

Putting On the Armor of God

The Belt of Truth:

John 8:32 HCSB "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

This is the beginning place. You will go no further with God until you come to Him in genuine honesty about who you are and who He is.

PUTTING IT ON:

Ask the Father to reveal all deception to you. As He does, do not argue with Him about it! Simply confess it, repent of it, and renounce it and ask Him to remove it. Ask Him to reveal the truth that counteracts the lies He has revealed to you. In Jesus' name, by faith receive the belt of truth. Believe in your heart that God is clothing you with His truth.

The Breastplate of Righteousness:

Philippians 3:9 HCSB "and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ--the righteousness from God based on faith."

God is repulsed by sinful flesh, especially sinful flesh attempting to be righteous. We must renounce our own righteousness and learn to rely wholly on God's righteousness in us. We cannot allow ourselves to believe that God is impressed or satiated with our good works. The only basis of my holiness is and always will be the life and presence of Jesus in me. The extent to which He lives in me is directly proportionate to the degree that I have submitted to Him. Therefore:

PUTTING IT ON:

Ask the Father to reveal and remove all self sufficiency, arrogance, and self righteousness in you. Renounce all righteousness that is not of Him, including your righteousness and attempts to be righteous and ask the Father in Jesus' name to clothe you in His righteousness. In Jesus' name, by faith receive and put on the breastplate of God's righteousness.

The Shoes of the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace:

James 3:18 HCSB "And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

This is not simply peace or the gospel of peace. This is the PREPARATION of the Gospel of Peace. The association of this aspect of spiritual armor with shoes is indicative of the emissary nature of our Christian life. We are to be ambassadors for God wherever we are and wherever we go, and we are to be prepared daily for this calling. I must be prepared to allow the Lord to use me as His representative and instrument of peace in all circumstances. This requires a constant awareness about who I am and who I reflect.

PUTTING IT ON:

Ask the Father to prepare and equip you to be an agent of His peace. Accept His call on your life to be His representative and ask Him to lead you where He desires. Ask Him to fill your mouth with His words and your mind with His thoughts. Turn yourself over to Him and concentrate on surrendering to His presence, letting His peace inhabit you. In Jesus' name, by faith receive the Shoes of the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace.

The Shield of Faith:

Hebrews 12:2 HCSB "keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith..."

Romans 10:17 NKJ "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Hebrews tells us that Jesus is both the supplier and sculptor of our faith. He gives the faith we need and makes that faith perfect as we allow Him to work in us. Faith is released to us by hearing His voice to us. We hear His voice to us by learning, meditating on, believing and obeying His word.

PUTTING IT ON:

Proclaim to the Father that you fully believe, claim, and stand on the Holy Word of God and the promises He gives us in it. Ask Him to open your ears to His voice and to give you the faith He desires you to have as well as strengthen it in you as He desires. If there are promises in His word He has given you, tell Him that you stand upon them and ask Him to remove any doubt you may have. In Jesus' name, by faith, receive and take up the Shield of Faith.

The Helmet of Salvation:

Romans 12:2 HCSB *Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.*

1 Corinthians 2:16 HCSB *“For who has known the Lord's mind, that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.”*

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 HCSB (3) *“For although we are walking in the flesh, we do not wage war in a fleshly way, (4) since the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments (5) and every high-minded thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”*

The battlefield of the soul begins in the mind. Satan first deceived Eve by attacking her mind with sinful reasoning. The transforming work of salvation begins as Christ gives life to our dead spirit, however, it continues and is maintained as the Holy Spirit restores our mind and teaches us to think as He does. The Helmet of Salvation is the mind of Christ that guards and evaluates the thoughts that enter our mind and the thought processes that cause us to think the way we do.

PUTTING IT ON:

Ask the Father to transform you by renewing your mind and shaping it the way He desires. Ask Him to reveal and remove or reshape any ungodly thoughts or thought processes in your mind. According to the Word of God, claim the mind of Christ and command your thoughts to be captive to the obedience of Jesus Christ. Plead the blood of Jesus over the portals of your mind, will and emotions. In Jesus' name, by faith, receive the Helmet of Salvation.

The Sword of the Spirit:

Hebrews 4:12 HCSB *“For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as to divide soul, spirit, joints, and marrow; it is a judge of the ideas and thoughts of the heart.”*

2 Timothy 2:15, *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

The Sword of the Spirit is the only offensive weapon in this armory. The reason for this is that it is the only one we need. The Scriptures contain every teaching and promise that we need to defeat the enemy. We obtain this weapon through the reading, meditation, and application of it in our lives. We learn to wield it through the power of the Holy Spirit. As the enemy attacks, the Holy Spirit brings the Word of God to our mind or gives us understanding of His word as we daily read and meditate upon it. Our effective use of the Word of God is directly proportionate to the time we spend in it and the degree to which we have allowed the Lord to teach us from it and apply it to our lives.

TAKING IT UP:

Ask the Father to lead you to what He wants to teach you. Ask Him to give you understanding of His word and to help you commit His word to memory. Ask Him to help you to “hide His word in your heart.” Ask Him to bring to your mind His word when the enemy attacks and to powerfully wield the weapon of His word through you. In Jesus' name, by faith, take up the Sword of the Spirit.