

PERSONAL ARMOR (Pt 2)

Shield, Helmet, Sword

Ephesians 6:16-17

I. THE SHIELD OF FAITH (16; Prov 30:5)

A. We Are Under Fire. ()—We have a real and active enemy.

1. The Evil One (Mat 6:13)—personal, intelligent

2. His Fiery Darts

a. Accusation (Rom 8:1)

b. Temptation (1 Cor 10:13)

B. We Need a Shield.

1. Purpose of Shield—blocks the impact of enemy weapons

2. Type of Shield—large, rectangular, full-body cover

3. Use of Shield—in situations of active, incoming enemy fire

a. Requires Action (not just possession)—take up the Shield and use it

b. Requires Knowledge: what you believe, where the attack is coming from, how to cover your entire body with the shield

C. Faith is our Shield.

1. Faith in God (1 Pet 1:21)—specifically believing *what He has said*

2. Faith in Action (Jam 2:26)—faith expressing itself in *obedience*

3. Faith Over All—(1 Cor 5:6-7)—it covers everything

II. THE HELMET OF SALVATION ()

A. A Helmet protects the Head.

1. Importance of the Head—it is the center of...

a. Sentience—self-awareness and ability to think

b. Sensory Perception—recognizing & interacting with external reality

c. Understanding—interpreting, making sense, knowing what to do

2. Seriousness of a Head Injury—at very least debilitating

B. The Mind is a Battlefield. Head represents mind

1. Our identity and self-perception
2. Our ability to recognize reality outside ourselves
3. Our ability to correctly assign meaning to what we witness and experience

C. The Hope of Salvation guards our Mind. (1 Thes 5:8; Tit 1:2)

1. **HOPE** means a **confident expectation of good based upon the promises of God's Word.** (Rom 8:28; Heb 6:17-20 & b 10:23)
2. **Our Salvation is both present and future**—now and not-yet
 - a. **We are Redeemed.** (1 Pet 1:18-19)
 - b. **We are in Christ.** (2 Cor 5:17;).
 - c. **We are reconciled to God.** (Rom 5:10 & 8:38-39; 2 Cor 5:18)
 - d. **We are looking forward to glorification** (Rom 8:23-25; 1 Pet 1:3-8)
3. A Christian should **never be without hope!** (Rom 8:28; Eph 2:12; Col 1:27)

III. THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT (17b)—the Word of God**A. The Sword**—most active, requires most skill, strength, energy, training

1. **Defensive**—protects you by meeting and blocking the enemy's strikes
2. **Offensive**—threat to the other side, can wound your opponent

B. Of The Spirit

1. **It is a spiritual weapon, not physical.** (Jn 6:63; 2 Cor 10:3-4)
2. **The Holy Spirit makes it effective.**
 - a. **He is the author.** —(2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:20-21)—
 - b. **He recalls and applies the Word to us.** (Jn 14:26)

C. The Word of God

1. **Is powerful** (Isa 55:11; Rev 1:16 & 19:15)
2. **Is true and authoritative**—(Mat 4:1-11)—Jesus weapon of choice
3. **It discerns** (Heb 4:12)—clarifies, judges, corrects
4. **You have to know it to use it**
5. **It is the spoken word** (Deut 30:14)

Next Week: #21 **Prayer Cover.** Read Ephesians 6:18-24. Come with an example from your experience of the power of prayer and with a prayer request to pray for in your small group.