

The Armor of God – part 3

Ephesians 6:10-18 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 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 supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

Recap

The Shield of Faith

The Roman Shield covered the entire body. And when they joined with other soldiers, they became a walking fortress.

Ephesians 6:16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

There are a few things to note as move into the shield of faith:

- Above all. This really means “in addition to.” There is a division between the previous pieces of armor.
- In fact, the wording changes.
 - **Ephesians 6:14-15** Stand therefore, **having girded** your waist with truth, **having put on** the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and **having shod your feet** with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
 - These are past tense. You already have these things.
- Now listen - **Ephesians 6:16** above all, **taking** the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

- At salvation you have peace with God. You have been made righteous. The truth of who God is and who you now are never changes.
- Take up faith – believe. Just as the shield covers the whole body, the shield of faith covers us entirely. The way to defend against all attacks of the enemy is by faith.
- Believe in God’s truth. Believe you are righteous. Believe you and God are at peace.
- **John 6:29** Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

Listen to what is said here about faith

- **Matthew 6:30** Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith?
 - Faith in God as our provider
- **Matthew 8:26** But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.
 - Faith in God as our protector
- **Matthew 15:28** Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, great *is* your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.
 - Faith in God as our Healer
- **Matthew 21:21** So Jesus answered and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done.
 - Faith in God as the One that accomplishes the impossible
- **Romans 3:27-28** Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.
 - Faith that God is our justifier
- **2 Corinthians 5:7** For we walk by faith, not by sight.
 - Faith is how we live our lives in the everyday

- **James 5:15** And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.
 - Faith that God heals us not just physically, but in all ways
- **1 John 5:4** For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.
 - Faith that God is our victory

What do you struggle with believing? Identify the areas that you have trouble having complete faith in God. Then deal with that. If it is too much or you don't know where to start, get prayer ministry.

The Helmet of Salvation

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Salvation – not Sozo. Soterion – Rescue or deliverance. Specifically looking at Christ as our deliverance.

If Christ is our salvation, our deliverance, then we have hope that nothing can defeat us.

Paul expounds on this later on in Thessalonians:

- **1 Thessalonians 5:8** But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation.

Or in other words, our hope is in Christ. He is our strength. He is our deliverer. He is our victory.

But specifically, this is a helmet which is over our heads. This is because the enemy attacks are mostly centered on our minds.

- **2 Corinthians 10:4-5** For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

- Strongholds – Lies against God or ourselves that we believe so strongly that we don't even recognize them as lies.
- Arguments – Carnal or worldly ways of thinking. Reasoning or opinions.
- High things – Philosophies or religious thinking that goes against God. Also things we exalt, money, power, fame...

The helmet of salvation is to counter all these attacks from the enemy.

This is accomplished by allowing Christ to change the way we think.

- **Romans 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Put on the Helmet:

- **Colossians 3:1-2** If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.
- **Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.
- **Psalms 77:12** I will also meditate on all Your work, And talk of Your deeds.