

Prepared in Christ for the Armor of God

Philippians 2:5

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Before one can become a U.S. Marine, US Soldier, Sailor or Airman they must be found fit to serve. They must complete weeks of training and pass all requirements and qualifications in order to wear the uniform. They must also be trained and be found qualified in the weapons they will be required to use. Much work must go into training and preparing the recruit before they graduate boot camp and are ready for battle.

So it is also for the Soldier of Christ. Before one can put on the armour they must be found fit for service and ready to don the armour and do battle. However for the Soldier of Christ bullets and bombs are not our weapons for they will do no good on the spiritual battlefield. But rather our weapon is the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Our defense is the armour of God. But we must first prepare ourselves to wear it.

Preparation for the Armour of God.

Ephesians 6:1-3

1Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

3That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

The first qualification we must meet is obedience. As children are required to obey their parents so we also are required to obey our heavenly Father and do His will. We must learn to follow orders; even difficult ones. Our effectiveness is in our ability to trust in God and follow His directions. If we are to be fruitful soldiers and have peace it will only go well with us if we listen to our LORD and obey His commands and carry out the calling He has set before us.

Ephesians 6:4

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

The soldier of Christ must not place unreasonable demands on those whom we are trying to reach; or on those who oppose us. But let us deal fairly and rightly. Speaking the truth in love. *Jude 1:21-23 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. 22And of some have compassion, making a difference: 23And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.*

No one has ever been led to the LORD through Hate.

Ephesians 6:5

Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;

We must learn to have respect for those in position over us. For the servant is not greater than his master. *John 13:16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.* As the servant is required to obey the master we are as good soldiers of Christ to submit to the Lordship of Jesus.

Ephesians 6:6-8

Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

7With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:

8Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether *he* be bond or free.

We are to follow the direction the LORD has given for His Glory and not to be seen of and flattered by man. Our service must be sincere and dedicated to the Lord and not for the praise of man. Let our preparation be built upon the foundation of the Lord and not the vanities of man. A sincere service in Christ bringing Glory to His great name is the only work that will endure. *1Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1Corinthians 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be*

revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. It must be a work from the heart dedicated to the Lord.

Ephesians 6:9

And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

Those who are in leadership positions within the Body of Christ; ye Pastors and Deacons; lead by example and not harshness of words. Know that you also have a master over you; the Lord Jesus Christ. Understand that He judges all rightly and doesn't play favorites. The Golden Rule applies here.

Putting on the Armour of God; Equipped for Service

So dear ones before we can put on the Armour of God; we must first be prepared in Christ to wear it.

Ephesians 6:10-12

10Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

Notice the word 'Finally' in verse 10. Now after all preparation of obedience, love, respect for authority and Lordship, committing service to God for its own sake and His Glory and not for man; we are ready to be called Soldiers of Christ and fit for the armour of God; to do battle for His Glory. Understanding the warfare we are in and our enemies. Our battle is spiritual and against the darkness of this world; spiritual wickedness. Against such things the weapons formed by man are of no use.

Ephesians 6:13-14

13Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

We must take up the whole armour of God, not just in part for that would leave us vulnerable and the enemy get advantage of us - *2Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.* We are strengthened in truth and the breastplate of righteousness covers the heart. For as the heart is so is the man - *Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.* Our breastplate of righteousness is our justification in the LORD Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:15-16

15And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

"your feet shod with the preparation" the allusion here is to the protection of the soldier with boots made of brass. If the feet were wounded the soldier could no longer stand and fight. Also we must be prepared for the Gospel of Peace for it will be resisted by the enemy - *2Corinthians 4:34 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 2Corinthians 4:4In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.* We must be prepared to be resisted in sharing the Gospel - *Matthew 5:11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*

Remember that it is our Faith that will protect us from the resistance of the wicked. It is Faith that strengthens us in weakness and keeps us pressing forward in battle - *Hebrews 11:33-34 33Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*

Ephesians 6:17

17And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all

perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Our salvation is our strength and as the helmet protects the head, eyes, ears and the brain which is the faculty of our thinking and the seat of knowledge. With our salvation our mind is protected. We receive the Holy Spirit which is the Spirit of Truth to guide us. Because of this we do not see the world nor hear the things of the world as do the unbeliever. *John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.* For through our salvation we see Him who is invisible - *Hebrews 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.*

It is of note that we the Soldiers of Christ have but one offensive weapon the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God and in the end it will put asunder all who oppose it. - *Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

As food and water is to the soldier; so is prayer to the soldier of Christ – “The key to prayer is simply praying” –A.W. Tozer. - *1Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.*

Before we are able to put upon the Armour of God we must prepare the mind and heart to wear it. We must put on the character of Christ first. The armour of God must be put on completely and not in part for what is truth without righteousness, how can we share the Gospel without Faith; without salvation there is no Spirit of Truth in us. Remember beloved we must be totally committed.

Revelation 3:15

16I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Let us prepare our minds and hearts to be able to wear the Armour of God and put it in use for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

2Timothy 2:3-4

3Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

*4No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

JESUS SAVES- To God be the Glory



R.E.G.