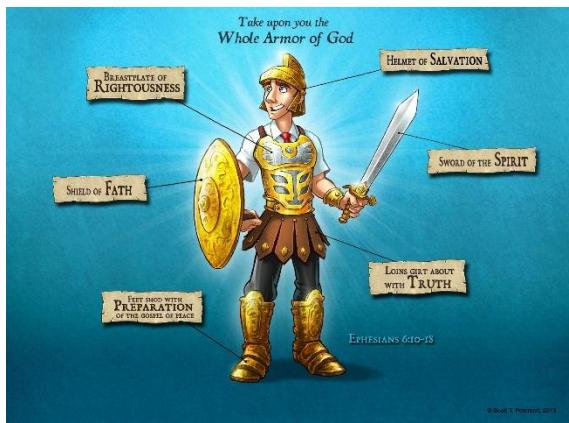




WEEK 4 : THE ARMOUR OF GOD

Welcome. Share Key Rules: Find a quiet room; Have a bible; Hold study material.



Key scripture: Ephes 6:11; 13-17

There are two types of warfare (in terms of approach) in the natural world: Offensive and defensive. The Bible also teaches both defensive and offensive spiritual strategies. You must learn to fight both defensively and offensively using appropriate weapons.

Think about a 'physical' fight you had previously engaged in.

Hopefully that was a while ago.

What made you win or lose? Share briefly.

Both offensive and defensive warfare have one thing in common: they involve personal action by the believer (i.e the will to use the weapons).

Briefly discuss the significance of these key words: **Put on; whole; able to stand; wiles.**

The first piece of armor to be buckled on is the of truth.

Used to uphold the looseness of the garments of the soldier. In the natural it is this piece which held the other pieces of armour in place. A soldier ready for battle would tuck his tunic into his belt to be prepared to run, battle, and not be tossed around by his outer garments.

The truth will **protect** you from lies, deceit, half-truth and doctrinal errors of the enemy. Truth is the undergirding of your spiritual armor. It protects your loins (certain 'spiritual' vital organs).

What is truth? John 14:6; John 17:17; Ps. 119:151; John 14:17.

Truth makes you look 'smart' and to 'outsmart' the devil. See Matt 4:1-11.

Mention on truth that has helped you previously. Briefly describe the situation concerned.

The next is called the of righteousness.

In the natural world, the breastplate covered the upper body of the warrior to protect vital organs such as his heart, lungs, etc. The Jewish thinking, according to John MacArthur, holds that the heart is the mind and will while the bowels represent emotions and feelings.

I believe the righteousness referred to here covered both the *imputed* righteousness [primarily] and the pursuit of righteousness (also known as holiness), though the latter builds on the foundation of the former.

What is *imputed* righteousness? Phil. 3:9; 2Cor 5:21

Because of the imputed righteousness, we are then able to seek / to pursue a righteous / holy living. Ps. 24: 3-4; Hebrews 12:14; Matt 6:33 ; Matt 5:6

What specific major assault of the devil does this piece of armour protect against? Romans 8:1; Rev 12:10

Three, the of the preparation of the gospel of peace.

A soldier with feet shod with this piece displays the readiness to walk, run, or trample over any surface required for battle. Shod means to cover, to put on, or to bind on. As a soldier, he is prepared and ready to carry out every good deed as he walks through the negative/ discouraging influence of the world/ flesh / devil.

Feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace" indicates your willingness to do every good work and to spread the Gospel to all nations.

Why is it called the 'gospel of peace'? Romans 10:15; Romans 5:1; Ephes 2:12-18; Col 1:21-23.

Our weapon is the willingness to **commit** to living a life that serves to witness to others about Christ (being Christ ambassadors), as well as **committing** to sharing the good news of Christ's procured salvation with others.

Q: How is this 'commitment' a weapon?

Which of the elements of the armour have you used well / have you not used well?

Practically speaking, have you always been aware of these pieces of God's armour at your disposal?

Final charge. Questions / Remarks. Closing Prayer.

Acknowledgement / Resource for further studies:

Spiritual Strategies: A Manual for Spiritual Warfare (by Harvestime International Institute).