

# Getting Dressed for the Battle

*For the Win, Week Three*

**God has given you everything you need for the battle,  
but you must decide each and every day  
to suit up with truth, faith, and righteousness!**

Paul started the book of Ephesians with the declaration that God had already blessed us with every resource we need in our heavenly fight.

Now he concludes the letter by detailing exactly how we appropriate those resources on the battlefield.

## **Ephesians 6:13-17 NLT**

**13** Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. **14** Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. **15** For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. **16** In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. **17** Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

## **The Belt of Truth**

Our armor is held together by the principle that there is, indeed, absolute truth, and that that absolute truth can be known because God has revealed himself.

### **Start your day with:**

*God, I want to know and to walk in your truth today.*

## The Breastplate of Righteousness

There are two kinds of righteousness we possess, and both are vital.

Every believer possesses the *imputed* righteousness of God, accounted to us by faith in Christ.

### **Philipians 3:9 NLT**

I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.

And we also possess our own *practical* righteousness, empowered by the Spirit. In other words, walking intentionally in the will of God boosts our confidence in battle with the enemy.

### **Start your day with:**

*God, help me to recognize Jesus' righteousness in my life and to walk uprightly.*

## Shoes of Peace from the Gospel

First, we are prepared by our confidence **IN** the gospel.

Second, we leave footprints behind - our victory isn't found in destroying but in building God's kingdom as we share the gospel wherever we go.

### **Romans 10:15 NLT**

How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!

### **Start your day with:**

*God, help me to have peace today because of the good news, and help me to leave footprints of the gospel wherever I go in battle.*

## The Shield of Faith

The shield was large - about 4 feet tall and two feet wide, made of wood and covered in leather, which would be soaked in water before going into battle.

The shields interlocked so that a line of soldiers could become a long wall, marching forward toward enemy ranks.

We **choose** what we believe, and when we believe truth, we quench the fiery arrows and lies that the enemy whispers in our ears.

### **Start your day with:**

*God, help me to believe you at all times and rebuke lies with truth by faith.*

## The Helmet of Salvation

We're going to dedicate an entire message in this series just to the battlefield that is the human mind. It all starts in our heads.

When you learn a new way to think about life, your life will change forever. And that new way is framed by the good news of our salvation by grace through faith.

### **Start your day with:**

*God, protect my mind today. Help me to think thoughts that are good, gospel-centered, positive, peaceful, and purposeful.*

## The Sword of the Spirit

The verse speaks not of a large sword, but a double-edged dagger for close hand-to-hand combat. And that's how it's typically going to feel.

This verse doesn't use the more common word, *logos*, but rather the word *rhema*. In other words, it isn't just "the Bible" in a general sense that helps us in battle. It is the single portions of God's word - the verses and truths - as well as the words God's Spirit has whispered into our hearts that get us through the battle.

## **Hebrews 4:12 Amplified**

For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing *and* sifting *and* analyzing *and* judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart.

In other words... when you are war-weary, what you need most of all is a timely word from the Lord straight to your heart!

### ***Start your day with:***

*God, help me to store your words in my heart, and bring me fresh words in the moments of battle and temptation. Remind me of your truth.*

All of the pieces of the armor relate in one way or another back to the gospel itself. It is the redemption and salvation that we find in Jesus that prepares us, ultimately, for the battle ahead.

Once you're suited up, the most important thing to remember is to follow every direction Jesus gives you!