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to stand. Stand therefore, having your
of righteousness; And your feet shod with
the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be
the helmet of salvation
th all prayer

Armored To Win

One scripture frequently taught is Paul's inspired writing to the church at Ephesus on "the whole armor of God". I've read and studied it many times, but my heart is usually left spinning for a clear concept of this truth. I suppose having no acquaintance with armor has been a hindrance. In recent days, meditation has taken me again to this passage and suddenly I perceive with greater clarity the mind of the Lord. The wonderful thing about revelation is its continual unfolding. Tomorrow, I'll understand more than I do today, but for today I am happy.

The Word of God highlights three enemies of victorious living: the world, the flesh and the devil. The Apostle John exhorts us to "Love not the world."¹ It is interesting to note that the word "love" in this verse is "agapao". It is defined in Strong's Exhaustive Concordance as "the deliberate assent of the will"² This word "agapao" is also in the very familiar verse, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart."³ We choose to love God. We choose His Word and His way. We DO NOT choose the plans and purposes of the world.

Another enemy that upends our triumph in God is the flesh. When we follow the world, we are swayed by the crowd. The flesh always pulls

our lives toward the physical senses. It says, "I felt like it." This is certainly not "agapao" – a decision. The Word of God exhorts us to crucify the flesh. When we sacrifice our flesh, we do not allow it to lead us.

Our third enemy is the devil. We do not love the world. We crucify the flesh. But how can we overcome the devil? The Apostle James gives God's answer. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." The Word of God in 1 Peter 5:9 agrees. "Resist [him] steadfast in the faith." God's instructions are clear. We will "love not," crucify, and resist. Case closed!

**"The only partners that
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Spirit."**

Yet anyone who has "faced off" with these formidable foes knows it isn't that easy. The world incessantly cries, "Come join us." The flesh loudly persists, "But I want to. I want to." And the devil? He applauds their voices while singing his own chorus. It reminds me of the call at a square dance. "Now change partners."

The only partners that will carry us to victory are God's Word and His Spirit. They anchor our heart, guide our footsteps, and carry us over the

crest of every treacherous hill. Arm in arm with them, we boldly declare, “Victory is mine!”

The Word of God urges us to walk toward victory in full armor. As we study this armor, we hear the instructions of the Spirit, “Put on,” “take,” and “stand with”. These words of action are applied to six pieces of armor – truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation and the Word of God. In this armor, we are equipped to win, not to lose. We are able to stand successfully against the onslaught of our enemy, the devil.

The power of this weaponry also leads us into the presence of God. It is with this divine armor that we go boldly to the throne of God in prayer. When the Apostle Paul began his word to us, he said, “Put on the whole armor of God.”⁴ Then he detailed this armor for every listening ear. But his final word to us was, “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”⁵ We cannot overlook or forget this command of the Spirit. We must pray! We are armored to win and armored to pray!

The Armor of God

Belt of Truth

The Scripture records, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”⁶ What a grand promise! Freedom! Isn’t that our goal? In contrast, the prophet Isaiah proclaimed, “My people are gone into captivity, because *they have* no knowledge.”⁷ This then is our dilemma, freedom or captivity, knowledge or ignorance. Our choice is obvious. The belt of truth secures our freedom.

Breastplate of Righteousness

Every trauma is approached with this overwhelming truth, “I am God’s righteousness. I am His child.” This declaration is our banner of triumph. BUT we cannot “fly the flag of victory” without holiness. The Word of God declares this truth in Romans 6:19, “Now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.” Our right-

standing with God should lead us without deviation to holy living. The breastplate of righteousness insists on a sanctified life.

Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

When Jesus spoke to His disciples, He promised “peace...not as the world gives.”⁸ This supernatural peace, His peace, is beyond our understanding. It guards our hearts and minds and helps us stand strong. The Scripture says we are fully prepared to share the Good News when we put on our shoes of peace.

Shield of Faith

Our enemy, the devil, is defeated by our faith in God. He cannot succeed when we speak God’s Word of truth. These words of truth are always near us. The Apostle Paul declares that they are “in your mouth and in your heart.”⁹ They are the shield of faith that surround us and protect us from Satan’s “fiery darts”.¹⁰

Helmet of Salvation

The Greek word for “salvation” is “soteria”.¹¹ This all-encompassing word provides “rescue, safety, deliverance, health”. The battle to appropriate these great blessings begins in our mind. The Apostle Peter says, “Gird up the loins of your mind.” We must therefore clothe our minds with God’s Word. The Word of God is our helmet of salvation.

Sword of the Spirit

When Jesus was tempted by the devil, he quoted the Word of God. Without hesitation, He said, “It is written.”¹² These words caused the devil to “depart”.¹³ He could not stand against the promises of God. God’s great promises are the sword of our victory.

¹ 1 John 2:15

² G25, G5368

³ Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:30

⁴ Ephesians 6:11

⁵ Ephesians 6:18

⁶ John 8:32

⁷ Isaiah 5:13

⁸ John 14:27 NKJ

⁹ Romans 10:8 NIV

¹⁰ Ephesians 6:16

¹¹ G4491, Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance

¹² Matthew 4:4,7,10

¹³ Matthew 4:11, Luke 4:13