

## The Shield, the Helmet, and the Sword Ephesians 6:16-17

INTRO: The importance of the Christian's armor cannot be underestimated. We need each piece, not just in our armoire, but on our spiritual man. Our Christian armor keeps us from unnecessary exposure to Satan's attacks. Be assured that the Devil will attack. Our arch enemy will never leave us alone. It is imperative that we be prepared for battle.

Satan does not and will not fight fairly; he always fights dirty. He will try to put you on a guilt trip concerning sins that you have committed in the past, sins that you have already confessed, sins that are under the blood of Christ. When we confess our sins, "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I Jn 1:9).

Satan will lie to you; he will feed untruths into your mind. He will lead you in the wrong direction, the direction of destruction.

Satan not only wants to hurt you; he wants to destroy you. Because of this, we must be sound in our spiritual mind (I Pt 5:8).

In our last study, we put on the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Righteousness, and the Foot ware of the Gospel of Peace. Our present study deals with these important pieces of spiritual armor, the Shield of Faith, the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit.

### I. VS. 16, THE SHIELD OF FAITH

- A. The Roman shield measured four feet in length and two and one-half feet wide. It was oblong in shape, made of wood covered with linen and leather to absorb fiery arrows.
  - 1. The foes of Rome would dip their arrows in pitch, set them afire, and shoot them into the bodies of the soldiers.
  - 2. With their shields, the Romans could ward off the fiery missiles of the enemy. When arrows were showered down on the troops, they would gather together and hold their shields over their heads.
- B. The Christian's God-given faith protects him from the Devil's fiery missiles that are launched against us. The Devil's quiver is full of fiery darts. Paul mentions some of them in Rom. 8:35.
  - 1. These darts kindle lust, doubt, greed, vanity, envy, discouragement, temptation, immorality, hatred, bitterness, and anger.
  - 2. Remember that "faith is the victory that overcomes the world" (I John 5:4).

- C. The Shield of Faith is:
1. Believing the Word of God to be the rule of faith and practice for the child of God. A belief in the virgin birth, the sinless life and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. Believing that He is the eternal Son of God, the Ancient of Days, the Alpha and the Omega.
  2. Believing what God has said concerning us. In John 14:1-4, Jesus said: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also." Do not forget the scripture says: "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." Believing I John 4:4: "...Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world."
  3. Trusting God no matter what the situation, remembering that Romans 8:28 is still in the Book.

II. VS. 17a, THE HELMET OF SALVATION

- A. "Helmet" literally means around the head.
1. The head carries the brain, the center of the intelligence and direction for the body.
  2. If a soldier's head was cut off or crushed, the body dies. The helmet is a very important piece of armor.
- B. The helmet of salvation refers to the Christian's present protection from eternal death and destruction: "the hope of salvation" (I Thes. 5:8) and the deliverance from present evils (Col. 1:13).
1. Assurance of salvation, present and future, is a great defensive weapon.
  2. The treasure of salvation gives us strength to fight on. We are fortified by eternal security.
  3. The helmet of salvation gives protection in this life and the life to come. Salvation is in three tenses:
    - a. Past: If you are a believer, it is because sometime in the past you experienced forgiveness of sin (Eph 2:8-9). This means we are delivered from the penalty of sin (Rom 6:23).
    - b. Present: This means that we are delivered from the power of sin (Gal 1:4-5).

- c. Future: In eternity, we will be free from the presence of sin.
- C. Salvation brings, “Joy unspeakable and full of glory.” Nothing can satisfy the soul, but Jesus. Money, sex, drugs, marriage, friendship, etc., can not satisfy the inner longing of man spiritually. Salvation gives true meaning to life in this world and in the world to come.

### III. VS. 17b, THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

- A. “Of the Spirit” refers to the origin of “the sword.” It is “the sword given by the Spirit.”
  - 1. “The sword of the Spirit” is specified as “the Word of God.” The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, infallible, and preserved Word of God.
  - 2. “Word,” the Greek word here is *rhema* and refers to the preached word (Eph 5:26; Rom. 10:8,17; I Pet. 1:25).
    - a. This speaks of the individual words of God, words that tell us how we are to live.
    - b. The book of Proverbs is a great book to read daily. This book will give you the daily *Rhema* we need. Proverbs 4:14-15; 5:15, 18; 16:18, 32; 22:6; 26:20; 29:18.
- B. Believers need the “sword” to combat the enemy’s assault.
  - 1. If Christ used the Word, so should we.
  - 2. Jesus used “the Sword of the Spirit” on the Devil on the mount in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11).
    - a. “Man shall not live by bread alone.”
    - b. “Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.”
    - c. “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve.”
  - 3. Get under and stay under the preaching of the Word of God.

CONCLUSION: Accept the provision God has made for you. Put on the whole armor of God.

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