey God's laws which He has given to us out of His great love!

It is not possible for a human being to ever become *righteous* on his or her own efforts, but only through the blood of the spotless Lamb of God, our Lord Jesus:

**Philippians 3:9** and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

**1 Peter 2:24** and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

The Father gave His only Son, out of His great love for us, that we might be saved from death and the torment of the enemy!

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

Now when we accept Jesus, our Gift from the Father, we give Him everything we are and receive back all that He is. Now we have faith in the Word of God and a love for the Lord which creates righteousness (right-standing) before God. We now begin to conform our behavior so that it is pleasing to the Lord - exhibiting outwardly the inward love and faith we now have. This is the process of aligning ourselves with His camp, and getting out of the camp of the enemy!

In David's time, the breastplate was the piece of Armor that covered all the major organs. If someone went to battle without their breastplate, they would be the first one the enemy would target, and the first one to die on the battlefield! The same applies to our spiritual life – if we think we can stop the enemy from wreaking havoc in our lives by saying “I have the breastplate of Righteousness” and yet we walk in sin and lawlessness, we are going to find out rather quickly that we really don't have the Armor we need to keep the enemy from slaughtering us.

**Proverbs 11:4** Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.

Riches, friendships, possessions, or any other thing attained through a process of sin, lawlessness or worldliness will not ever protect you in times of trouble. Only “right standing” with the Lord will keep you and deliver you from the desire of the enemy.

**1 Thessalonians 5:8** But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love...

Faith and love protect our hearts. These two are the products of righteousness. Here is how faith and love relate to righteousness: Faith works "through love" (Galatians 5:6) and Abraham's faith (which was shown by his doing what God said to do) was "accounted to him for righteousness" (Romans 4:3; Genesis 26:5). A Jamieson, Fausset and Brown commentary puts it this way: "'Faith,' as the *motive within*, and 'love,' exhibited in *outward acts*, constitute the perfection of righteousness". Faith and Love = Righteousness. Nothing can penetrate this Godly Breastplate!

### **3. Gospel (Shoes) of Peace:**

**Vs. 15** and having *shod your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace;*

First of all, what does the word “*Gospel*” mean? Strong's Concordance states:

Strong's 2098 (Gr.): good tidings; the glad tidings of salvation through Christ

Some people say life is rough, and so it is at times! So if the way is rough and rocky, would you start down any path in bare feet? Of course not! You would wear shoes to keep your feet from getting cuts and scrapes. So it is with spiritual shoes – they are just as necessary. But how do we put on a pair of “Gospel shoes?”

Since the good news of the Kingdom of God includes the good news about Jesus Christ the King, His grace (unmerited favor) and His plan of salvation for all mankind, then this “*Gospel*” gives us peace **now**, and will bring peace to the entire world that will accept Him!

**Isaiah 52:7 NLT** How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!

So our feet should be shod with shoes of the Good News of Peace. How does this help us as a part of the Armor of God? In *Shoes of the Gospel of Peace* we find protection and strength in the knowledge of what the Gospel means to us, our very salvation, and for what it means and will mean to others we will share the Good News with. Our footing will then be sure and unshakable. Nothing the enemy throws our way will be able to trip us up! We will be prepared to carry the gospel wherever God sends us!

**Psalms 91:10** No evil will befall you, Nor will any plague come near your tent. 11 For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways. 12 They will bear you up in their hands, That you do not strike your foot against a stone. 13 You will tread upon the lion and cobra, The young lion and the serpent you will trample down. 14 "Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him securely on high, because he has known My name. 15 "He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble ; I will rescue him and honor him. 16 "With a long life I will satisfy him And let him see My salvation."

God's Good News and our mission—our marching orders—to preach the Word, serve as our firm foundation. When we truly allow ourselves to take comfort in the Good News, knowing our salvation is sure, as we abide in Christ as promised by God, there is nothing from outside ourselves that can trouble our hearts or give us reason to be afraid.

**John 14:27** Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

**John 20:21** So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.

Christ has overcome the world (John 16:33), and so we have nothing to fear from it!

**Luke 10:19** Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.

**Hallelujah!**

**Next week we will continue with “*Armor of God – Part 2*” – Continuing with All the Equipment We need to Win the War!**