

# THE ARMOR OF GOD Ephesians six

Finally, my brethren be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. If we are to be strong for spiritual battles it will have to be in the power of the Lord, because Paul reminds us, "For though we walk in the flesh we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

Be strong in the Lord. How strong is the Lord? He is strong enough to uphold all things by the word of His power. He is strong enough to taste of death once for every man; strong enough to draw all Christians into the air to meet Him at His second coming. He is strong enough to use the cross as a battering ram to knock the Gates of Hades off their hinges. Stand in the strength of the Lord because we do not have strength to do it alone.

Stand is mentioned four times. God wants us to make a stand. In 1st Chronicles 23:1 we read, "And Satan stood up against Israel." Satan is making a stand today against the Church: the Israel of God. If Satan is standing up against the church we dare not do less than make a stand on every point of gospel truth.

We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against a spiritual host of wickedness. Some of the wrestling among the ancient Greeks permitted the antagonist to gauge out the eyes of their opponent and they lived the rest of their lives in darkness. For this reason many do not believe in a Devil they cannot see. They live in spiritual darkness. Paul says the Devil has blinded the eyes of them that believe not.

The forces of the Devil are highly organized. The Devil

is the ruler of the forces of darkness. Jesus in Luke mentioned the Kingdom of Satan. Satan has a highly organized Kingdom, but remember the Lord also has a Kingdom. Paul used the same terms to describe the Lord's Kingdom as he uses to describe the Devil's Kingdom.

The Church is not a playground; it is a battleground and the Church is like the barracks of soldiers. Fight the good fight of the faith lay hold on the life eternal.

Notice that Paul urges us to stand against the wiles of the Devil, having done all to stand, stand therefore. Remember he said stand against the wiles of the Devil. Look at his wiles. One of his wiles is, he will tell some people the Bible is not the word of God, and then he tells others the Bible is the word of God, and so is every other book that claims to be a revelation from God.

Another of his wiles is when he tells some people that they are good enough to go to heaven without Christ, and the next thing he is telling somebody they are so evil that even Christ could not save them. Here is another wile. We are justified by living a good life, be as good as you can be. Faith and baptism has nothing to do with it. And then the next thing he is telling somebody to believe and be baptized for the remission of sins and then tells them to indulge in any work of the flesh they please.

### THE GIRDLE OF TRUTH

So here, ladies and gentlemen, is the armor of God. The first piece that is mentioned is the girdle of truth. Pilate asked Jesus what is truth? He did not wait for the answer. Jesus did not say truth was what you think. He did not say truth is what you feel. He said in His prayer in John seventeen that THY WORD IS TRUTH.

Paul said we should rightly divide the word of truth. If the word of truth can be rightly divided it can also be wrongly divided. A good example of wrongly dividing the word of truth is looking to the example of the salvation of the thief on the cross and applying it to themselves. The thief died before Jesus was raised from the dead and the law of pardon given to those who believed on Jesus were told to repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Put on the girdle of truth and then the breastplate of righteousness.

## THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The righteousness that we put on is not our own. Paul states it for us when he says; "Him that knew no sin was made to be sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." When we put on Christ we put on the righteousness of Christ. As many of us as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ. On Christ the solid rock I stand all other ground is sinking sand.

### FEET SHOD WITH THE GOSPEL

Then he said having your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. The gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. To put on the gospel shoes is to walk through this world in the gospel. Those who do not know the gospel are walking in this world barefooted.

Paul told the Romans the Lord would bruise Satan under their feet shortly. This reminds us of the statement in Genesis where God predicted that the seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent. If I am going to step on the head of Satan the old serpent, I do not want to do it barefooted, so put your foot on the Devil's neck. Paul said that you could do it. He said In Romans 16: "The Lord will bruise Satan under your feet shortly." Ladies and gentlemen, the world is a snake pit. I don't want to live in this world without the gospel shoes. The gospel shoes are hobnailed shoes. The nails are the four nails that pierced the hands and feet of Jesus. Most folk are walking through the snake pit of life barefooted. Put on the whole armor of God.

### THE SHIELD OF FAITH

The shield of faith was not given to make us comfortable. A shield did not protect Paul from a thorn in the flesh. The shield of faith will not keep you from getting fired or from getting a disease. But the shield of faith will keep you from becoming bitter. It will keep you from giving up. Many a fiery dart has been fired by the Devil at the shield of faith. I have known of preachers who were strong in their belief of the word to be felled by the fiery dart of lust.

The best way to use the shield of faith is to take the Bible and hold it in your hand and declare, "Lord, this is your word. I believe every word of it. I may not understand it all. I may not be able to answer all the questions the sneering unbeliever may ask. But Lord it is your word and I believe it. Help thou my unbelief." Put on the whole armor of God. And now the fifth piece of gospel armor is the helmet of salvation.

### THE HELMET OF SALVATION

The Helmet of salvation is important because it encircles the head. The helmet of salvation will keep you strong on the doctrine of salvation. You will not be pressured by the popular preachers, and cave in to public opinion. Of course some use the helmet to protect their head and then drop their guard by lowering the shield of faith. You can be a saint in the head and believe the right doctrine and a reprobate in the heart with an unfaithful life.

Paul also calls the helmet the hope of salvation. Every plan we ever make is encircled by the thought that this life is not all there is. We are limited in this life as to what we can do and accomplish by the grave. There is a song that says, "One sweetly solemn thought that comes to me o'er, I am closer home today than I have been before." Then the sixth and last piece of gospel armor is the sword of the Spirit.

### THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, is the last piece of the armor. In Hebrews we read that the word of God is sharper than any two edged sword piercing even unto the dividing of soul and spirit both joints and marrow quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart. In Revelation John saw a vision of Jesus with a sharp two-edged sword sticking out of His mouth. The sword of the Spirit is not used by the hand of the preacher; it is used by the mouth. This is God's super weapon.

Jesus used that sword when He was tempted of the Devil. He chose to use the same weapon we have at our disposal. He used the word of God, the sword of the Spirit. He said over and over, "It is written, it is written."

The Bible is a sword. Take it and read it for fifteen minutes, open it up anywhere, and read slowly for fifteen minutes. It won't be long before one of those verses will jump right off the page and stab you. It will condone, or condemn. It will edify or tear you down. It is the sword of the Spirit and it will cut.

Take up the sword of the Spirit with all prayer. All prayer is praying in all private and public prayers. All prayer is praying at all meal times. All prayer is praying in the morning, and at night, and several times in between. All prayer at that time was praying for such leaders as Paul that utterance might be given to him that he might speak as he ought to speak. How much more do we need to pray all prayer for leaders today? All prayer is praying for all the members of the Church. Stand fast in the Lord, AND PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF God.

# LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

We greet you two and everybody at home and at GIJAPA! I am doing better today. Though was sick last Tuesday, I still honored an appoint to teach the gospel in a household. Things went well and had an interesting class with a couple and 2 other women. The result was that they attended class last Wednesday evening to ask more questions that made us close from church around 10 pm instead of 7:30 pm. It was lively and they understood everything about infant baptism, baptism by sprinkling and the trinity. They will attend church with us at Park Side Church of

Christ come Sunday but I won't be there as I would be worshipping at Adawukwa Church of Christ.

How are things going on at GIJAPA, too? Especially with it's monetary issues. There have been many or several times that situations have compelled me to say quit to so many things but when I set my eyes on the 'other sides' of them, it made me to resend in my decision and that has kept me this far.

In fact, at time it difficult for someone to understand you but in all these, the manifestation will one they come and those who did not understand you will! PTL! God sees what is in the heart and on the mind of man but we only see and considers what we see on the surface.

We baptized a female teacher last Tuesday night after this program of Ed's sermon translation and she wept as she was telling us the ordeal she went through when she wanted to serve God first through the Church of Christ. Her story is very pathetic but with inspiration and hope for us all. Some parents can be so wicked, yet when God is for you, no one cares. She is now worshiping with us at Park Side Church of Christ. We are going again today so pray for us.

May God bless you all for all you have being doing for us? We shall never, never forget you nor stop mentioning you! We love you so much!!! In fact we care and think about you.

May God bless you, Ike and Lee

Peace of our heavenly Father be with you. First I would like to thank you for the study lessons you send to me including the Bible I loved it very much I really appreciate it may God bless you for that and I am sending you an answer through your PO box your ministry is very much blessed and I would also like to ask you for another Bible and used clothes for the poor Christians around here may God bless you mightily.

Merhawit from Eritrea, East Africa

### Hello Sir Ed & Madam Naomi Bousman!

Today is Sunday & I'm preparing myself to go at other place to conduct Church worship, some 20 kilometers from here. It's raining this very morning, & I would wear "three-fourth" short & sleeper & would change them for "formal cloth & shoes" at the place where we will hold service. This means we are prepared to go with the wet with umbrella & would abide with the Lord at whatever season we are in. Please keep on remembering us in your prayers as we do to yours. Thanks again for the latest package of used clothing you've sent. We got them last Friday. We appreciate so much your love to us on this ministry. For now please give my thought & thanks to all at GIJAPA & to all our donors. Please relay my continues thought & appreciation to our Good Brother Reg Rice. I am glad to dropped by here at internet cafe today and to send you these pictures attachment, which were not sent last week due to poor reception of the net last week. These were taken also during our benevolent effort at a village severely affected by strong typhoon this year!



Ed Domingo, (See congregation from Sunset Beach Church of Christ, Philippines above)



Village in the Philippines (above picture)

Dear Ed and Sister Naomi,

We greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. How are you, your family and all GIJAPA family? My family and I are doing well and the Church is fine. We always thank God for your anointed ministry, GIJAPA, which reaches many countries in this world through prayers, gifts and preaching the word of God. We received the last box of clothes you sent recently. Thank you very much. Praise be to our Lord Jesus Christ who you are serving effectively. May our heavenly father continue to bless you and add more years to your life. You are always in our prayers (mouth).

We love you. Ed Domingo

Dear Brother Ed and Sister Naomi,

Shalom Brother Ed and Sister Naomi. Glory is to God in the highest for using you to preach the gospel to the people in Solwezi, Zambia, through your prayers and Bible materials and many good gifts. We have received all the boxes of gifts you sent recently and now we are waiting to get the one you sent on 15th. Send us Bibles and the tracts when you can. My wife Justina is very happy waiting for the materials for women. This morning, she was telling me greet Sister Naomi, greet sister Naomi, then I said why greeting Sister Naomi in this way, she said wait and you will see. Please Sister Naomi send a letter to my wife and our children, encourage them and tell my children you love them very much. I am happy to report that, the Lord has added 19 couples to His church, Messenger Church of Christ congregation. We have 10 married sisters with husbands who are none believers, 4 married brothers with wives who are also none believers. We have 14 strong grown up youths doing their grade 8 to 12 at different basic and high schools attending church services. God is blessing us and doing great wonders here. ACTIVE MEMBERS AT NOW 40 adults, 10 grown up youths Brethren with their partners who are not Christians have asked the church to have Bible studies with their partners. Please continue praying for us that God willing, others will be added to His Church. We always thank each and every one of you for your wonderful gifts and prayers, which are helping us to move the gospel to the lost souls (John 3:16). May our heavenly Father reward you richly for all of this. To our almighty God be the glory for the great things He is doing. Amen. We are thanking you very much for loving us so much. God continue to bless you and your family.

With much love, Your brother and fellow servant of Jesus Christ. John Maseka, evangelist and Justina. Messenger Church of Christ, Solwezi, Zambia, Africa

### Dear Pastor Ed,

Warm greetings from the Philippines. Sorry for the long delay of my reply. I received the 5 beautiful Bibles you sent to me, and I gave it already to some of my friends. Thank you very much for the efforts, money and time for sending those materials. We are planning to have a gift giving this December, and part of it we will give some Bibles also. Maybe you can help again by providing 10 more Bibles for this project.

Henry L. San Pedro, San Jose Antique, Philippines

### Welcome all of you at GIJAPA,

As you know I have answered the 30 Bible lessons -Studies In The Bible - so I would like to inform you that I am interested to continue the next 10 Bible Lessons entitled "Into All The World" on the book of Acts. Thanks once again. Enclosed here with a set of 9 post cards are related to heritage of Malta.

Yours Sincerely, Karmelo, your listener from Malta. I wish you much success!

Sir,

I am regular listener of your "God Is Just A Prayer Away" radio programme and would like to get involved in Bible study enrollment if possible. Right now I am in jail and would like to study more about Bible and the course you do provide freely. In fact I do not have a Bible either. So would you mind sending a Bible for me along with free Bible study materials? I do like your programme from radio and do listen regularly as possible on 19 meter band SW at 8:45 AM our time here in Nepal. The study I have found very helpful and have more interest to know about Jesus Christ and our responsibility toward Him. If you can not enroll me in free Bible study please let me know. I as a criminal am do wait for your response toward me.

Yours sincerely Devi Raman from Ramechaap, Nepal, Asia

### Dear Mr. Bousman,

I want to start off by thanking you for the Bible you sent me. It is a great blessing as I can use it and your studies to keep me busy and my mind on God. I am still here at the Washington County Detention Center waiting to go to prison. I now have a sword of the Lord though. Thank you! I hope you and your family find a great blessing for the work you have done through the Lord. Please pray for my wife, Tina and family out there in the "free world" as they struggle without me. God won't put no more on us than we can bear, I Corinthians 10:13 so I keep the faith.

May God bless you sincerely Danny from Arkansas

### Dear Brother Bousman,

Praise, Honor and Glory be unto our Lord. We are all doing well here through Christ. We shall check up at the post office and write back to you upon receiving the clothes and shoes you have sent to us. Thanks so much in the Lord. I greet the family of God there especially Sister Naomi Bousman.

Alexander Ofori, from The Gambia, W. Africa a servant of the Most High God.



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