

## Basic Christianity Vol 26 **The Armour of a Christian**

*The armour of God given to us by Him is a result of having the correct attitudes to and relationships with each member of The Trinity.*

*The basis of Christianity is God's Love expressed to us by Him and through us to Him and His children – both saved and lost.*

We are to know the truths of God which means we will understand what the battle is all about and how to fight it as well as the lies and half-truths of the enemy and that also we need to be in a correct relationship with God to successfully fight this battle.

The Holy Spirit has been given to us to guide us and teach us in these things.

The Christian life is a series of attitudes resulting from your beliefs. The armour is one of these groups of attitudes. These beliefs and resultant attitudes result in salvation and the maintaining of our position in the Kingdom of God as a citizen of that Kingdom and the relationship we have as a child of The Father and step brother to Jesus. We are then in a position for Jesus to protect us and for us to use His authority delegated to us to defeat Satan and his attacks on us and others.

The armour is a result of our attitudes and resultant position in The Kingdom, of God and as long as we maintain these attitudes and position Satan cannot harm us spiritually or cause us to lose our salvation (Rev 3:5).

The attitudes of Lordship and holiness help us in resisting Satan and help keep us in the salvation relationship we have with God..

Armour is put on by a person before they go into battle. It identifies them as belonging to a certain army and ruled by a particular king. It allows them to fight with the weapons provided by their king. In the armour, they are able to attack the enemy and plunder the enemy's territory!

The armour of the Christian is received at salvation and parts of it need to be developed. It is proof they belong to Jesus and The Kingdom of The Father and are a part of their army on earth

Paul reminds us that only in the Authority and power of Jesus is their victory in this spiritual war we are all engaged in. He then tells us who our enemy really is: they are the demons behind the demons and evil people they use for their own purposes.

The armour defends us and allows us to stand and be in a position to attack Satan and use the delegated authority given to us by Jesus to do this.

He also advises us that God has given us protection in this battle with Satan and that only as we take on the whole armour (protection) of God will we succeed in this spiritual battle.

*Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*

*Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

*Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

*Eph 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

Or as the Syriac Peshitta says:

*Eph 6:10 Therefore, my brethren, be strengthened in Our Lord and in the force of his power.*

*Eph 6:11 And put on all the armour of God, so that you can stand against the strategies of The Devil.*

*Eph 6:12 Because your fight has not been with flesh and blood, but with Principalities and The Rulers and The Powers of this dark world and with wicked spirits which are under Heaven.*

*Eph 6:13 Because of this, put on all the Armor of God that you shall be able to confront The Evil One, and when you are ready in all things, you shall stand.*

As it is a spiritual battle The Armour is spiritual which means it is a result of our attitudes towards certain things and it is based on our understanding of whom Jesus is (v10) and what The Bible teaches us.

Every attitude must be in its correct place if the armour is to be complete and able to defend us against Satan and his attacks (v11).

It has to be fought in our minds as it is a spiritual battle for control of our mind (v12).

We must want to desire to have these attitudes if we are to defeat Satan (v13).

We must know the truths we need to know and be in a correct relationship with God (v14)

We must be able to tell everyone how to have peace with God and by this remove them from Satan's kingdom (v15). Evangelism in otherwords.

We must have sufficient faith to have these attitudes and apply them (v16).

We must have salvation and know God's Bible to be able to use it to defeat Satan (v17).

We must always be guided by The Holy Spirit examining all that we see and accept when The Bible is not clear on a matter (v18).

So, we need to learn how to have these attitudes, develop them and express them correctly so that our armour grows stronger and we can stand against Satan.

### **An Overview of the Armour**

The attitudes of a person who has The Armour of God on them:

v10, They trust their King

v11 They fight The King's Enemy, which is why they put on the armour. It is not just for show!

v12, They realise who their enemy is and that the battle is spiritual

v13 and that the only way to defeat the enemy is to use The King's Methods to fight him

v14, They know the truths to defeat the lies of the enemy

v15, They know the Gospel of The Kingdom and the freedom it brings people

v16, They trust Their King in all things so the enemy cannot in any way get them to doubt their King or His love

v17, They know they belong to the King and use His truths about He and The Battle (Bible) to defeat the enemy

v18 They are guided by The Holy Spirit, supporting each other in this battle to the death

v19 Being guided by Godly teachers who lead them into the truth of their King, teach them how to live and how to fight this battle.

*Eph 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his great power.*

The protection and authority of the armour depends on the authority of the King providing it and the way in which it is built to protect the soldier and more importantly, as to how much of it has been accepted and put on by the soldier. The armour is only put on with the approval of the king and for his purposes. We serve the mightiest and greatest King before whom all other kings must bow!

The soldier does not go into battle with a part of the armour missing.

*Eph 6:11 Put on the full armour of God so that you can fight against the devil's evil tricks.*

The armour is always put on for a purpose which is to defeat the enemy and their works. It also protects against the enemy as you fight him.

The parts of the armour are the foundations of our Christian life. If we do not have all of these on us then we will have difficulty protecting our self fully against the attacks on our faith.

*Eph 6:12 Our fight is not against people on earth but against the rulers and authorities and the powers of this world's darkness, against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly world.*

The area of battle as well as who we battle needs to be known to effectively fight the battle and as the battle is spiritual, fleshly weapons and attitudes are of no use. You need to use God's spiritual weapons and His truths as nothing else will work in this battle. We fight the plans of the leaders not just the individual demon soldiers. Demons work to a plan given to them by their rulers so you need to hinder or prevent the plan they are a part of as well as their efforts to enforce these plans. Just as God has a plan for each person so does Satan have a plan for each person. God's plan is to keep removing the leaders of Satan's army so that there is no one to enforce the plans of their commander, Satan, or order replacement troops into the field.

Jesus once told some one that He gave us authority over Satan and expects us to use it. Prayer does not remove Satan because Jesus expects us to do it and not Him. However if you give Him Lordship of an area Jesus will defend it for you but He expects you to remove the demons through His Authority given to you and because you reject what the demon suggest you do.

Having said that, that if you are unable to do it because of any reason then He will help you with removing them.

*Eph 6:13 That is why you need to put on God's full armour. Then on the day of evil you will be able to stand strong. And when you have finished the whole fight, you will still be standing.*

The choice of armour is very important. It must all be put on and must be appropriate for the battle or you will not be fully protected or able to stay in the battle for long.

Deliverance may be necessary to be able to put on the full armour or a better understanding of Salvation may be needed. These will remove weaknesses in our attitudes that Satan can try and use to attack us.

*Eph 6:14 So stand strong, with the belt of truth tied around your waist and the protection of right living on your chest.*

The breastplate protects the heart and our righteous (correct) relationship with God protects our spiritual heart as Satan cannot attack us successfully if we are in a righteous relationship with God.

You must know what you are fighting for and live according to the requirements (truths) of the King to be authorised to battle on His behalf. You need to know God's truths to fight the lies of the enemy and be in a proper relationship with God so there is no weak spot in your life that the enemy can use to attack you. Jesus must be Lord of every area of your life so there is nothing unprotected that Satan can attack. The framework of five steps will help you in this.

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The Gospel attacks Satan's kingdom freeing people from it so is a form of spiritual warfare and one of the main purpose for the fighting we do with Satan. The other is to protect The Kingdom and the people of The Kingdom.

The purpose of God is to have everyone at peace with Him which is why we need to know The Gospel (how to be in a righteous relationship with God) and be able to use (explain) its truths to defeat the enemy and his purpose for people.

*Eph 6:15 On your feet wear the Good News of peace to help you stand strong.*

Reconciliation with God must first occur (The good news of the Gospel of Peace) so you can be a part of His army and worthy to fight His battles. The Gospel is also a weapon in stealing people from the enemy kingdom. Without reconciliation with God there is no foundation to the Christian life. We preach reconciliation and peace with God as our main weapon. Remember, we preach the Gospel of The Kingdom and demonstrate its authority over Satan as part of our preaching and by this show God is greater and His peace is worth achieving..

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It is the demonstrating that The Kingdom of God is different and superior and more worthwhile to that which Satan offers that frees people from their security in the things of Satan so they can trust God and His Things.

*Eph 6:16 And also use the shield of faith with which you can stop all the burning arrows of the Evil One.*

You must have faith in the strategies of your King and in His ability to supply your necessities to fight as well as to heal any wounds obtained in the battle. You must believe He is more powerful

than the enemy, can protect you and is worth following otherwise Satan can make you doubt these and the Kings love for you so you become weaker in your resolve to fight the battle.

The arrows attack our mind so we need to protect our mind through faith in Jesus and the truths of His promises to us (so we need to study The Bible to learn and understand these) and through putting every thought under His Lordship and Will for us. This is why we must discipline our minds so that Satan cannot use them in any way.

Faith in Jesus places us in a position for Him to protect us and to help us fight the battle. So what is our faith to be in?

Faith in:

Who He is?

That He has won the battle

That He has made it possible for you to fight and win the battle

That all His promises are true and that it is worth fighting for (rewards).

Otherwise, you will not fight the battle or may not even know there is one. Remember it is the truth that sets you free from the lies of Satan.

*Eph 6:17 Accept God's salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

You must accept the call of the King to join the army as well as use the weapons He provides for you to fight with. You must know what the weapons are, how they are used and where to get them.

You must also understand God's Salvation so you know that you have it and are part of The Kingdom of God and thus part of God's Army

The helmet protects the head where we think. God's Salvation places us under His protection in His Kingdom and His truths protect our mind. It is the truths of The Bible in your mind that keep you from the deceptions of the enemy (Satan and his kingdom). It is a spiritual battle which is why The Bible, as explained by The Holy Ghost, is such a strong weapon.

The sword of The Spirit is the Word of God (The Bible) which tells us the truths we need to know to take part in this battle. If you do not know your Bible you will not be able to battle in the way you should because you will not have the knowledge of the truth to do this.

If you do not study and meditate on The Bible you will not know the truths of God that The Holy Spirit will use to set you free and use to guide you in this battle.

The helmet covers the brain (mind) and if we are saved, we are in a correct relationship with Jesus and understand this relationship correctly so that Satan cannot remove us from it through his lies.

*18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

We need to pray for each other and help each other in this battle. Satan is attacking us and we are The Body of Christ so the Body needs to unite as one in purpose to defeat Satan. This means we need to help each other in this battle either to protect each other from Satan's attacks or fight for and with them against Satan.

Congregations divide The Body and stop people praying for and helping others of different denominations.

This is prayer as led by The Holy Spirit for the purposes of The Kingdom and not just for the purposes of the denomination. It is not for our needs as Jesus promises to provide these as we do His work (Mat 6:33). It is really spiritual warfare and not prayer we should be doing.

We should not be asking God to do something for us against Satan but in the Name of Jesus telling Satan what we believe God wants him to do.

We are to ask for fellow labourers and the things the enemy has to be removed or become part of God's Kingdom as they really belong to Jesus and He will work to help you remove or obtain them if they are in accordance with His Will. We are also to war for our fellow Christians who do not see they are under attack or have a need of deliverance.

All prayers of request should be in accordance with God's Will or for the purposes of doing God's Will.

We are always communicating to God, asking His advice in which we are helped in this by The Holy Spirit (Rom 8:26-27). If we are not able to communicate with our commander and hear Him, how are we to know what He desires us to do which is why we need always to be guided by The Holy Spirit and be always alert to hear His instructions.

*Eph 6:19 Also pray for me that when I speak, God will give me words so that I can tell the secret of the Good News without fear.*

You must support each other in any action against the enemy, either as trainer, teacher or helper. The Gospel of The Kingdom is an attack on Satan's kingdom and we should warfare and support those preaching and teaching The Gospel of The Kingdom (but only as The Spirit says to give and pray and not from guilt or emotion).

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It is only as denominations unite and express the unity of The Body for the purposes of The Kingdom of God will they grow and serve Jesus as they should

It is really spiritual warfare commands and not prayer we should be doing. We should not be asking God to do something against Satan for us but in the Name of Jesus telling Satan what we believe God wants him to do.

Paul mentions The Gospel as that is our main weapon to rescue people from the kingdom of Satan. Without the truths of The Gospel, they have no reason to go from Satan's kingdom to The Kingdom of God.

The armour of a Christian is dynamic based on what Jesus has done for us at Calvary and upon our accepting what He has done. It signifies that our citizenship belongs to the Kingdom of The Father and that our battles are those of Jesus for despoiling the Kingdom of Darkness and rescuing souls from its clutches. It shows we stand for Jesus, His rules and requirements and like all soldiers, are willing to die for our commander.

We do this by dying to self and focussing on what Jesus desires us to do.

It is also relational, based on our attitude to our King and our resultant position in His Kingdom. As long as we seek to have the Mind of Christ in all we do this relationship will never be broken. When it is broken repentance is necessary and possibly deliverance to help you restore and keep the attitudes necessary for this relationship with your King.

A soldier goes into battle knowing he may die but he obeys the orders given to him as they are the best chance they have for life and carrying out the King's Wishes! The soldier is willing to die for His King and for the sake of The Kingdom and the people in it whether related to him or not. So, it should be with all who serve in the army of Jesus!

This spiritual armour of the Christian is God's preparation for you to be able to take part in His battles as well as be protected in the battle. It is interesting that the armour has no back to it as if a Christian's only defence against Satan is to attack Him.

Many Christians have no idea about this battle which is why the church is nothing like it was in The New Testament.

Unless you are fighting the battle or are constantly on the alert for Satan's attacks then you are a victim of it and cannot be really used by God.

The armour is used to fight the battle not just stand there and defend and unless you are fighting Satan you are not using the armour properly.

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Remember, we live in enemy territory and have an enemy who is constantly trying to find ways to attack us and make us a part of his kingdom. And until you realise then you will fight him but be a victim of his attacks.