

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 Three

“ARMOR OF GOD- PART B”

This is the second lesson on the *Armor of God*. We are learning how to put it on, how to wear it, and how to use it. We are learning what it really means to “put on” the Armor of God, so that the Armor will be effective in doing what the Lord intends for it to do: protect us and defeat the enemy! Praise the Lord!

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,

In our last session we learned about these 3 pieces of the Armor of God:

1. **The Belt of Truth:** This is our reliance – 100% - on the Truth of the Word of God. We hang all of our opinions, decisions, attitudes, and actions on this Belt of Truth. This is our *stabilizer*.
2. **The Breastplate of Righteousness:** *Right motives and right actions* - Faith and Love - cover our heart and all other vital areas of our life. No accusations of the enemy can penetrate us when we cover ourselves with *right-standing* in God, the Breastplate of Righteousness.
3. **Gospel (Shoes) of Peace:** Walking in the comfort of the Good News of the Gospel of Peace! Knowing our salvation is sure, we are able to abide in Christ in true relationship with Him. There is nothing from outside ourselves that can trouble our hearts or give us reason to be afraid!

Now that we are reminded exactly what these three pieces of Armor do for us when we put them on, walk in them and use them, we will now move on to the next three pieces of the Armor God has provided to us. The Father's Armor is perfect! He never intends for us to have even one casualty or injury! But we have to be engaged! We must be aware we are in a war and keep our Armor suited to us properly!

4. Shield of Faith

Eph 6:16 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.

When we are told to have faith, people often think "in what?" How can I just have *blind faith* when I don't really know for sure something will happen?

Hebrews 11:1 says to have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see. Faith becomes real when it is based in something we can trust, something we know to be true, unmovable, unshakeable. As we have studied, the Word of God is the *only*, 100% sure, positive, without mistake, absolute **Truth**. Here is what *Strong's Concordance* says concerning the root meaning of the word Faith as used in the New Testament:

Strong's (Gr) #4102 (Faith): conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the NT of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervor born of faith and joined with it

- a. relating to God
 - 1. the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ
- b. relating to Christ
 - 1. a strong and welcome conviction or belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God
- c. belief with the predominate idea of trust (or confidence) whether in God or in Christ, springing from faith in the same
- d. fidelity, faithfulness
 - 1. the character of one who can be relied on

So then, Faith protects (as a shield) our *beliefs*. We exercise Faith, knowing that what we believe in is true, and although we may not see it with our natural eye, we know what we believe is real. We operate in the world as if we could see the tangible, real and true Word of God, no matter what worldly situation is actually in front of us. We actually do see the Word, by Faith!

This is our Shield! The most notable thing about a Shield is - you have to raise it up! You put on the Belt, the Shoes, and the Breastplate – and they all stay right where you put them. But this piece of Armor has to be raised into the place where you need it! So someone says, "There is no God!!!", *Swoosh!!!* The Shield of Faith takes its place in front of your heart, your eyes and your mind! When you have the Shield of Faith up, what does it say? Imagine what might be written on the inside of your Shield:

Mark 11:22 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God."

John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me."

John 20:31 "but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."

It would have been really great if Eve would have used her shield in the Garden of Eden! But she didn't, she let it hang at her side and she listened to and then believed the lies and half-truths that were being fired her way - and she was taken out!

Luke 18:7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, **when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"**

The Shield of Faith is a protective weapon that the Lord is going to look for when He returns! It is given so that "you will be able **to extinguish all** the fiery darts of the evil one." A shield does not help you in retreat, it only helps you to **stand** and to move **forward**. It deflects the enemy's arrows of attack! Now we can march forward taking territory from the enemy. Notice that there are no weapons for retreat. The Lord doesn't lose battles!

Revelation 6:2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and He that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto Him: and **He went forth conquering, and to conquer!**

When the Roman army joined its shields together, it became an almost unstoppable force. As God's Church joins our *Shields of Faith* together, we *will* become an unstoppable force able to take on any challenge or attack the enemy tries to bring our way. Praise the Lord and lift up your Shield!

5. Helmet of Salvation

Eph 6:17 And take the *helmet of Salvation*

Salvation means to be saved or delivered from something. Jesus is our salvation – He himself bridged the gap that the sin of man created in our relationship with the Father:

Romans 3:23 NLT - For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Exodus 15:2 "The LORD is my strength and song, And **He has become my salvation;**

2 Cor 5:18 All this is from God, who **reconciled us** to Himself through Christ.

It is important to understand that salvation cannot be earned. It is a gift from God and not something we can obtain through right actions by trying to compel the Father to give it to us. And yet, Repentance (abhorring our sins and seeking God's forgiveness and help to obey His laws), and Faith (accepting Christ's sacrifice and coming to the knowledge of the truth), are all movements toward accepting the free gift.

In no way do the efforts of repentance and faith make up for our sins, but this example may help you understand how they operate within the free gift of salvation. Let's say you received a hat from a friend on your last birthday. You reached out and received the gift, you

unwrapped it and found out what it was, and then you began to wear it. We do the same with the gift of Salvation. We reach out by faith, accepting the gift of Salvation as paid for and presented to us by Christ. Now we unwrap it – we see and understand the nature of the gift: holiness – repentance for cleansing of our sins, truth – receiving it by faith, and righteousness – restoration to the Father. Now we put it on – we take off our old actions and ways of thinking, and put on our new way of thinking - our Helmet of Salvation, and we know we are in right standing with the Father! Salvation is an unfathomable gift, but wearing this new gift requires these actions of repentance and faith on our part.

The Book of Isaiah tells us that the Lord clothed himself in the Armor to prepare himself for battle against the enemy of our souls:

Isaiah 59:17 He put on righteousness like a breastplate, and a *helmet of salvation on His head*; And He put on garments of vengeance for clothing And wrapped Himself with zeal as a mantle.

Why does the Helmet signify Salvation? The enemy is a liar and often shoots the darts of disbelief and fear at our minds and thoughts. Keeping the Helmet of Salvation in place, the knowledge and faith that Christ died for us to be reconciled to the Father, will deflect all of these darts and arrows of the enemy. They cannot touch us when we are confident in His Salvation freely given to us!

1 Thessalonians 5:8 NLT - But let us who live in the light think clearly, protected by the body armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.

6. Sword of the Spirit, Word of God

Eph 6:17 and the *sword of the Spirit*, which is the *Word of God*

Words have Power. The Word of God is the ultimate proclamation in and for our entire existence. The Word of God created all things; the Word of God is the living Christ Jesus! The Word of God is the essence of Who God is! The written Word of God keeps us in Truth:

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

Luke 11:28 ... blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.

The Purpose of the Word is to cleanse, purify and sanctify the Body of Christ:

Eph 5:25 ... Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

The Sword of the Spirit is the only part of the Armor that serves in an offensive capacity! As one person has said: *Even if we have all the rest of the armor equipped perfectly, without our sword, we amount to little more than heavily armored moving targets!*

Hebrews 4:12 For 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.

The Sword of the Spirit is the only way we can complete the work we have been given to do. The Word of God contains all of our marching orders!

Matt 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.' "

We are a unique Army! We know we will always win! We win the battle in our thought life and against any accusation of the enemy when we use the Word of God in combat! The all-powerful Sword of the living God is able to cut through every defense the enemy can raise. When wielded by a servant of God, nothing can withstand its ability to cut straight to the core of a matter and uncover the truth. As soldiers in God's army, it is our responsibility and duty to use His Word to recognize the truth and then follow it.

2 Corinthians 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. **5** We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

We only need one weapon! There is nothing the enemy can send our way that the Word of God cannot defeat! And so, armed with our Sword, we can fight the enemy head-on.

Deuteronomy 33:29 **GNT** ... The Lord himself is your shield and your sword, to defend you and give you victory. Your enemy will come begging for mercy, and you will trample him down. (personalized)

So take up your Sword. The battle is ours – we always win if we do not quit!

7. Pray at all times in the Spirit

Eph 6:18 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.

The most edifying piece of the Armor of God gets an entire lesson to itself! **NEXT WEEK: Pray at all times in the Spirit!** You will learn that it is not just others that benefit from your praying in the Spirit, but that health, peace and wholeness come to your own person as well!

Next week we will study “Baptism in the Holy Spirit” - Your Secret Unseen Weapon to Win over Every Attack of the Enemy!