

# *The Whole Armor of God*

## **Part One of Eight Parts**

By Tom Stephens

(all scriptures are from the KJV unless otherwise stated)

- **Everything The Soldier Needs:**

God did not intend for His children to continually “lose any battle with the enemy”. He has provided armament, both defensive and offensive for the use of His Church. We were captured by Jesus Christ for the purpose of spreading to all nations the solution to the wiles of Satan, drawing on His strength to win every spiritual battle. Apostle Paul stated the following concerning our walk in Christ Jesus,

*“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in times past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God”* (Gal. 5:16-21).

God’s armor is complete; so “Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Ephesians 6:11). The armor is strong, “The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds” (2 Cor. 10:4).

- **Jesus provides believers with sufficient power to be victorious:**

He gives us supernatural strength for every spiritual battle. Apostle Paul said, “...my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might” (Ephesians 6:10). Christians are, more now than ever, to be engaged in spiritual conflict with evil, the warfare of faith (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:4; 1 Tim. 1:18-19; 6:12), which will continue even until the Rapture of His Church!

*“He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fail: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint”* (Isaiah 40:29-31).

- **We have strength to do all things through Christ Jesus:** Paul said,

*“...I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Jesus Christ which strengtheneth me. Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction”* (Phil. 4: 11-14).

Our call to commit to Christ is realizing God has given us in our own circumstances all we need to be victorious in Him. Our successful daily walk in His Spirit is to determine in our hearts that we can live triumphantly *above* the circumstances that change every day. Yet, this power does not come in a natural way—we can’t empower ourselves because this power must be learned by our trust and dependence on Jesus, by The Spirit.

**The armor is not only strong, but is indispensable:** “...that now it is hightime to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day: not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof (Romans 13:11-14).

To wait on the Lord in prayer and fasting is to fully trust Jesus with our lives. It involves looking to Him as our source of help and grace in time of need (Psalm 25:3-5; Luke 2:25; 38). Those who wait upon the Lord are promised the strength of God to revive them in the midst of exhaustion and weakness, of suffering and trial; the ability to rise above their difficulties as an eagle that soars into the sky; and the ability to run spiritually without tiring; and

to walk steadily forward without fainting when God delays. God promises if His people will patiently trust Him, He will provide whatever is needed to sustain them (1 Peter 1:5).

- **Every Christian, more than ever, needs this armor in these final days:**

Because the battles are of a spiritual nature, Apostle Paul said, *“Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against power, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breast plate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”* (Eph. 6: 11-17).

Our enemy is extremely clever; *“for we wrestle not against flesh and blood”*. We are up *“against the wiles of the devil and all the strategies and the deceits thereof, and also “against the devils methods of attack”* (tricks). We must always remember that our vicious enemy lies in wait for all Christians in this late hour. Wear your armor!

*“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto the eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you”* (1 Peter 5:8-10).

**Our Adversary:** When man sinned, Satan became the ruler of the world (Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11).

- He dominates the whole world, with almost 7,000 years experience over man (1 John 5:19).
- He Patrols earth, and is commander of a host of demons whom he enslaves and keeps captive (Eph. 2:20).
- Yet, as a roaring lion, he remains a threat to believers (Ps. 22:13; Ezek. 22:25). . .
- He seeks to destroy the true church, especially through experiences of suffering (1 Peter 5: 8-10).
- He will continue his activities of destruction among all who have resisted the Savior. . .
- But Jesus will bless His own through our faith in His precious blood (Rev. 12:11).
- Our spiritual warfare is not by the flesh... (Eph. 6: 11-18).
- We must continue in our commitment in praise and prayers to God (Matthew 6:1-15).
- Only the believer has been delivered from his power.

Remember this: *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled”* (2 Corinthians 10:3-6).

We are fully equipped to defeat Satan’s schemes against godly men. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. Even with his 7,000 years of experience against God’s people, he will remain the foulest, and most evil entity who ever existed. But God has always—and will always trump Satan and his devices of mockery and lies. Then, because the armor, when used properly, is always effective when we draw our strength *only* from the Lord—from the mastery His power supplies. We must wear all the weapons in God’s armory against those who have the mastery of the world in these *“final and dark”* days (Eph. 6).

Christian, please know you will never fight alone (Deuteronomy 4). With God’s help and with the equipment He provides you can win in every battle.

“Therefore, take up God’s armor, then you will be able to stand your ground when things are at their worst to complete every task while remain standing (Eph. 6:13).

***“The day of the Lord is near upon all the heathen; as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee; thy reward shall return upon thine own head” (Obadiah 15).***

# *Protection for the Loins*

## **Part Two of Eight**

Ephesians 6:14; Matthew 15:10; 11; 15-20

***“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness”***

(Ephesians 6:14).

The first piece of armor Paul lists is for the loins. In the Bible the loins usually represent a person’s procreative powers—his or her sex life. Roman soldiers protected their loins by wearing a leather belt with armored leather straps attached which formed a skirt-like covering. The Bible says, “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth.”

It is written of Christ, “*Righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness, the girdle of his reins*” (Isa. 11:5). Christians should be true to God and faithful to righteousness in their sex life.

*“And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him. For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak. According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompense to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompense. So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD. As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed’s seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and forever (Isaiah 59:16-21).*

- **Reasons to Refuse to Commit Sexual Sins:**

**First:** Sexual Sins bring God’s judgment (Hebrews 12:4); “*Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin*”. Immorality leads to other sins (James 1: 14-15).

In David’s case, adultery led to murder. “*But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed*”<sup>15</sup> “*Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death*” (2 Sam. 11:2-5; 15).

When David saw the beautiful Bathsheba he was totally moved with passion for her. Chapter 11 tells us about David’s tragic sin and fall. Instead of leading his army into battle as he had done before, David stayed behind in Jerusalem. He was taken over by this beautiful maiden which led to his moral collapse. His life of ease and luxury as king bred self-confidence and self-indulgence. At about this time he ceased to be a man after God’s own heart (See Sam. 13:14). David’s fall from grace (Gal. 5:4) stands as a warning to all believers: “*Let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*” (1 Cor. 10:12).

Months later, we see in Psalm 32 where David fell on his face before God in deep forgiveness. David’s sins of adultery, cold-blooded murder and cover-up were extreme evils in the eyes of God. He was guilty of breaking six of God’s Ten Commandments (Exo. 20:13-17). When David repented, God chose to forgive him of all his immoral activities. Yet, it was not without penalty. His newborn son lived only a few days and his cherished son, Absalom rose up in rebellion against him. That’s when David wrote the Psalm of repentance which Apostle Paul quoted in Romans 4:6-8.

Psalm 32 begins like this: “*Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. David confessed, “When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah. For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him. Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah. I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no under-*

*standing: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee. Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about. Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.”*

**Second, Immorality leads to other sins:** God does discipline believers (Hebrews 12:4).

**a)** He sets an example before His Church: We look to Jesus for our example of peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, though He disciplines us and allows us to suffer hardships and troubles. Repentance shows that we are the children of God. His discipline has two purposes: **b)** that we are His children; and that we might not be finally condemned with the world (12:7-8; 1 Cor. 11:31-32), and **c)** that we might share God’s holiness and continue to live sanctified lives without which we will never see the Lord. (vss. 10-11; 14).

**Third, it takes us to the grave:**

*“For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them. Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:”* (Prov. 5:3-9).

The Proverbs repeatedly warns about the destructive nature of sexual immorality. Solomon emphasizes that although immorality’s pleasures of deception are attractive, giving in to them will lead to ruin (7-14). Violations of God’s standards of sexual purity and chastity are found in this chapter and in chapters 2, 6, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, and 31. The alternative to sexual immorality is the commitment to God is stated in verse 1-2, which reads,

*“My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding: That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge.”*

And **Fourth, Because immorality is spiritual suicide.** *“But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul”* (Proverbs 6:32).

Covenant children with God who commit adultery will experience trouble and dishonor; also their reproach shall never be taken away. Why? Adultery is a grave and heinous sin against God (2 Samuel 2:9-10) and against the innocent partner who has been defrauded; the shame and disgrace of that sin remain with the guilty party for life. Though the guilt of adultery may be forgiven by repentance, its reproach will remain and its scars are never fully removed. Amends can never be adequately made (2 Sam. 12:10; 13: 13, 22; 1 Kings 15:5; Neh. 13:26; Mat. 1:6). Again, because of the far-reaching and fearful consequences of adultery on everyone involved, we should run from every temptation and shun all associations that may lead us to this sin. We should pray to be delivered from temptation (Matthew 6:13) and soberly recall the words of Scripture when tempted: **“Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall”** (1 Cor. 10:12).

- **Guarding Against Sexual Sins:**

**Accept the fact that sexual purity is God’s will for you (1 Thes.4:3-9).**

*For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: (Vs. 3). But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword (Vs. 4). Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell (Vs. 5). Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them (Vs. 6). Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. (Vs.7). Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: (Vs. 8). Lest thou give thine honor unto others, and thy years unto the cruel: (Vs. 9).*

**Control your eyes.** *“I made a covenant with my eyes not to look with lust upon any person. I know that Almighty God above sends calamity on those who do”* (Job 31: 1-2—Living Bible).

- **Give all sex attitudes a proper place within marriage:** (1 Cor. 7: 2-5).

*“Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency”* (1 Cor. 7: 2-5).

“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof” (Rom. 6:12). Because sin has been dethroned, we must continually resist its efforts to gain control over us. Since sin attempts to reign mostly through the desires of the body, these desires must be resisted by those with faith toward Jesus. We can do so by denying the lusts of the body (vs. 12), refusing to place our physical members at the disposal of sin (Vs. 13), and presenting our bodies and our whole personalities as slaves to God and righteousness.

Some in the Church in Paul’s day thought that since grace pardons sin, the Christian does not need to be careful to resist sinning. Apostle Paul here explains that every believer must continually walk in the Spirit, not in the flesh! After accepting Christ, believers must continue to choose whom they will serve (Rom 6: 16). They who return to sin cease, to oppose its dominion in personal lives, and become its slave once more, with spiritual and eternal death; or they may be freed from sin (vs. 17) and may continue to present themselves as slaves of God and righteousness, with sanctification and eternal life as the end result (Verses 19, 22).

- **Avoid situations that may lead to temptation.** “Flee fornications” (1 Cor. 6:18); “flee from all sexual sins” God always hates sexual immorality. More than any other sinful act, it desecrates the body, which is the temple of the Spirit (Verses 15-20). Therefore, Paul gives the admonition to “flee” sexual immorality. The use of the present tense here indicates that the Christian must repeatedly flee sexual immorality! (See Genesis 39:12).

Paul cited two phrases from this verse in his description of the believer’s armor: “The breastplate of righteousness” and “the helmet of Salvation” (Eph. 6:14-17). Isaiah’s mention of “garments of vengeance” and “fury to his adversaries” (v. 18) shows God’s great day of wrath at the end of the age (please study Revelation 19 concerning the end of the seven years of Tribulation).

“So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him. *And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD. As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and forever*” (Isaiah 59:19-21).

Jesus, our Redeemer, comes to Zion (Isa. 35:4; 40:9; 52:7). He will come to all who will turn from their transgressions to serve the Lord, i.e., to the true Israel. God promises His Spirit will come upon those who turn from their sin and accept the Messiah; (Jn. 16:13; Acts 2:4) and His word will not depart from their mouths. The Spirit and the word of the Lord will endorse the witness of the true church and her seed forever. God’s people must declare the gospel in the power and the righteousness of the Holy Spirit (see Acts 1:8).

*Ye Shall Receive Power.* This is the key verse in the book of acts. The primary purpose of the baptism in the Spirit is the reception of the Holy Spirit of God to witness for Christ; and to complete miracles of healings, speaking in tongues and other supernatural works of the Holy Spirit, as the word of God teaches; for God promised we would be filled with His Spirit and power over the enemy of our soul.

#### **Pay Strong Attention to Jesus’ Words:**

*“And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Look! I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him. And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see:”* (Luke 10:17-23).

Sex is a gift from God. He intends it to be a blessing, but sin can make it a curse on anyone’s lifestyle today. We are living in the end of time—just prior to the coming of the Lord for His exciting Church. Be sure that you are among this “True Church” in the worship, discipline, and obedience to our Lord and Savior—till then.

# *Armorplate for the Heart*

## **Part Three of Eight**

(Ephesians 6:14; Matthew 15:10, 11, 15-20)

### **Urim and Thummim is an Old Testament Breastplate of judgment:**

The Urim and Thummim were a prophetic method of hearing from God that were on the priest's garments. Urim and Thummim are first mentioned in the description of the breastplate of judgment that was to be on the High Priest's heart (Exodus 28:30; Leviticus 8:8).

It is obvious then, that The Breastplate of Righteousness, as is in the New Testament, is based not on Judgment, but of *The Spirit of Intercession and Holiness in the body of Christ*.

<sup>16</sup>And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him. <sup>17</sup>For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak. <sup>18</sup>According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompense to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompense. <sup>19</sup>So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. *When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.* <sup>20</sup>And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD. <sup>21</sup>As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and forever. (Isaiah 59: 16-21).

The Lord saw the great sins of Israel and recognized there was no intercessor to turn the tide. He decided to stretch forth "His arm" to save His people, which happened in the coming of Jesus Christ. Even now it is Jesus who personally intercedes for us in heaven (Heb. 7:25); He looks for intercessors to join in standing "in the gap" (Eze. 22:30) on behalf of the His Church in bringing in the lost souls.

Paul cited two phrases concerning believer's armor: "the breastplate of righteousness" and "the helmet of salvation" (Eph. 6:14-17). Isaiah's mention of "garments of vengeance" and "fury to his adversaries" shows God's day of wrath at the end of the age (Rev. 19). The Redeemer is Jesus Himself. He will come to those who genuinely turn from their transgression and serve Him fully.

God promises to those who turn from their sins and accept the Messiah that His Spirit will come on them (Jn. 16:13) and His word will not depart from their mouths. The Spirit and the word of the Lord will endorse the witness of the true church and her seed forever. God's people must declare the gospel in the power and righteousness of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).

*"Having on the breastplate of righteousness"* (Ephesians 6:14): This piece of armor protects the heart. It suggests a life of righteousness is necessary to preserve our hearts; for God contends that the heart is absolutely essential to our life in Christ. The heart is ever a vulnerable target. *"Above all that you guard" watch your heart!*

*"For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak. According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompense to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompense"* (Isaiah 59:17-18).

Paul quoted two phrases from this verse in his account of the believer's armor: *"The breastplate of righteousness"* and the *"helmet of salvation"* (Eph 6:14-17).

- **The Word of God considers the heart as the center of life.**

*"Out of it are the issues of life"*. Jesus said, *"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh"* (Luke 6:45).

When Adam and Eve chose to follow the temptation of the serpent to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, their decision drastically affected the heart, filling it with evil. At present, and according to Jeremiah, *"The*

*heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked above all things: who can know it*” (Jer. 17:9). The heart is the inner being of any person and includes one’s desires, feelings, and thoughts. It is desperately evil and corrupt; and because of that, people turn to all kinds of evils rather than to God’s way of righteousness. The heart is our source toward activity. *“A good man produces good deeds from a good heart. And an evil man produces evil deeds from his hidden wickedness”* (Luke 6:45). Righteousness and integrity should control the heart. Wear *“the breastplate of integrity and of moral living. Sound and moral principle is called rectitude.*

- **The breastplate is indispensable:** *“Jesus put on righteousness as a breastplate”* (Isaiah 59:17).

No one could accuse Him of sin (John 8:46—Living Bible). Every Christian needs this breastplate. *“When a man is clothed in righteousness, he is impregnable”* (John 3:4-8).

**The breastplate defeats Satan:** *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded”* (James 4:7-8).

**The breastplate will make your witness effective:** Love springs from the heart, and without love we cannot win others for Christ! This epistle was addressed to the church at Ephesus. In later years these people failed to fully protect their hearts, so the Lord warned them again: *“Thou hast left thy first love”* (Revelation 2:4)

## *Gospel Shoes*

### **Part Four of Eight**

Eph. 6:15; Psalm 73: 2,7; 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 3: 15

A few years ago there was a popular joke about some faint-hearted soldiers who, in the midst of battle, took off their shoes and smelled “defeat”. All joking aside, any soldiers who fight a modern war without proper footwear are doomed to lose the battle.

In spiritual warfare it is just as essential that our feet be “shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” (Eph. 6:15).

- **Gospel shoes for standing firm and strong:**

*“Stand therefore. . . having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace”* (RSV).

**Sure footing to withstand the enemy.** Roman soldiers wore either heavy sandals or boots with hobnail-studded soles to insure a foothold. An understanding of the Word prevents slipping (Psalm 73: 2, 17; Matthew 13: 19).

**Sure footing to complete the journey.** Even though our way be rugged as a mountain path, God can keep us from slipping. *“He gives me the sure-footedness of a mountain goat”* (Psalm 18:33—Living Bible).

**The same verse in KJV:** *“He maketh my feet like hinds’ feet, and setteth me upon my places.”* (Psalm 18:33—KJV).

- **Gospel Shoes for marching:** Soles that *are not* touchy. As bare feet are sensitive to rocks, and nails. objects on a path, so our spirits in the natural are touchy and easily hurt; but when shod with “the gospel of peace” we will not stumble over our personal offenses. We will go forward in spite of these (Hebrews 13:6).

**Soles that are touchy:** Nothing can strip God’s soldiers if they master the Word of God (2 Timothy 2:15).

- **Gospel Shoes for Messengers:** God’s messengers should be ready when opportunities arise. (1 Peter 3:15).

**God’s messengers carry something precious.** *“Every teacher and interpreter of the Sacred writings. . . is like a householder who brings forth out of his storehouse treasure. . .”*(Matthew 13:52—Amplified).

**Same Verse in the KJV:** *“Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.”* (Mat. 13: 52).

God enables His messengers to deliver: *“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life”* (2 Corinthians 3: 5-6).

The Romans built fine roads. They knew communication was the cement to hold their empire together, so they built 50,000 miles of roads for messengers (as well as for transporting goods and armies).

- **Gospel shoes for winning souls:** Spanish version reads, “*Having your feet shod with a joyful readiness to propagate the gospel of peace*” (Ephesians 6:15).

**People awaiting the messengers of God.** “*How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*” (Rom 10:14).

**There are believers that should become messengers.** “*For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat*” (Heb. 5:12).

**The Father tells us to do something for the repentant sinner:** “*Put . . . shoes on his feet. Why? Because He wants every convert to stand firm, march forward, carry the message, and win souls. “Let the shoes on your feet be the gospel of peace”* (Luke 15:22).

**Same verse in KJV:** “*But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.*”

Why? Because He wants every convert to stand firm, march forward, carry the message, and win souls. “*Let the shoes on your feet be the gospel of peace.*” Stand therefore. . . shod as ready messengers of the glad tidings of peace.”

Like the Christmas angels, each Christian is to echo the message of: “*peace on earth for all those pleasing Him*” (Luke 2:14—Living Bible)

**Same verse in KJV:** “*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*”

## ***The Shield of Faith***

### **Part Five of Eight Parts**

(Ephesians 6:16; Luke 4: 1-13)

The word “Faith” appears only two times in the Old Testament but 242 times in the New. Paul says, “*And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*” (Eph. 6:15-17). The Roman infantryman’s shield was a large, oblong object carved from wood and covered with hide. In spiritual warfare there is no other part of the “armor of God” more important than the shield. There are just two requirements to success:

- **How to obtain The Shield of Faith:** We must carve it from the promises of our Savior (Romans 10:17). But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? ***So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*** But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world. (Romans 10:16-18).

In Isaiah 53:1-3, Isaiah stated concerning Jesus, “*Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*”

Though Jesus is God’s Messiah, many would choose to *not* believe in Him and would therefore fail to receive the salvation (John 12:38). There were relatively few true believers among the Jews at His first coming. Jesus not only had humble beginnings, but He came to earth at a time of great spiritual drought. John the Baptist began to awaken the people shortly before Jesus began His public ministry. The Messiah would lack earthly popularity and physical attraction. God’s major concern is always a person’s character, godliness, and obedience, not just earthly status or physical beauty. Instead of being accepted by Israel, Jesus Christ would be hated and rejected by her

(Israel's) rulers. Jesus was a man of sorrows. His mission was to involve great pain, suffering, disappointment, and grief because of the sins of humanity. Therefore, all who follow Him must face tribulation and persecution.

The Holy Spirit, by Paul, reveals to us the anguish and suffering of those fully committed to Christ, His Word, and even the cause for which Christ died; and though Paul, in 2 Corinthians 11, shared many personal sufferings by the hands of the guilty in which the number is likely uncountable. He not only described specific times, but he also gave note of many multiple persecutions, imprisonments and beatings from courts and guards. Paul did not boast of his sufferings; but only gave the praise and glory to the Lord for he always refused to "glory" in his own name! Paul referred to himself "as a man of Christ" who was taken up into heaven that he might receive revelations, likely Concerning Christ's gospel and the unspeakable glories of heaven reserved for believers. This great privilege and revelation granted to Paul strengthened him, enabling him to endure the long and severe sufferings that came to him during his apostolic ministry.

**Cover it With God's Presence:** "Psalm 5:12; Genesis 3:21"

***"For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favor wilt thou compass him as with a shield.***

God first protected mankind by His presence only; covering made from skins came later. (Genesis 3:21).

- **How to Use the Shield of Faith: Carry the Shield of Faith at all Times:** (Psalm 91:3-7)

*"Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee"*

In every battle we will need faith as our shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at us by Satan. With this shield, you will be safe night and day! This Psalm expresses the security of those who fully trust in God. It assures us that God will be our refuge and that we may seek His protection in times of spiritual and physical danger.

*Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee"* (Psalm 91:3-7).

**Depend on The Shield of Faith for Protection:** (Hebrews 10:38-39)

***"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul"*** (Heb. 10: 38-39).

Please pay extreme attention to the entire portion of Hebrews 10:38-39! And ***Depend on the Shield of Faith for protection. Never trust in yourself alone. "Live by faith, trusting Him in everything. Let it protect your head (thoughts, intellectual doubts), your heart (emotions, passions), your knees (prayer life), and your feet (daily walk in His Spirit for the remainder of your life).***

Develop skills in using the Shield of Faith: We should learn the Word of God. Memorize it as much as you can, for earth's time is extremely short. Study its doctrines; put it to work when encountering the tests you will receive from your enemy, Satan. Each encounter will make you more skillful if you profit from past experiences. Read and study the Word daily if possible...and the possibility must remain crucial to all of God's people!

Use The Shield of Faith with Boldness: With faith we can quench all the fiery darts of our wicked enemy, Satan. Whether the enemy be Satan or wicked men masquerading as righteous men—or even as sin in our own wickedness, faith in Christ Jesus can win for us.

"This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4).

*"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God"* (1 John 5: 3-5)

Unbelief weakens us, dishonors us, saddens us, and makes us useless to God. Faith makes us happy, useful, and able to bring glory to our Lord. So hold onto your faith, Christian! Carry it confidently as your constant shield!

## *The Helmet of Salvation*

### **Part Six of Eight**

(Ephesians 6:17; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-9; 23)

*“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly as I ought to speak”* (Ephesians 6:17-20).

Since only a saved person can qualify to wear the armor of God, why is salvation listed as part of that armor? The answer may be found by understanding some of the ways the Bible uses the word *Salvation*.

The sword is the word of God, and is the believer’s offensive weapon to be used in his war against the power of evil. For this reason Satan will make every effort to destroy a Christian’s confidence in that Word. The church must defend the Scriptures against allegation that it is not God’s Word in everything it teaches. To abandon the position and attitude of Christ and the apostles toward God’s inspired Word is to destroy its power to convict or correct, to save and heal; to cast out demons.

*“And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house. And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief”* (Matthew 13:57-58).

- **What is The Helmet of Salvation?**

Since only the saved person can qualify to wear the armor of God, why is salvation listed as part of that armor? The answer may be found by understanding some of the ways the Bible uses the word *salvation*. The word *salvation* appears about 45 times in the New Testament.

Sometimes it means deliverance from God’s condemnation (Acts 4:12). This salvation is something a sinner receives instantly when he confesses his sin, repents, accepts Jesus—commits the remainder of his life to Jesus.

Sometimes it denotes deliverance from sinful behavior (Phil. 2:12-13). *This is an ongoing process as shown in the Amplified: “Cultivate, carry out to the goal and fully complete your own salvation.”*

**King James:** *“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure* (Phil. 2:12-13).

Sometimes it denotes deliverance from God’s wrath (Hebrews 9:28) as in the Rapture. It is in this sense Paul uses the metaphor of the helmet. *“And for a helmet, the hope of salvation”* (1 Thes. 5:8). He is saying, *“Always protect yourself by living as though Jesus might return at any moment.”*

Apostle Paul had already taught concerning the return of Christ to catch us up in the air from the earth to meet with Jesus. He now turns to the subject of God’s final judgment upon all on earth who reject salvation in Christ in the final days, that terrible time called the “day of the Lord”. The believers’ rapture (4:17) must be together with the beginning of “the day of the Lord” in order for Christ’s return to be imminent and unexpected, as He taught in Matthew 24. The “day of the Lord” usually refers to an extended period of time when God’s enemies are destroyed, *and not to a 24-hour day*. It begins at a time when people are seeking peace and safety; it will not overtake the faithful believers like a thief, for they are destined for salvation, not wrath, and are alert, spiritually awake, living in faith, love, and righteousness (1 Thes. 5:4-9).

A thief in the night means the time when the day of the Lord begins is uncertain and unexpected. The date cannot be known by men until it actually takes place. Believers are delivered from this day of “wrath to come” through the Lord Jesus Christ (v.9) when He comes in the clouds to catch up the faithful of His churches and take them to heaven. The day of the Lord will end at the end of the Millennial Reign of Christ.

The unbeliever will be calling out, “Peace and safety”, likely because they will be looking for the peace they have not earned in Christ. The day of the Lord and its worldwide tribulation will come on them suddenly, destroying all hope for peace.

*“<sup>1</sup>But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you <sup>2</sup>For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. <sup>4</sup>But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. <sup>5</sup>Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. <sup>6</sup>Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. <sup>7</sup>For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>23</sup>And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thes. 5:1-9, 23).*

- **How Is The Helmet Of Salvation Worn?**

**We wear it in honestly:** “We wear it in joy and peace in the Holy Spirit of God, and with contentment! *“The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. <sup>1</sup>Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. <sup>14</sup>But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof” (Romans 13:12-14). *“Having food and raiment let us be therewith content” (1 Tim. 6:8).**

Wear the helmet of salvation or you may lose your head! (He who misses the Rapture through careless living may literally lose his head.) The apostle’s prayer for the believers is that their whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

As Christians who realize the shortness of the times, we should wear all the armor specified in God’s Word. But as we draw nearer to the seven years of Tribulation, we should become more and more excited; for Christ said, in (Luke 21:28), *“And when these things begin to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”*

**We Wear it in peace and contentment:** *“not in immorality and debauchery, not in jealousy and arguing, but having your food and raiment, let us be therefore content” (1 Tim. 6:8).*

We will wear the helmet of salvation or we may lose our head! (He who misses the rapture through careless living may literally lose his head.) The apostle’s prayer for the believers is that their whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thes. 5:23).

## *The Sword of the Spirit*

### **Part Seven of Eight**

(Eph. 6:17; 2 Cor. 10:3-5)

John Wesley said once: “We are to attack Satan, as well as secure ourselves; the shield in one hand, and the sword in the other. Whoever fights with the powers of hell will need both of these two weapons of warfare”.

- **What is this Weapon?**

Roman soldiers carried short, two-edged swords called *macharia*. Christians are told to take *“the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”* (Eph 6:17). This word is *“sharper than any two-edged sword”* (Hebrews 4:12). It is not a literal sword (Matthew 26: 52), for that only leads to death, but is a sword that leads to everlasting life” (Phil. 2:16). It is not a book, but the message in that book. In wielding the sword of the Spirit against the tempter, Jesus did not use the whole Bible; He wielded that particular saying of God which was appropriate to overcome His enemy (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10). Each individual passage of Scripture is a potential sword of the Spirit. If we store the Scriptures in our hearts and minds, the Holy Ghost (Spirit) will bring back to our memory everything we need for any occasion” (John 14: 26).

- **What Can this Weapon do?**

It can expose our true selves. “Cutting swift and deep. . .exposing us for what we really are.”

*“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”* (Hebrews 4:12).

It can cut away all imperfections within the believer through its doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16).

It can capture every rebellious thought. *“With these weapons I can capture rebels and bring them back to God, and change them into men whose hearts’ desire is obedience to Christ”* (2 Cor. 10:5).

*“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”* (2 Cor. 10:5).

- **What this Weapon of Warfare cannot do:** (John 8:47).

It cannot help those who refuse to believe. *“It did not do them [in the time of Moses], any good because they did not believe: For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it”* (Heb. 4:2).

- **How to use this Weapon of Warfare:** Use it as Christ did to defeat the devil (1 John 2:14), and to bring life to the lost (John 6:63). . .not to win arguments, but to win souls.

*“I have written to you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.”*

The Lord says two things here. He wrote to the fathers [in Christ] because they were honorable in the raising of their children and did the works that Jesus gave them to do; they worshiped God and blessed their families daily, never forgetting to meet their needs. He wrote to the young men because, like a true father, He ever cared for them and nursed them and loved them as he loved the fathers. We should all search the Scriptures deeply for our growth in the walk of the Holy Spirit; and not in the flesh which brings forth death.

*“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. 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. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”* (Eph. 6: 10-17).

Jesus warned that in the very last days His followers would need a word from God with which to answer their adversaries (Luke 21: 12-15).

*“And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist”* (Luke 21:13-15).

In that hour the Lord *“will give you power of utterance and a wisdom which no opponent will be able to resist or refute”* In the meantime, we are told to *“concentrate on winning God’s approval, on being a workman with nothing to be ashamed of, and who knows how to use the word of truth to the best advantage”* (2 Tim. 2:15).

*“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness”* (2 Tim. 2: 14-15).

# *The Weapon of Prayer*

## **Part Eight**

Eph. 6:18; 1 Kings 8:44-50, 54

(all scriptures are from the KJV unless otherwise stated)

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto all perseverance” (Eph. 6:18).

“Watching thereunto” carries the military idea of being on guard and keeping alert. Christians are to be vigilant in prayer. This is a vigilant in prayer. This is a mighty weapon. *What a pity if it grows rusty from starvation!*

- **When to Pray:**

### **In the midst of conflict:**

Many weapons were used in Old Testament victories, including Ehud’s dagger, Barak’s sword, Jael’s tent stake, Shamgar’s ox goad. Samson used a donkey’s jawbone, but Samuel’s weapon was prayer (1 Samuel 7: 9-10).

### **Pray when there is no conflict:**

“Pray at all times—on every occasion, in every season”. At no season is it safe not to “*Watch and Pray.*” When Jesus’ disciples fell asleep while Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, He awoke them and said,

*“What? Could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is not.”* Then He returned to check on the disciples and found them asleep again...and even a third time; so Jesus left them alone and once again entered into prayer with the Father (Mat. 26:40-43).

- **How Should We Pray?**

**Use every method of prayer and supplication:** Pray silently like Hannah, aloud like Elijah, alone like David, and in groups like the believers in Acts. “With all manner of prayer and entreaty”, and do not be limited. Use every posture of prayer. Kneel with arms outstretched like Solomon; stand with head bowed like the publican; prostrate yourself like Jesus; pray when cramped into a ball like Jonah in the whale.

**Use all earnestness in prayer:** “*Supplication is pleading in earnest.*” Plead with Him, reminding Him of your needs:

*“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints”* (Eph. 16:18).

*“Be earnest and unwearied and steadfast in your prayer life”* (Colossians 4:2—Amplified). *The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available”* (James 5:16—Amplified Bible; See also Psalm 95:6; 1 Tim. 2:8; Acts 4:24; Heb. 5:7; and Jude 20).

The prayer of a man who is righteous accomplishes much. His prayer draws him nearer to God. Elijah was a man who had faith that his prayers to God would accomplish much, even to the point of God’s intervention in the course of nature. He believed prayer by a righteous man always affects attitudes and circumstances. We must be careful not to accept any teaching that undermines our faith in the power of prayer to bring about God’s intervention in our lives.

Scripture teaches that God deals with His children, not through absolute determination, but by divine providence, whereby He interacts with and responds to the prayers of the saints. Our prayers and faith in God do cause many good things to happen which otherwise cannot occur. Believers should do all that’s possible to return to God all who have fallen. The salvation of a wandering brother or sister should always be a priority in the Christian community. If the backslider returns to Christ, the one who converts him or her will have saved the soul of the sinner “from eternal death”, a spiritual death and eternal separation (James 5).

- **Who Helps us Pray?**

The Holy Spirit helps us to pray in harmony with God’s will for our lives. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray within His perfect will. We never know exactly what we should pray for, nor how to pray as we should, but the Holy Spirit prays for us with such feeling that it cannot be expressed in words” (Rom. 8:26—Living). He teaches us to pray with fervor. He empowers our prayers before the Lord Jesus.

- **Who should we pray for?**

We pray for our fellow soldiers. We are in this battle, and even though it is not our battle, we serve in godly ways to help financially and through prayers for our Israeli friends” (Eph. 6:18). Pray for all Christians everywhere.

Be alert for your fellow soldiers’ needs. “Keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints” (Eph 6:18).

Pray earnestly for all Christians everywhere. Pray for our missionaries. Remember, the Spirit empowers our prayers. Whenever we see anyone in need, we should help them and support them in prayer.

We should also pray for our spiritual leaders, for Paul said, “*And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel*” (Eph. 6:19).

Never worry about anything; instead, *pray about everything*” (Phil. 4:6—Living). Use all the weapons of our spiritual warfare in “all prayer” and you will be more than conqueror in every spiritual battle.

**Conclusion:** So what is the *whole armor*?

One promise of redemption stated by Apostle Paul (Ephesians 1: 11-14):

*“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”*

The *whole armor* is the God-inspired revelation which shows us, God’s people, the absolute treasure we have in Christ Jesus. *Whole*, in the writings of Apostle Paul, simple means that the *whole (entire/all)* church should commit their lives to living continuously for Jesus Christ by His Spirit; and *not by the flesh which brings forth eternal death*. We are the *whole army* of God fighting as Paul fought in his ministries against the evil one.

*“What shall we say then? **Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid.** How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life”* (Romans 6: 1-4).

*“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. **Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*** (Romans 8:11-14).

*“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”* (Galatians 6: 16).

This paper, by E. S. Caldwell, a pastor of Glad Tidings Assembly, Springfield, Missouri, was originally published in September 1975, based on an outline form in the “Advance” magazine, a publication of the Assemblies of God.

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