

Order of Service- Put on the Armour of God



ARMOR OF GOD
EPHESIANS 6:10-18

The Helmet of Salvation
Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

The Breastplate of Righteousness
Righteousness is being honest, good, humble, and fair to others. It means standing up for weaker people.

The Shield of Faith
Faith is being sure that God will keep His promises. Faith in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.

The Belt of Truth
Truth keeps us from giving in to world's beliefs. Compare your beliefs and action to the truth of the Word of God.

Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace
The Gospel of Peace is being right with God and being contented in troubled times. Jesus said, peacemakers were blessed.

The Sword of the Spirit
which is the Word of God. God's Word is our offensive weapon. When we tell others about the Bible says, the Holy Spirit helps people see their bad thoughts and actions, and makes them want to be forgiven.

Welcome: **Ephesians 6:1**

Put on the full **armour of God**, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Message 1: Today we are thinking about how God protects us.

Have you ever watched a cricket match, either on telly or in person?

One player on the team, the wicket keeper, has to wear special protective clothing. The wicket keeper is in a very dangerous spot right behind the batter and needs certain equipment for protection.

Google shared with me that a wicket keeper wears a protective:

- helmet,
- inner gloves,
- wicket-keeping gloves
- abdominal guard and
- wicketkeeping pads,

The helmet protects the keeper's head and face from fast paced balls. The gloves similarly protects the hands from ball. The abdominal guard protects the middle of the body. Finally, the catcher wears wicketkeeping pads to protect the knees and legs.

No wicketkeeper would ever think of going into the game without this protective equipment.

The bible teaches us that you and I need protection in our lives, too. The Bible calls it the armour of God, which protects us from Satan's evil plans to hurt us. What kind of protection does the Bible say that we need? Let's go through each piece together:

The belt of truth: The Bible tells us that God's enemy, Satan, is the "father of lies," but Satan can never win if we will hold onto the truth that Jesus is Lord.

The breastplate of righteousness: Satan can never harm us when we choose to do what God says is right.

Feet fitted with the gospel of peace: Satan tries to create worry and confusion in our lives, but knowing Jesus brings peace.

The shield of faith: Satan will try to plant seeds of doubt in our hearts and minds, but those seeds of doubt can never take root if we have faith in Jesus.

The helmet of salvation: Jesus came from heaven to earth to save us from the evil one. If we choose to follow Jesus, we will win the battle against Satan.

The sword of the Spirit: the Bible, God's holy Word, is a powerful weapon against Satan.

Just as a wicketkeeper needs protective equipment, Christians need all the protection God has given us. Remember, Satan cannot harm us when we put on the "full armour of God."

Chouses: Be bold
I want to see Jesus lifted high

Prayer:

Notices & Offertory prayer

Reading Ephesians 6:10-18

Hymn: Soldiers of Christ Arise

Message 2:

Introduction

“Stand firm” is the keyword used in this passage. In the military sense of the word “stand firm” means to hold one’s ground. “steko” is how the word is rendered in Greek and it gives the same meaning, “To stand firm in faith and duty, to be constant, to persevere, to remain steadfast and to continue in that state”.

We become part of the spiritual army the day we trust the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour. Like in any other battle, in spiritual warfare it’s very important that every Christian knows how to hold his ground. Today we are going to learn what steps we must take in order to secure our territory with God.

Tapping the Source of Strength

All battles are exhaustive. An exhausted soldier needs to restore his strength or he becomes an easy target for the enemy.

The first verses in our reading indicates that the source of our energy is not found within ourselves but within the Lord Jesus Christ. If we place our faith in God in order to tap into this source of strength. Then the Lord's power becomes our power.

In the next two verses we gather our military intelligence, we learn who the enemy is. In this spiritual warfare, the Bible our source of intelligence identifies the devil and his hosts as our enemy.

The weaponry used depends on the kind of enemy you will engage. You can't take a knife to a gunfight. Likewise, in spiritual warfare our enemy is spiritual and therefore we need spiritual weapons.

The Belt of Truth

The belt held the rest of the armour together. From it hang the scabbard in which the sword was sheathed.

The interpretation is 2 fold. First, it means the word of God. In spiritual warfare we must know the word of God and live by it.

Secondly our integrity and character. We should be act on the word.

The Breastplate of Righteousness

The breastplate was made of bronze and covered the body from the neck to the thighs. It protected the soldier's heart.

For us, this means to guard our hearts above all else because it's the source of life.

Paul also refers to the "righteousness of Christ", that "justification" found only in Him that protects us from the accusations of Satan.

The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

The specially designed shoes enabled the Roman soldier to remain well-grounded even in the heat of the battle and to move fast over any terrain.

Again the interpretation is 2 fold. First, we have already been reconciled to God through the gospel. This is our foundation.

Secondly, we need to be ready with the same gospel to proclaim war against the devil and peace to the world.

The role of the Shield of Faith

The Roman soldier's shield consisted of two layers of wood glued together, covered with linen and hide, and bound with iron.

Faith means faith to obey God's word. The 5th weapon (2 Timothy 4:2) is an act of obedient faith.

Faith is not supposed to shield us from physical suffering or guarantee ease but strengthen and comfort us in every situation.

Putting on the Helmet of Salvation

We often hear of soldiers escaping a bullet fired by a sniper by only two Millimetres thanks to the helmet he was wearing.

Our mind is Satan's battlefield. He brings fear, hopelessness, frustrations, and despair into it.

We overcome these through the renewal of our hope in the salvation that flows from Christ.

The role of the Sword of the Spirit

Roman soldiers carried short, straight swords. Very effective in hand-to-hand combat and was essential for individual survival.

God's word is our sword. The only weapon of offense. We must use it regularly in order to become proficient users.

In spiritual warfare knowing the word is insufficient. We must know how to use it and be confident that we will be guided by God to use word as He would have us do.

The role of Praying in the Spirit

All of the what has been said is just preparation for spiritual warfare. We have not stepped into the battlefield until we start praying in the Spirit.

When fighting spiritual warfare the most powerful position Christians assume is when we kneel in prayer.

Conclusion

The Bible gives assurance that in spiritual warfare we can stand firm and resist anything that the devil throws in our way, only if we put on the whole armour of God. Which one of these defences are you missing today and which weapons do you need to pick up? Allow the Holy Spirit to search your life inside out and guide you in his way. Don't let the devil catch you unguarded. Don't let him use the element of surprise against you.

Unlike earthly warfare fought between human opponents, spiritual warfare lasts longer and each one of us has got a battle to fight until we leave this world. We can rely on the intercessory prayers of others but we need to be armed and ready ourselves. A soldier with marching orders doesn't go to battle with half the weapons and the other gear if he does he becomes vulnerable. It's the same in spiritual warfare also as we come together in prayer , we think of all those who have gone before us and are thankful for all they have done, but it is also a time when we look to the future and think of all of those to come.

Prayer:

Hymn Onward Christian Soldiers

Blessing