

Ephesians 6:10-18: Text: Ephesians 6:17: "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God"

"Put on the whole armor of God"! Every piece of it is of utmost importance if you would stand and effectively resist YOUR ADVERSARY the devil.

With each passing day, Christian, you should be more experienced and skilled "simply" in the duty of picking it up and putting it on!

Picking up the Word, meditating in, and believing the promises of God; and then practicing/using the precepts of God in your life.

The further you travel the road of Christianity, (the more you fight the good fight of faith), the more skilled, proficient, and experienced you should be in using God's armor as your defense against the devil's wiles.

Remember, you must know your enemy/adversary, but you must also know the artillery and defensive armor that God has provided for your defense!

Allow me to illustrate: You can take up an M-16 or M-4 automatic weapon, you could be sent into combat, but if you've never loaded and fired an M-16 or M-4, it's not going to do you much good.

I can give you body armor to put on, but if you've never put on body armor, you're going to be standing there trying to figure out how to put it on, while the enemy is attacking you.

Simply the task of "Putting on the whole armor of God" must be something that you consistently practice, ONLY then are you ready to use it, that you might stand against the wiles of the devil!

If you don't become experienced in taking it up and putting it on, you will never be effective in the use of it.

Tonight, we take up and put on "the helmet of salvation": Helmet: literally around the head for protection.

The helmet protects your head, or your mind, your thoughts, and what you are thinking. This spiritual helmet is designed by God to keep Satan out of your mind! Your mind is connected/hardwired to your heart; Paul reminds us in Colossians 3: "Set your affection" or "your mind" on things above, not on things on the earth.

The helmet (like every other piece of the armor) is of utmost importance! If a soldier doesn't have his helmet on, and he gets shot in the head, he's done.

This spiritual helmet protects your mind and your thoughts from Satan getting in, influencing you. The helmet of salvation secures your mind with assurance and hope from God that you have been saved from Satan's dominion and power.

And that, you are no longer a captive in his kingdom, but you have been delivered and rescued from being his captive and translated into the Kingdom of God's Dear Son!

Even as a child of God, Satan wants to fill your mind with doubts and fears; he wants to influence you toward sin and wickedness so that you WILL DOUBT your salvation! Satan wants you to be discouraged and depressed, and to have no assurance of your salvation!

The helmet of salvation keeps the wicked one out of your head and protects your mind and your thoughts from taking hits from Satan, and fiery darts into your mind! The helmet of salvation strengthens your assurance and your hope of eternal life from Satan's assaults!

1 Thessalonians 5:1-9, Titus 1:1-2, Romans 15:13, 1 Peter 1:3-8, Psalm 119:81

And also, take "the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God"

As Christians, it is a MUST that you have skill and experience in the right use of "this sword"; the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. It is thus a most powerful weapon since it is "The Sword of God's Spirit".

Many carelessly endeavor to take up this sword, only to be made worse because they have no experience with it. And thus, they try to take it up and use it with a wicked or an unspiritual mind and an unskilled heart.

2 Timothy 2:15-18, Hebrews 5:11-14

Be warned of take up the sword of the Spirit without understanding it's great and precious truths or try to use it without the breastplate of righteousness, or without the shield of faith, or without the helmet of salvation!

I don't think we realize the power of the Word of God (when rightly used and taken up by a Holy Spirit filled Christian; there is none other sword like this one!

Hebrews 4:12, Jeremiah 23:29, Romans 1:16, 2 Corinthians 10:3-6, 1 Thessalonians 2:13

The level of skill that you have with this sword will be coupled and directly linked to the measure in which you pick up it up and study it! How much do you believe it, or might I say, believe the God of the Word? How much do you understand it? And then, how much do you use it, and practice and wield it in spiritual warfare when you are attacked by YOUR ADVERSARY the devil.

A Christian who cannot "rightly use" the Word is a Christian who cannot pick up the sword of the Spirit to defend himself against the wicked one! Do you have some skill with this blade? I pray so!

And again, don't doubt the Word of God, for it is the sword of the Spirit; hence the power of this sword is found in the Holy Spirit who makes God's Word effectual, active, and supernaturally powerful!

1 Peter 5:8-9