

The Armour of God part 5.

The Shield of Faith

Ephesians 6 : 10-18. 10Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Recap on the journey so far.

Whenever anyone is born into the kingdom of God through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ as the resurrected saviour of mankind, then they are immediately recognised by satan as an enemy and a threat to his kingdom. For the least, the smallest, the youngest, the weakest child of God, through their union with God by having faith in Jesus Christ and through the indwelling Holy Spirit of God, can exercise power and authority over any work of satan, any attack of satan, in fact, over ALL the power of satan's kingdom. **LUKE 10 : 19. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.** Let's get it into our spirit.

Recap : The battle.

Question : What do we remember about the spiritual war that we are in?

- 1/. Who are we NOT fighting against and who ARE we fighting against?
- 2/. How can we recognise when we are being attacked or tempted by them?

Because of this eternally sealed, finished fact that we are in a greater position of power and authority than him, he cannot exercise power and authority over us unless we give it to him. So our enemy, satan, through any and every means is constantly seeking ways to obtain our permission, our cooperation with him so as to gain the ability to control us, to oppress us, to use us as his tools of destruction in other peoples lives. He will do this by trying to get us to disobey God either wilfully or in ignorance. He doesn't care. He will lie to us, accuse us in order to make us fall into guilt and condemnation, tempt us into doing things that take us away from the will of God and thereby he is able to take control of us, through the thing we have been tempted with.

Romans 6:15-16 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! 16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

These verses show us clearly that we are not in a position to live how we want under the false idea that Gods grace will protect us. God can only do what we allow Him to do. He will attack us with sickness, tempt us into sinful deeds or create hard circumstances in our lives to wear us out, to tire us to the place where we feel like giving up our faith in Jesus, the call upon our lives to follow Him and our commitment to His church, His people who are our heavenly family. BUT,



GREATER IS HE WHO LIVES IN US THAN HE WHO IS IN THE WORLD. He, satan has been defeated, stripped of his power 2000 years ago, for all eternity. He has no authority or legal right over us any more.

God has given us a complete and impenetrable spiritual armour.

Recap : The Belt of Truth.

Question : What parts of the body does the belt protect and through this understanding, what did we learn about what satan uses to attack people with?

a/. The Belt covers the areas of the HIP n THIGH.

The Hip and thigh represents a persons area of strength and power which rests in and is seated in their position and identity. Power from our seated position in the finished work and body of Christ in the heavens. Far above ALL principality and demonic powers. Power given to us through our Identity and position as children of God.

Jesus is sat down at Gods right hand. The position of power and strength.

Jesus' is also star down on a horse as he goes to war in the book of revelation and name is written on His thigh. Identity and authority.

Samson slaughtered the philistines Hip and thigh. He attacked them on the point of their strength and identity.

God tells us that we were once underneath satan in terms of power and strength. That we were once blind to the fact that satan could lead us anywhere through the power and nature of sin which was at work in us.

Wether we feel like it or not, God has given us a position of power over satan and his kingdom. That power is at our disposal every moment of the day or night. It is completely down to us to believe it, find out how to use it and put it into practice.

b/. The belt also covers the reproductive organs.

This is the area that represents our position of authority to minister in Jesus's name. Our calling and ability to bare fruit, to be effective in our ministry. As ambassadors, we represent Him in this world as His mouthpiece here on earth.

Ephesians 2 : 10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

John 15 : 7-8. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

God tells us that it is His word that is the seed in our lives. That seed is for producing a harvest of blessings in our lives and the lives of those we meet are able to minister to.

Recap : The Breastplate of Righteousness.

Question : What is righteousness, and what does it mean for us to be declared righteous?



Question : What part of the body does the breastplate protect and through this understanding, what did we learn about what satan uses to attack people with?

The Breastplate covered the chest area. The heart. The High priest wore a breastplate into the Holy of Holies containing two stones called the Urim and Thumim. These stones were used in decision making. Our ability to be able to know right from wrong, to make decisions, can only come from having a heart that is right with God. God has given us a breastplate of righteousness. This righteousness was not given to us because of our godly lifestyles. We did not earn it through good behaviour, great praying or knowledge of the bible. It has been given to us as a gift through the selfless sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. He shed His blood, took on to Himself our sins in exchange for His righteousness. The breastplate we have is the righteousness of Christ given to us. When we surrendered our lives to God and put our trust and faith in Jesus as our saviour, God declared to the heavens and the universe that “We are righteous”. Any time, anywhere, we have free access to the Holiest place of all, the throne of God. We can come before God with praise and thanksgiving, with our requests, our cries, our problems, faults and weaknesses and all our needs. Not because of who we are and what we’ve done, but because of who He is and What He’s done for us. Our own righteousness, our good deeds are as filthy rags before Him. We could never be worthy enough or good enough to come before God. Not now, not ever.

Satan is called the accuser of the brethren. He will try to get us to fall under his control by accusing us of sin in order to make us feel guilty and condemned. Through guilt and condemnation he can torture us and punish us, even if we haven’t sinned, if we believe him.

God alone is our judge. God alone had the right to teach us right from wrong. Every time we feel we have done or said something wrong, we must come before God and bring it to Him for judgement. Our hearts are then in the right place to be able to make the right decision.

We are never to accept an accusation from anyone as being true, or any thoughts in our heads that bring the feelings of guilt or condemnation with them. If ever we are accused we must search our hearts in God’s presence, before Him, asking Him if we have sinned. If we believe we haven’t, then we must not accept the accusation. However if God shows us that we have, then we have a loving Father who, if we confess our sins, has forgiven us and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. If we confess our sins and are still plagued by guilt and condemnation, then we must resist the devil and he will flee.

Recap : The Shoes of Peace.

Question : What can you remember about what the shoes are, what they are designed to do and why?

The Context of the shoes of peace.

The Position of the soldier was one of standing in readiness. The shoes were the preparation, or another translation says, the readiness of the gospel of peace. The soldier is said to be in a defensive position, not walking. This would seem to infer that the peace we are talking about is not the proclaiming of the gospel of peace, but standing upon the gospel of peace.

Quote : Francis Foulkes rights in his book , “you could be rich”, about the feet shod with the gospel of peace, “many people have taken this to mean that the christian soldier is also the messenger of the gospel and the sandals of the christian speak of his or her readiness to go out with the gospel. We have seen however that Pauls main thought in these verses is of the ability of the soldier to stand firm against the enemy. The roman soldier wore boots with strong nails that gave him a firm foothold in the battle. The christian can stand firm in the battle only as they know very surely the peace with God that comes to us only through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Without that peace, which gives the certainty of God’s presence and blessing, is a person who is anxious and “in the day of evil” will fall.



There were six main areas we covered that we need to maintain our peace with.

1/. Peace through the promise of His Protection.

Ephesians 1 : 13-14. In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

John 10 : 27-30. Says that no one is able to snatch us out of His hands. "My father is greater than all".

2/. Peace through the promise of His Provision.

Ephesians 1 : 11 . We have obtained an inheritance, been predestined

3/. Peace through the promise of His Purpose.

Ephesians 4 : 11-12. It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12to prepare God's people for works of service,

4/. Peace through the promise of His Permission.

Ephesians 3 : 12. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence

5/. Peace through the promise of His Presence.

Ephesians 2 : 21-22. We are all being joined together and built up together to be a habitation of God in the Spirit.

We are not just in the temple, we are the temple. No point in worrying about whether God will leave us. The truth is we could never get away from Him if we tried.

6/. Peace through the promise of His Power.

Ephesians 3 : 20. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

God tells us that there is a power at work in us, and moving through us. It is the power of the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead. If and when we need supernatural power to overcome our problems, our difficulties or to just plain defeat Satan with, God has given us that power to use in His name.

Recap : Putting on and putting off. SEE GRAHAM RILEYS' NOTES FOR RECAPP.

Now the Shield of faith.

Ephesians 6 : 16. 16. above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Above all taking the shield of faith.

The Roman soldiers shield mentioned here is not the small round shield but the large rectangular shield that covered most of the visible body. Word Thureos, meaning large door shaped shield. When the shield was rested on the ground it was large enough for the soldier to take cover behind when showered with arrows.



The shield was made of wood and leather enabling it to be dipped in water whereby any burning arrows, fiery darts, would be blocked and put out.

Faith.

Hebrews 11:1-3 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

Worlds : Aion. Age. Perpetuity. The establishing of the dispensations of time.

Framed : Kartartizo. To complete thoroughly.

The lord has completed and established the ages from the beginning of time until now, through the substance of faith. Faith that has been spoken out and acted upon by the lords people. Those He has chosen to walk with Him and carry out His work. Faith is what gives substance to the invisible word which brings about the visible reality.

Above all.

It Sounds like the shield of Faith is being mentioned as the most important piece of armour.

Above all: "Epi" . Means superimposition. to impose, place, or set over, above, or on something else.

The three pieces of armour we have looked at have all been referred to in the past perfect tense. Having girded, having put on, having shod. God has provided these 3 items, the belt, the breastplate and the shoes and have been placed on us already. We have the position and authority. We have the righteousness, we have the peace.

Now God instructs us to do something.

We are told to take the shield. It is not something that we are at that time, given, but it must be laid hold of and used.

Summerise.

Take hold of faith and place it over your armour. Add faith to the knowledge of the truth of who you are in Christ. Add faith to the knowledge of your righteousness because of Christ . Add faith to the knowledge of your peace with Christ .

How do we do that?

Make a decision today. Chose to believe God's word. Hold up that shield by speaking God's word out and believing it.

Romans 10 : 8-10. 8. But what does it say? "The word is near you, even in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9. that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.

Are we using the shield with our belt of truth?

Are we suffering from a sense of insignificance. Do we feel ineffective as a christian. Do we feel that we have no purpose, no power, no calling, no place in the church or in the world? If I don't add faith to my belt of truth. If I don't believe and start speaking out the truth that I am seated in Christ Jesus in heavenly places. That I have been chosen by God for a purpose. I have been called into the kingdom for such a time as this. I have a purpose, I have a destiny. I have a job to do for God. God



chose me, I didn't chose God. If I don't start taking back that ground that I lost to satans lies then I will always feel defeated, powerless, ineffective, useless, unwanted and unneeded.

Are we using the shield with our breastplate of righteousness?

Am I putting faith in God's word concerning my position before God. Am I constantly suffering with guilt and condemnation over my behaviour? Am I being hounded with accusations of sin and failure? Do I struggle with prayer because of a sense of being unworthy, sinful and dirty? Then I must take my shield of faith and cover my breastplate of righteousness. Declare to God and to satan with boldness that we are righteous before God because of the blood of Jesus.

Are we using our shield with our shoes of peace?

Am I putting faith in God's word concerning my peace with God. Am I worrying about my future? Am I concerned I won't make it as a christian? Am I concerned about my needs being met? Am I concerned about my place in the body of christ? Am I concerned about being able to APPROACH God about my needs? Am I concerned about loosing the presence of God in my life? Am I concerned about loosing the power of God in my life?

Knowing God's word is not enough. I have to believe it and declare it.

Romans 10 : 8-10. 8. But what does it say? "The word is near you, even in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9. that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.

Verse 8. But what does it say? "The word is near you, even in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

The word needs to be a part of us. It has to be in the forefront of my mind. We are like computers, when you start them up it they access the programs that have been programmed to run during start up and are placed right in front of us for easy access. What are the thoughts that we go to as soon as we are faced with hardship, persecution, confusion, guilt, shame, fear etc? What do we immediately focus on with our minds eye as soon as we are attacked by Satan? Our thoughts reveal what beliefs are actually inside of us.

The mouth and heart.

The mouth can only speak of what is coming out of the heart, the inner being, the mind.

Romans 8:5-6 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

People who live carnal lives, fleshly lives, do so because they think carnal fleshly thoughts. The word of God is not in their thinking. It is not in the forefront of the mind. It is not in their hearts.

The word of God is the word of faith.

Verse 10. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.



The heart is the starting point of transformation. It is where faith is imparted and righteousness is created.

But for faith to be turned into power, the word has to be released into the world.
The mouth is the method for releasing it into our world, our situations and circumstances.

Confession is made to salvation.

Salvation. Soteria. So-tay-ree-eh. Rescue or safety, deliver, health, save.
Whatever we need rescuing from, saving from, delivering from, is obtained by the confession of the word and faith in what it says.

It has to be in us in order for it to come out of us.

Knowledge of the Truth of who we are and what we have through Christ has to be in us.
Knowledge of why we are righteousness because of Christ has to be in us.
Knowledge of why we can have peace in this world because of Christ has to be in us.

Psalm 107: 2. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,

Proverbs 18:20-21 A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; From the produce of his lips he shall be filled. 21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

Mark 11:23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

