

## HOW DO I PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD?

### Q) Why do I need to know and understand putting on the Armour of God?

We have heard about the armour of God in Sunday school (and praise God that we have) yet this message is relevant to all believers on earth, at any given time, in any place, and even more so as we see the Day of the Lord approaching. This is vitally important to even the most mature believers walking in sonship now.

The Christians enemy is not fleshly only but spiritual. The world is under the dominion of Satan and his angels, who are put in charge of nations etc. e.g. Lk.4v5-9. Dan.10v13,20,21. Their aim is to keep man in a state of ignorance and unbelief about God. These evil angels oppose us because we bring light to disperse the darkness. The essence of Satan's attacks is that they are wily, 2Cor.11v3. and to defeat them we require the wisdom and power of God. This comes through putting on the whole armour of God, which is seven fold. Why is *spiritual* teaching described as *physical* body armour? Because we can visualise it / we see it and remember it more, Jesus illustrates spiritual dynamics in easy ways for us to understand.

### Q) What is the Armour of God?

**Eph.6v10-20. (Additional scriptures - 1Pet.5v6,7. James.4v5-7).**

To note, the teaching in Ephesians on the spiritual Armour of God begins with “**Be strong** in the Lord and the power of His might. Eph.6v10.” This reflects the tone of the prophet Daniels words for the last days “those who know their God shall **be strong** and carry out great exploits” Dan 11v32. (exploits are powerful miracles and acts of might in the spirit).

In order to be strong, in His might, and carry out exploits we need the whole Armour of God on!

**The whole Armour of God is:**

1. A true understanding of the Word of God. The girdle, or belt of truth.
2. A life of practical holiness. The breastplate of righteousness.
3. An evangelical zeal and readiness to preach the Gospel. Feet shod with the Gospel of peace.

4. An unwavering faith. The shield of faith.

5. Assurance of deliverance at all times, and hope of a glorious future. The helmet of salvation. 1Thes.5v8.

6. Ability to use God's Word against opponents, seen and unseen. The sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.

7. Intelligent, vigilant, persevering prayer, for all saints and ministers of God's Word. This is prayerfulness.

(+ Boldness when preaching the Gospel!

Paul states his obligation to preach the Gospel, and the difficulty of doing this now he is a chained prisoner. He asks the Ephesians to pray that God may enable him to freely and fearlessly preach the Gospel as he should.)

**Q) Did Jesus have to put on the Armour of God?**

Yes! Even Jesus as our example had to put on the whole Armour of God. Jesus had already lived out the outworking of this and got it right! He was qualified to reveal this truth to Paul by the Spirit. When Paul got the revelation of putting on the whole Armour of God it wasn't being newly introduced to believers at that moment in time. Jesus had practiced putting it on each day in His earthly walk (before Paul) and was now simply revealing this vital spiritual dynamic to Paul.

**Everything we receive was first lived through by Jesus in His true humanity. Jesus relates this important spiritual practice to us in a very practical and memorable way!** (Its easier to visualise and remember military clothing!)

Just a few examples from the life of Jesus with scripture reference...

Jesus as a man put on His armour in faith.

- Jesus answered the devil by taking up the sword of the spirit which is the Word of God when He was tempted in the wilderness. Answering satan with only 'It is written' Matt 4:1-11.
- Jesus swung the sword of the spirit, it divided between soul and the accusing spirit of the men who bought before Him the woman caught in adultery. All were convicted and one by one walked away and left her alone. John 8v9.

- Jesus put on the helmet of salvation, and the shield of faith in gethsemane to quench the fiery darts of the enemy so He could go through the trial at hand and overcome the temptation to quit. Luke 22: 34-46
- Jesus girded himself with the belt of truth as He responded to His accusers, Pilate and Herod when He was arrested and put under questioning in the courts. "Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice" John 18v38. Jesus words and responses to people were always words of truth. He girded himself with having the full truth by getting a full and complete understanding of scripture (the Word of God) as He studied it growing up. Luke 2v49.
- Jesus pulled up the shield of faith around him when they tried to seize Him, stone and kill Him. He was protected, hid himself in faith (invisible to them), and escaped them. John 8v59, 10v39. By faith He rebuked the wind and the waves Matt 8v26-28. Operating in faith He had no fear, 'Peace be still!' Mark 4v39. This faith was indeed a protective shield to Him and all those around Him in the boat in the midst of danger!
- Jesus put on the breastplate of righteousness by choosing to get baptised. This was "necessary to fulfil all righteousness". He clearly wore the breastplate of righteousness when He overturned the tables in the temple and drove out the traders - a brilliant example of Jesus putting on righteousness! (In Matt, Mark, Luke)
- Jesus put on boldness (what Paul also asked for) in his mouth. "You brood of vipers!" Read the sharp and bold words of Jesus in all of Matt ch23.

Jesus as a man showed us the way to live in the Kingdom. Jesus as a man put on truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, the sword of the spirit, prayerfulness, and acted boldly! And so shall we! If Jesus needed to put on the whole armour of God then I certainly need to!

### Q) What is the benefit of putting on the Armour of God?

**Eph.6v10-20**

#### The Whole Armour of God

**10** Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the [b]wiles of the devil. **12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of [c]the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. **13** Therefore take up

the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **withstand** in **the evil day**, and having done all, **to stand**.

**14 Stand therefore**, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **16** above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. **17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; **18** praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— **19** and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, **20** for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

**To stand / withstand** is mentioned x4 times. Standing is the opposite of falling! Falling denotes weakness, failures, fainting. Jesus needed to put on armour to keep him from fainting under such spiritual pressure in gethsemane. Angels came and ministered strength to Him. **With the armour on we will remain standing in the 'gethsemane's' that we will go through.**

**Against** is mentioned x6 times. 'Against' here is meant as the action of forcefully pushing back darkness. If we are not clothed and empowered in the armour of God then we cannot actively push back the darkness. And satanic forces of darkness will instead be against us and overwhelm us. Where will that leave us? Defeated. **With the armour on we will be victorious in overcoming the enemy and win ground as we go against him in the trials that lay ahead.**

**The evil day:** The days are evil now in tribulation and as the earth ramps up in various tribulations. But there is an 'evil day' yet to come during a specific period of history which is called the great tribulation. **With the armour on we can stand and remain and overcome until the Lord comes, at which point we will receive our eternal crowns of reward. (See Revelation chapter 2 - crowns given to the believers that overcome in this period of time).**

**The armour of God is for equipping the Christian in the Last Days!**

Q) How do I put on the Full Armour of God?

As we gather in His name (His name is a fortress a strong tower) we reconvene, refresh, replenish, repair, re-polish and fix up our armour. Just like how soldiers would do so with their physical armour within a castle fortress before they go back

out to battle. We do this so that when we go back out to battle we are ready for the fight ahead!

The armour should not be partially worn! All seven parts are needed. You may feel that you need to just repair some parts of your armour. **Which parts of your armour have chinks in? Where has the enemy been able to get in?** For example: you may say "I need to prepare my feet with the gospel of peace, I need to renew my zeal and passion to share the gospel with others."

- 1) As you pray in tongues you put on your Heavenly clothing! The armour of God goes on as we pray in the spirit, praying in tongues.
- 2) And when we are in that place in the spirit we then apply the armour. How? Speak out each verse of Eph 6v10-20 to activate that particular aspect of the armour over yourself.

### *Activation:*

This must be spirit led. The below are not soulish 'positive' comments. Spend time in praise and worship first then pray in tongues.

When the moment comes in the spirit speak out the below deliberately and forcefully. This will advance the kingdom. Use the 'faith of God' and your words will effect change as the spirit breaths upon your declarations. Speak in faith and it shall be so!

#### **1) Say of Truth:**

"I gird my waist with Truth"

"I shall know the truth of the Word of God. It shall dwell within me. The truth of His word makes me free now!"

(John 8v32)

#### **2) Say of Righteousness:**

"I put on the breastplate of righteousness"

"I walk in the will of God. I am guided by the Holy Spirit and I practice righteousness. I live righteous before God now!"

(1 John 2v29, 3v3 & v7)

### **3) Say of the Gospel:**

"I wear upon my feet the Gospel of Peace"

"Where I go I have an urgency and passion to share my testimony and the good news of the Gospel now! I leave peace upon households that receive me"

(Matt 10v13)

### **4) Say of Faith:**

"I have the shield of Faith"

"I pull up the shield of faith around me now, around my life now, around my family now, and around this fellowship now! The enemies darts cannot touch me!"

(1 John 5v4, 1 John 2v14)

### **5) Say of Salvation:**

"I take and put on the helmet of Salvation now"

"My mind is full of hope and joy!"

"I take every unclean thought captive now, I pull them down now and bring to obedience of Christ. I resist temptation. I have an overcoming mind!"

(Rom 8 v37. 1 Thess 5v8. 2 Cor 10v5)

### **6) Say of the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God:**

"I am baptised and filled with the Holy Spirit. I receive His Joy now!"

"I receive the gift of tongues, I pray daily in tongues."

"I swing my sword when I pray in tongues!"

(Acts 2 v1-4. Phill 1v4)

## **7) Say of Prayerfulness:**

“With my gift of tongues I persevere in prayer. I can focus and concentrate without distraction. I can persevere in prayer.”

“I pray with supplication and Joy for all the saints!”

(Phill 1v4)

## **+ Say of Boldness:**

“I will open my mouth boldly as I go forth with the gospel!”

“I boldly make known the gospel, people will experience the saving power of Jesus as I speak out!”

(Acts 2v14, Acts 4 v29-31)

\*As a fellowship pray together for those who are in need of further impartation to receive any of the above.

Amen