



USING THE ARMOR OF GOD

Last week, I told you of some dreadful things that are going on in the world and how there are some who are using certain agencies to the detriment of those they are claiming to help. We need to protect ourselves against all of the evils that are present in the world. We do not have the strength to defend ourselves from all of the evils, but we have an advocate who will give us the armor we need.

Ephesians 6:10-18

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

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

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.

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.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and suppli-

cation in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Many preachers have preached on the whole armor of God, but tonight I will attempt to not only encourage you to put on the armor, but to use that armor not only as a defensive asset, but as offensive as well. Being in a war we not only need a defensive posture, but an offensive posture. Numerous times, the same item can be used for both as you will see. In today's military, take the tank. It is used for both offense and defense. The troops inside the tank are well protected, and they have a mobile cannon that can shoot an explosive projectile beyond the cannon's line of sight. All they need is the coordinates where they are to aim the cannon. God's armor has the same capabilities.

- Truth
- Righteousness
- Gospel of Peace
- Faith
- Salvation
- Sword of the Spirit (Word of God)
- Pray in the Spirit
- Perseverance

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Truth

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth,

We cannot fight the devil and his agents using the same weapons that he uses. Satan uses lies and deceptions to sway converts. We use the opposite weapon of truth. Whereas Satan lies and cheats his way, the child of God is upright and honest in all things. So we are not only protected by the truth of God and the Bible, but we combat the lies of Satan with the truth. Thus truth is both defensive and offensive.

Using truth, you can persuade some to become a Christian and change sides. Using truth in this manor saves a soul from eternal torment in hell, also weakens the enemies strength by one while increasing the Lord's troop strength many fold. That one that you convert with truth may win thousands to the Lord.

Truth does not always overcome the lies of Satan. Satan was so persuasive in his lies that he was even able to cajole a third of the angels of heaven to join him.

Revelation 12:1-4

1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was

ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

Many feel that these were the angels that are now demons. The angles who were deceived by Satan were not using the truth defensively. They may have known the truth, but the truth was not a part of their defense. This is why the truth does not always win over the lie. Also if the truth is not part of your inner being as a Christian, then you can be deceived by Satan's lies.

This is why the truth is both a defensive and an offensive weapon. Using the truth wisely will not only protect you from the wiles of the devil, but also will enable you to overcome the lies that others so strongly believe. It is also true why we need to use the truth with wisdom.

Matthew 10:16

16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Righteousness

and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

The second item of armor is righteousness. It may be a little hard to describe how righteousness is not only defensive but also an offensive weapon, but the apostle Peter describes it well.

1 Peter 3:1

1 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

Peter describes the righteous wife winning her husband to the Lord by her righteousness.

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This holiness by the Christian wife can lead the unrighteous to the Lord by example. Thus we see how righteousness can be both an offensive weapon utilized to win some to Christ and also a defensive weapon.

So we see that both truth combined with righteousness becomes very powerful when used in conjunction.

Gospel of Peace

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Where would the Christian be without the Gospel of Peace? Without receiving and spreading the good news, we would have nothing. The Gospel protects us against the wiles of the devil while at the same time hinders the devil's lies.

Faith

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

When the ancient soldiers fought, they used their shields as both offensive and defensive weapons. Our faith in the Lord is able to protect us against all of the wiles of the devil while at the same time weaken his offense against us. Without faith in the Lord Jesus Christ it would be like a knight going into battle without his shield. He would have less protection and one less weapon to fight with.

How can you expect to fight the demons of Satan without absolute faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? It is impossible to please God without faith. Also it is impossible to fight the devil

without faith. If you don't believe that Jesus is the ultimate winner in this war against the devil, you have already lost.

Salvation

And take the helmet of salvation

Where would you be without your own salvation? Also, others can see that there is something different about you. You will hear comments that there is an air about you that is different. This air is the spiritual aurora that surrounds the Spirit-filled Christian. The ones who are not saved will see this phenomenon and wonder what is different about you. It will cause them to wonder what is different about you.

Others will see your salvation, your life, and the peace that you have and will wonder about what you have that they do not have. It gives them something to think about that you have something that is far more valuable than the troubles that they have. Though they may have gained the whole world, they see the peaceful spirit radiate out of the Spirit-filled Christian and they want what you have.

This is how salvation becomes both an offensive and defensive weapon.

Sword of the Spirit

and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Using the Sword of the Spirit enables you to respond to all of the false accusations that the world hurls your way. The Word of God is a very sharp twoedged sword that can be used to defend you and also to disprove the enemy.

Luke 12:11

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11 And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say:

When you have the Holy Ghost dwelling inside of you, the Lord will take over your tongue at the appropriate time and do your talking for you. You will find that you will astound people with your ability just like the Apostles did.

Acts 4:13-23

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among

themselves,

16 Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.

17 But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.

18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

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Sunday Evening	6:30 PM
Wednesday Evening	7:30 PM

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22 For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.

23 And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

Here we see the Apostles using the Sword of the Spirit effectively. Many were won to the Lord, and at the same time they defended themselves in court.

Pray in the Spirit

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,

Perseverance

watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;