

Fight In The Spirit

8-1-21

Ephesians 6:14–18 (ESV)

¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

The past few weeks we have acknowledged that the bazar moral and social upheavals that are happening around us. The Scripture says, “We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” Since this is a spiritual battle, we need to be able to “Fight In The Spirit”. The Scripture says, “We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.” For Victory, the spiritual fight must be fought in the Spirit. To help us to understand how to fight in the Spirit, God gives us a physical picture to explain this spiritual truth. The Roman army at the time of the apostle Paul was almost invincible. Therefore, Paul uses the Roman soldier as an example of how to “Fight In The Spirit”.



God makes a correlation between the physical armor for battle and the spiritual armor for the Christian battle.

As we go through this armor, imagine you are standing face to face with an evil foe desiring to do you harm. This armor is necessary for us to survive and see God move.

#1 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth. The soldier had a loose tunic to wear. The first item necessary for battle is the belt. The belt tightens the tunic and the protective breastplate and scabbard for the sword were attached to it. For the Christian this is the belt of truth. Not truth as the world calls truth, but foundational truth that comes from Jesus. Jesus is truth. Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Victory comes through Christ.

#2 Put on the breastplate of righteousness. The soldier would have a metal breastplate sometimes referred to as the heart protector. Our Christian character and integrity will be attacked. However, we stand in the righteous from God. The Scriptures says, "Jesus who knew no sin became sin for us that we would be as right as God." Therefore, we are empowered to stand blameless before HIM and for HIM.

#3 Put on shoes for your feet, having the readiness given by the gospel of peace. The Jewish historian, Josephus, said these shoes were studded with sharp nails which he credits the military success of Julius Caesar enabling him to make long marches at incredible speed over rough terrain.

For the Christian, this is a firm footing and the readiness to go at a moment's notice in rough encounters sharing the gospel of peace. We are always ready to share, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." As Scripture says, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news."

#4 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the Evil One. These shields were made of two layers of wood covered with linen and hides wrapped in bands of iron. Arrows were often dipped in tar then ignited. The shield not only deflected the arrows but also quenched the flame when the arrow stuck into the shield. For a Christian, our faith serves as our shield. As with the faith of Abraham, "When called, he obeyed." By hearing God and doing what HE says, Satan's flaming missiles are deflected, and the flame is quenched and does not spread.

#5 Take the helmet of salvation. The metal helmet protected from a fatal head blow. For a Christian our helmet is our salvation which ensures eternal security. Eternally secure standing in the presence of God we are fearless. As Paul said, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

#6 Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. This is a short sword two edged for close combat. For a Christian, the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God.

The word “logos” indicating all of Scripture is not use here. The word “rhema” is used meaning a specific word. For the Christian, in our up-close battle, the Holy Spirit will give us a specific word from God for the specific situation. As Jesus said, “And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.”

#7 Pray at all times in the Spirit. This is tied closely to the sword of the Spirit. In our warfare, the Holy Spirit will bring to our minds what we need to pray. In the worst of combat, the Holy Spirit HIMSELF will pray on our behalf. The Scripture says, “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.”

Fight In The Spirit! Put on this armor and we will be able to deal with anything thrown at us confident that Jesus is working on your behalf. For the Christian, the battle is the Lord’s.

1 Corinthians 2:2 (ESV)

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.