

THE ARMOR OF GOD (Ephesians 6:10-18; James 4:7-10)

In the physical world the armor is a covering to protect the body against weapons; it can be defensive or a protective covering (Webster's dictionary). However the way we apply the spiritual armor, although having the same principle for protection and defense, it is much different than the way we apply the physical one.

The armor of God is not a visible protection and defensive covering that we could put it on manually. But it is available to us through our everyday walk with God; through our relationship with Him. The closer we are to Him, the closer He will be to us and in this relationship we are submitted to Him, which will be necessary to resist the devil. Only this way will he flee from us. We can only resist the devil, dressed in the armor of God through our submission to Him (James 4:4-10).

We dress with the armor of God by praying at all times, submitting the will of the soul into obedience to the will of God, by staying in position to execute the duty as a soldier of Christ, surrendering all the desires of the flesh-emptying self, to focus on the commands of God to holiness. Then we can press on to the goal to resist the devil, his strategies and deceits, for our struggles are not with flesh and blood, but against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly sphere (Ephesians 6:12).

To resist the devil it is necessary (1) to be firm in place, holding your ground, (2) to be truthful and morally righteous before God and man, (3) always to be ready with firm-footed –stability, never doubting in your mind, (4) to have faith, the instrument that destroys the devil's plans, (5) to have the mind protected by salvation, (6) to use the Word of God- the sword of the Spirit as the offense weapon. We can never resist the devil, his strategies, and deceits without the Word of God hidden in our hearts, (7) to watch and pray (8) and to persevere in the faith.

The armor of God is not something we put on again and again, for it is a permanent lifestyle of faith that springs forth from within; it is a position we have

in Christ with surety of His protection found in Psalm ninety-one. We must, however, remain in this position to be hidden and protected of all the arrows that come from the enemy. To tread on the lion, the adder, and to trample on the serpent, we must use the weapon of offense, the Word of God – the Sword. What would happen to us if the arrows came our way when we had the armor off? It is not in the mind set of when we should put it on, but in the mind set to live a sanctified life of obedience and submission. James said, **Subject** to God first and then **resist** the devil. As you know, the result will be that he will **flee** from us. I cannot mechanically put on the armor of God; it is not something seen, but something unseen in the material world, only seen through ones' life. I think that even Satan will be able to notice when we keep it always on, or when we keep it off by the life we live.

Paul said, **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith.** Yes, he overcame all with the armor of God always on!

THINK ABOUT IT!

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