

Wearing the Armor of God – Ephesians 6

Objective

To understand that the armor of God in Ephesians 6:14-18 is a wonderful weaponry leading to victory with which there will be no room for defeat or emptiness.

References

- ❖ Ephesians 6: 14-18
- ❖ “The Great (I AM) Armor” by HG Bishop Youssef, www.suscopts.org

Scriptural Verses

"Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:14-18).

Lesson Outline

- ❖ The armor of God is both defensive when others attack and offensive ready to launch an attack on Satan and army.
- ❖ We need to wear the armor of God because we do not fight nor wrestle against a human being (flesh and blood); but against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness of this world and spiritual wickedness in high places.

Components of the Armor of God

1. The Belt of Truth

- ❖ Just as a belt is associated with safety and keeping things firm in place, so will discipleship to Christ keep us steadfast, unshaken by doubts.
- ❖ It is in the light of and based on the Truth that our heart rebukes us against the measuring stick of the Truth.
- ❖ When we follow the Lord, He will always lead, guide and enlighten our mind in the decisions that we make and assist us to lead a pure life.
- ❖ Just as light expels darkness in the natural physical realm; so does Truth set us free, in the spiritual realm. (Examples: St. Moses the Black and St. Paul before and after knowing the Truth; the Lord Jesus Christ).

2. The Breastplate of Righteousness

- ❖ Just as the breastplate protects the heart that nourishes the body by pumping blood through the circulatory system, so will the Breastplate of Righteousness guard our hearts against drifting away from God.
- ❖ Righteousness flows through our thoughts to righteously feed our emotions, intentions, words and thus actions; keeping us spiritually right with God (1 John 3:21).
- ❖ A heart filled with the Holy Spirit will bear the Fruit of the Spirit demonstrated in the good deeds we perform.

- ❖ Our heart will condemn us if we miss the opportunity of expressing love and kindness, patience, self control, and meekness.

3. The Helmet of Salvation

- ❖ The helmet protects the skull from fractures and the brain from damage. Likewise, spiritually, our helmet of salvation resides in the continuous repentance over our sinful thoughts, and the constant renewal of our mind (Romans 12:2).
- ❖ All the great saints who had led a sinful life prior to repentance, were transformed through repentance and mind renewal; putting their minds on things above (Colossians 3:2) mainly their salvation, and what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us.
- ❖ The greatest battlefield is the mind. Any sin starts with a thought, which if not curbed from the start, can develop into an uncontrollable sin. Satan is always after our thoughts; because strategically that is where he can ruin our salvation.
- ❖ St. Paul entreats us to "*bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ*" (2 Corinthians 10:5) because He is the cause and reason of our Salvation.

4. Sandals of the Gospel of Peace

- ❖ Walking barefoot is painful and damaging to the feet. Similarly, walking in the lack of heavenly Prudence and Wisdom will lead us to destruction (Proverbs 19:2).
- ❖ Good sandals indicate a good walk with God in peace and reconciliation with Him and others (Matthew 5:9).
- ❖ A correct stance with God will ensure the peace of God, a sensitivity for His heavenly wisdom.
- ❖ Gradually such a person will be blessed and become heavenly qualified to proclaim the Gospel of Good News to those around him, making peace with the far and near (Isaiah 52:7).

5. The Shield of Faith

- ❖ We need to be shielded in faith in order to deflect Satan's fiery darts of temptation (of all kinds) and doubts (Psalm 3:3), (1 John 5:4).
- ❖ By definition faith is "*the evidence of things not seen*" (Hebrews 11:1). The common saying: "seeing is believing" does not conform with God's reality of "believing is seeing".
- ❖ "*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed*" (John 20:29) and those who believe, will certainly "*see the glory of God*" (John 11:40).
- ❖ We do not have to experience things with our natural eye in order to believe. Our vision comes from our faith in God which will enlighten and enable us to see the invisible.

6. The Sword

- ❖ This is the Word of God which is "*sharper than two wedged swords*" (Hebrews 4:12); presented to us in its purest form undefiled or marred by wrong teachings, interpretations, or personal interests.
- ❖ On the Mount of Temptation, both the Lord and Satan used the Word of God as a weapon. The former used it in its purest, untwisted form of "*it is written*"

(Matthew 4:4) and "*again it is written*" (Matthew 4:7); thus gaining victory; while the latter twisted it to suit his own purpose; ending up in defeat and regression.

Conclusion

The Lord Jesus Christ is our one-piece armor which embraces all the other pieces. Once put on, He will protect every part in us starting from within and proceeding to without; making us "*fruitful in every good work*" (Colossians 1:10) "*some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty*" (Matthew 13:8), light to the world, salt to the earth, and an example to be followed, "*that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven*" (Matthew 5:16).

Activities/ Discussion Points

1. Memorize the 6 components of the Armor of God and summarize how each component can protect us and help us attacking doubts and temptations.
2. Memorize the scriptural verses.
3. Wear the Armor of God and never take it off in your daily war with Satan.