

“The Armor That Fits!”
1 Thessalonians 5:8

Introduction:

1. Many Times When We Hear About The “Armor Of God” Available For A Christian, We Turn To That Famous Passage In Ephesians 6!
 - There Is A Lesser Known Passage, Which We Just Touched On This Morning – But, I Want To Dwell A Little Longer On This Verse!
 - Because To Understand This Verse Is Essential In Our Walk With The Lord – Not Only As “A Watchman But Also A Warrior!” (Hiebert)
2. We **Hear** About Spiritual Warfare – But Do We Really **Face** Spiritual Warfare?
 - The Bible Says In Ephesians That This Is Our Main Enemy & Foe!
 - Ephesians 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!”
 - This War Is Real!
 - And Affects Every Christian – No Matter Where Or When They Live! (Ephesus / Thessalonica / Greenfield)
3. Because This War Is Real – We Must Be “Sober” & Alert!
 - As We Looked At This Morning!
 - But How Can You Be Sober & Alert?
 - Especially When We Are Dealing With Powers That We Cannot Even See Or Feel Physically! Powers That Are More Powerful & Destructive Than Our Own Flesh!
 - The Lord Knows Your Concern & Your Need!
 - And Addresses Them By Joining The Three Great Christian Virtues – Faith / Love / Hope – And Connecting Them To The Strength & Power Of God To Overcome Them!
 - Remember 1 John 4:4 - “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world!”
4. The Lord Provides This Armor Through Faith / Love / Hope!
 - Through The Virtues Possessed At Salvation By You!
 - Through The Virtues Given Directly By God To You!
 - Simply Through Faith / Love / Hope – The Lord Provides “The Armor That Fits” Every Christian!
 - **IE:** Unlike The Armor Of Saul That Did Not Fit Young David, As He Went To Fight Goliath!
 - This Armor That Will Fit You!
5. What Is This Armor?
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:8 - “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation!”

1. *The Breastplate!*

- The Breastplate Protected The Heart And Other Vital Organs Within The Chest & Torso!
 - Needed To Be Protected From Both The Front & The Back – This Is One Reason Why Both Faith & Love Are Joined Together To Form This One Piece Of Armor!
- But, Spiritually, What Needs To Be Protected?
 - Your Heart!
 - The Spiritual Center Of Your Life!
 - Proverbs 4:23 - “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life!”
- How Can You Protect Your Heart?
 - By Joining Your Faith In & Love For Christ Into A Strong Piece Of Spiritual Armor!
- Faith!
 - In The Lord Jesus Christ & His Promises!
 - Especially About His Return! (Context)
 - He Is Able To Perform What He Has Promised, And He Will!
 - What Will Faith In The Lord Guard You From?
 - Doubt!
 - Doubt Can Greatly Affect Your Heart!

- To The Point Of Even Questioning His Truth & His Love!
- How Will This Faith Be Expressed?
 - How Do You Know If You Are Protected?
 - How Do You Know If You Have This Faith?
 - Through Christ-Focused Effort!
 - Because You Believe, You Serve!
 - Because You Believe, You Witness!
 - Because You Believe, You Pray!
 - As You Serve, Your Faith Grows!
 - As You Witness, Your Faith Strengthens!
 - As You Pray, Your Faith Increases!
- And Your Heart Is Protected!
 - Not Because Of Your Faith – But Because Of The One You Believe!
- Love!
 - For The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - In Response To His Love & The Demonstration Of His Love Toward Us!
 - 1 John 4:19 - “We love him, because he first loved us!”
 - Romans 5:8 - “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us!”
 - But, It Is Also His Love That Will Bring His Return, So That He Might Bring Us To Be With Him!
 - What Will Love For The Lord Guard You From?
 - Apathy! Disinterest!
 - Which, Again, Will Affect Your Heart & Service For The Lord!
 - How Will This Love Be Expressed?
 - How Do You Know If You Are Protected?
 - How Do You Know If You Have This Love?
 - Through Christ-Like Exertion!
 - Love Is Invisible Until It Is Visible!
 - And When You Exert / Show Your Love & Passion For The Lord:
 - Your Heart Is Protected!
 - Not Because Of Your Love – But Because Of The One You Love!

2. ***The Helmet!***

- The Helmet Protected The Head & The Brain!
 - Which Thinks & Helps Keep The Rest Of The Body Alive & Functioning Together!
- Spiritually, What Needs To Be Protected?
 - Your Mind!
 - Isaiah 26:3-4 - “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. / Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength!”
 - Your Thoughts About:
 - The Lord!
 - Your Relationship With Him!
 - Your Opportunities To Serve Him!
- How Can You Protect Your Mind & Thoughts?
 - Through “The Hope Of Salvation!”
- Hope!
 - In The Lord Jesus Christ & The Salvation He Provides!
 - It Is A Complete Salvation!
 - It Will Be Complete When He Returns!
 - Hope Is Not A Wish, But A “Confident Expectation!”
 - What Will Hope In The Lord Guard You From?
 - Despair & Discouragement!

- Especially In The Difficulties & Dangers Of This Life & This World!
- Don't Lose Hope!
 - Because Jesus Christ Is Your Hope!
 - 1 Timothy 1:1 - "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope!"
- Don't Be Like Those Who "Have No Hope!"
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:13 - "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope!"
 - Ephesians 2:12 - "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world!"
- Because, Without Hope Comes Sorrow & Despair!
- How Will This Hope Be Expressed?
 - How Do You Know If You Are Protected?
 - How Do You Know If You Have This Hope?
 - Through Christ-Led Endurance!
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:3 - "Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father!"
 - Puts Them All Together, Doesn't It?
 - Your "Work Of Faith!"
 - Is A Christ-Focused Effort!
 - Your "Labor Of Love!"
 - Is A Christ-Like Exertion!
 - Your Patience Of Hope!"
 - Is A Christ-Led Endurance!
- And Your Mind Is Protected!
 - Not Because Of Your Hope – But Because Of The One Your Hope Is In!

Conclusion:

1. This Spiritual Armor Is Something That Fits Every Christian!
 - It Is Placed On Them The Moment They Are Saved!
 - But Sometimes, The Armor Can Become Weak!
 - And We Begin To Doubt / We Become Dis-Interested / We Even Despair & Become Discouraged!
2. What Can You Do?
 - Look Unto Jesus Again!
 - To Increase Your Faith!
 - Hebrews 12:2 - "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith!"
 - To Increase Your Love!
 - 1 John 4:19 - "We love him, because he first loved us!"
 - To Increase Your Hope!
 - Titus 2:13 - "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ!"
3. Do Not Live & Go Into This World Without This Protection!
 - Ephesians 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!"

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