

TAKING UP THE SHIELD OF FAITH *Ephesians 6:16*

Bible Study:

The Roman shield of the time was called a *scutum*. This type of shield was as large as a door and would cover the warrior entirely. Such a shield was not just defensive but could also be used to push opponents.

Clearly, a shield is vitally important to a soldier. It provides a blanket of protection. It is meant to be taken up in all circumstances. It is the first barrier against the enemy's attack.

[Hebrews 11:1](#) says, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." [Verse 6](#) stresses the importance of faith: "Without faith it is impossible to please God." Satan's attacks can sometimes cause us to doubt God. Faith prompts us to believe God.

We give in to temptation when we believe what it has to offer is better than what God has promised. **Faith reminds us** that, though fulfillment of God's promise may not be readily visible to us, *God is true to His Word*. When Satan attempts to plague us with doubt or entice us with instant gratification, *faith* recognizes the deceptiveness of his tactics and quickly extinguishes the arrows. When Satan accuses us, faith chooses to believe that Jesus has redeemed us and that there is no more condemnation ([Romans 8:1, 34](#); [Revelation 12:10-12](#)).

Faith is one of the greatest gifts ([1 Corinthians 13:13](#)), and it is the means by which we receive grace and come into right relationship with God ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)). It is because we have been *justified through faith* that we belong to God and have peace with Him ([Romans 5:1](#)). Faith is the doorway to hope in God ([Romans 5:2](#)). Because we have faith in God, our suffering need not faze us; in fact, we can persevere under it ([Romans 5:3-5](#)). The things Satan attempts to use to discourage us can actually become tools in the hands of God.

All believers have this promise: "Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith" ([1 John 5:4](#)). Faith is a protective barrier between us and the schemes of Satan. When we believe God and take Him at His word, we remain grounded in truth, the lies of the enemy lose their power, and we become overcomers. In that way, faith is our shield.

⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 1 John 5:4-5 ESV

HELMET OF SALVATION *Ephesians 6:17a*

The assurance of salvation is our impenetrable defense against anything the enemy throws at us. Jesus said, “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell”

([Matthew 10:28](#)). The idea in this verse is that, as we prepare for satan’s attacks, we must grab that helmet and buckle it on tightly.

Because of the power of the cross, our enemy no longer has any hold on us ([Romans 6:10](#); [8:2](#); [1 Corinthians 1:18](#)). We must learn to keep our helmets buckled so that his fiery missiles do not lodge in our thoughts and set us on fire. Through this helmet of salvation, we can “destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ” ([2 Corinthians 10:5](#)).

*There are several **ACTIONS** a believer can take to keep his/her helmet fastened and functioning:*

- 1. Renew your minds.** Our minds are battlefields. The outcomes of those battles determine the course of our lives. [Romans 12:1–2](#)
- 2. Reject doubts that arise from circumstances.** God rewards our faith. With the helmet of salvation firmly in place, we can choose to believe what appears impossible ([Hebrews 11:6](#); [1 Peter 1:8–9](#)).
- 3. Keep an eternal perspective.** When life crashes in around us, we must remember to look up. Our salvation is the most precious gift we have received. Keeping our eyes on that can help us weather life’s storms. (see [Matthew 6:20](#); [1 Corinthians 3:11–13](#)).
- 4. Remember that victory is already accomplished.** When we consider ourselves “dead to sin but alive to God” ([Romans 6:11](#)), we eliminate many of the opportunities satan uses to entrap us. When choosing sin is no longer an option for us because we recognize ourselves to be “new creatures” ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#); [1 John 3:9](#)), we effectively cut off many avenues of failure.
- 5. Find all our hope in Him.** [Psalm 73:25](#) says, “Whom have I in heaven but You? Besides you, I desire nothing on earth.” Our helmet is most effective when we treasure what it represents. The salvation Jesus purchased for us cannot share the place of importance in our hearts with earthly things. When pleasing the Lord is our supreme delight, we eliminate many of satan’s lures and render his evil suggestions powerless.

As we wear the Helmet of Salvation every day, our minds become more insulated against the suggestions, desires, and traps the enemy lays for us. We choose to guard our minds from excessive worldly influence and instead think on things that honor Christ ([Philippians 4:8](#)). In doing so, we wear our salvation as a protective helmet that will “guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus” ([Philippians 4:7](#); cf. [Isaiah 26:3](#); [1 Peter 1:5](#)).

SWORD OF THE SPIRIT *Ephesians 6:17b-c*

The sword is both an offensive and defensive weapon used by soldiers or warriors. In this case it is a weapon belonging to the Holy Spirit. Swords were used to protect oneself from harm or to attack the enemy to overcome or kill him. In both cases it was necessary for a soldier to get rigid training on the proper use of the sword to get maximum protection. All Christian soldiers need the same rigid training to know how to properly handle the Sword of the Spirit, “which is the word of God.”

The sword that Paul refers to here is the Holy Scriptures. We know from [2 Timothy 3:16–17](#) that the word of God is from the Holy Spirit and written by men. Since every Christian is in a spiritual battle with the satanic and evil forces of this world, we need to know how to handle the Word properly. Only then will it be an effective defense against evil, but it will also be an offensive weapon we use to “demolish strongholds” of error and falsehood ([2 Corinthians 10:4–5](#)).

God refers to His Word as a sword in [Hebrews 4:12](#). Here the Word is described as **living and active and sharper than a double-edged sword**. The Roman sword was commonly made in this manner. The fact that it had two edges made it easier to penetrate, as well as to cut in every way. The idea is that of piercing, or penetrating; the Word of God reaches the “heart,” the very center of action, and lays open the motives and feelings of those it touches.

The purpose of the sword of the Spirit—the Bible—is to make us strong and able to withstand the evil onslaughts of satan, our enemy ([Psalm 119:11, 33–40, 99–105](#)).

The Holy Spirit uses the power of the Word to save souls and then to give them spiritual strength to be mature soldiers for the Lord in fighting this corrupt and evil world we live in.

The more we know and understand the Word of God, the more useful we will be in doing the will of God and the more effective we will be in standing against the enemy of our souls.

PRAYING AT ALL TIMES IN THE SPIRIT *Ephesians 6:18*

Paul finishes the Armor of God with prayer. We have been deeply reviewing today the physical armor soldiers used during battle, but as Christians we understand to divinely put on God's armor is PUTTING ON A SPIRITUAL REFLECTION OF CHRIST for ALL see.

It's how you walk, how you talk, how you serve, how you give, and how you CONTINUOUSLY pursue Christ.

Our spiritual resources are accessed through our relationship with God. Praying at all times, means that we intentionally PUT PRAYER IN EVERY AREA OF OUR LIVES!

With all perseverance and intercession for all the saints, means we are continuously seeking God on the needs of others.

We must stay in regular communication with God to understand His will, His next steps, His desires, His heart.

Praying in the Spirit means that our thoughts, intentions, and hearts are in alignment with the will of God. Praying in the Spirit means we are striving for spiritual wisdom. The best way to gain spiritual wisdom is to study and dwell in God's Word. You can let God know that you honor and love Him by PRAYING HIS WORD BACK TO HIM!

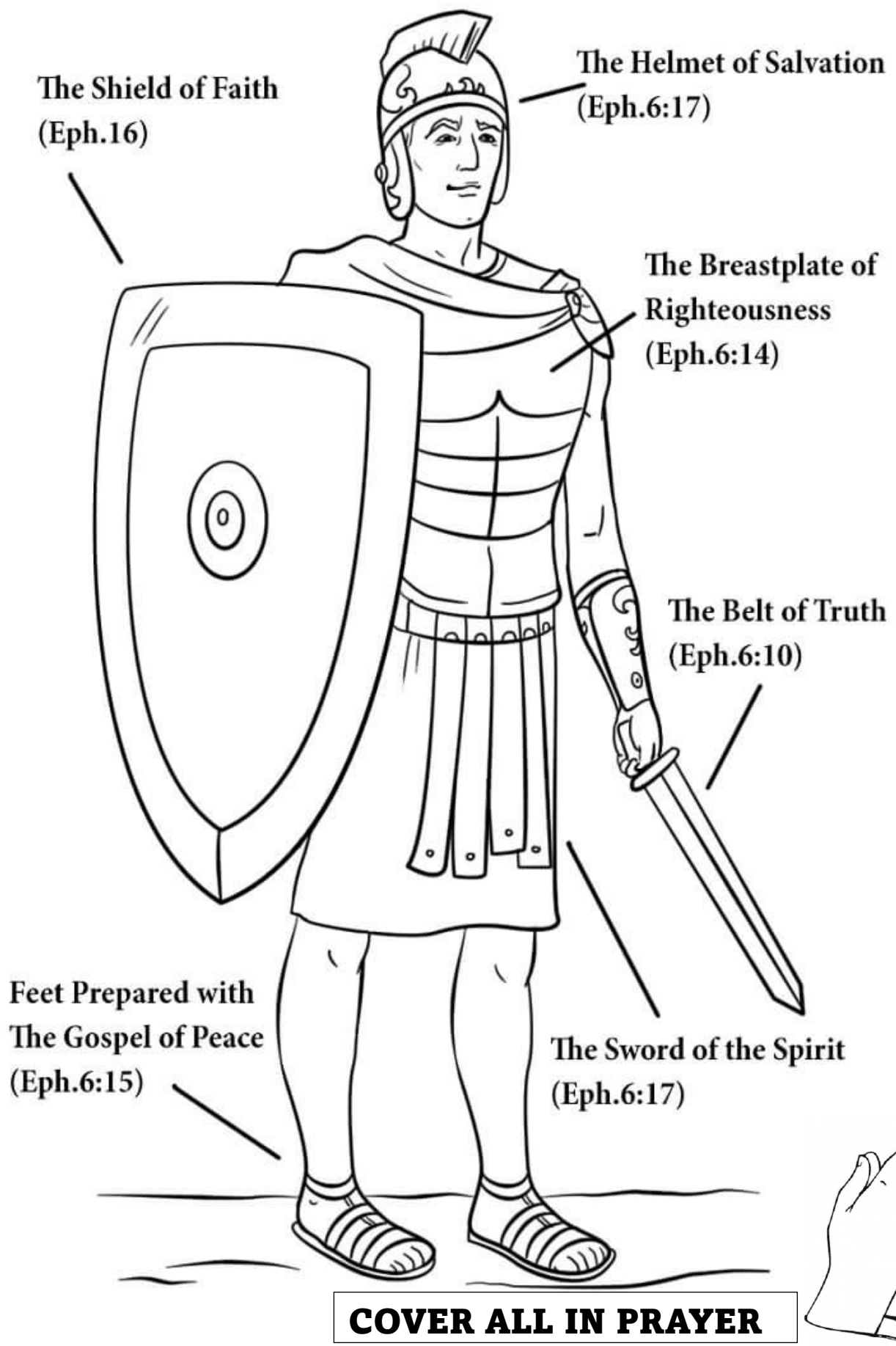
PRAYER KEEPS US INTIMATELY ROOTED IN GOD'S LOVE!

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing. KJV

Luke 18:1b that men ought always to pray, and not faint. KJV

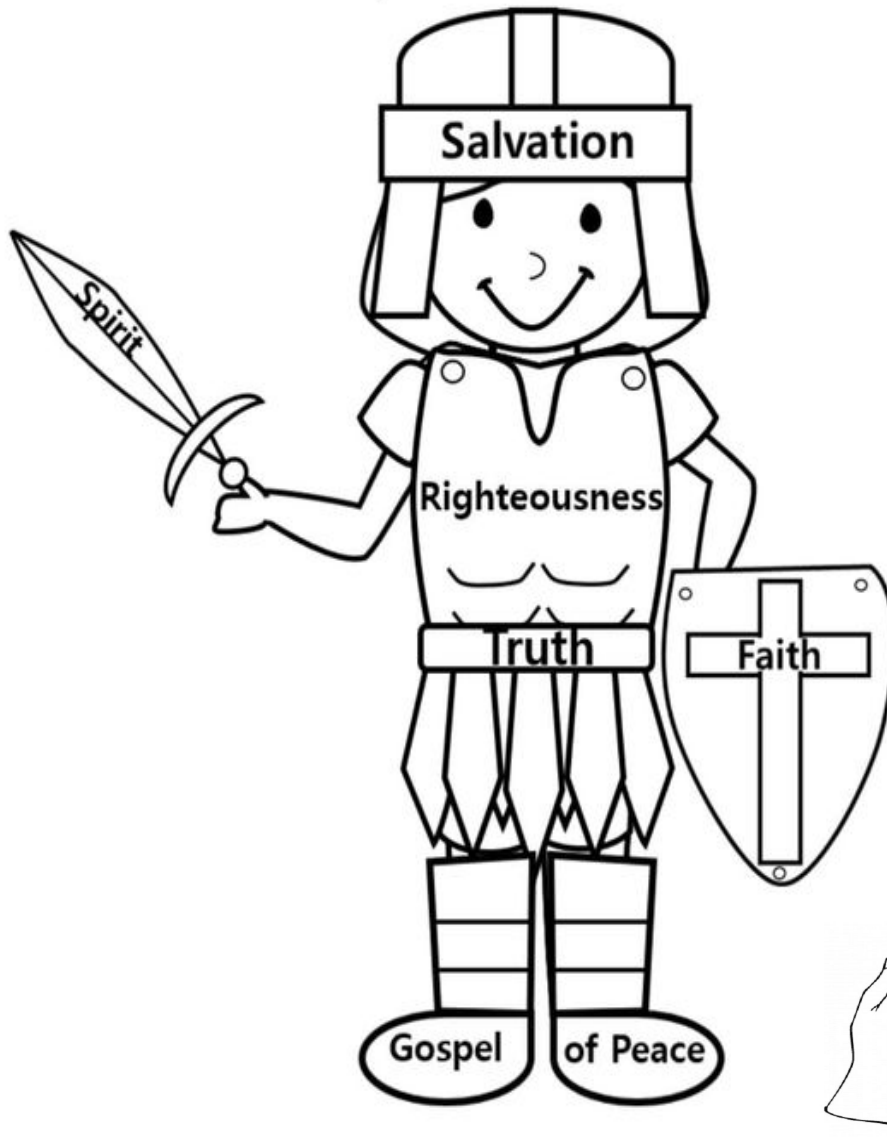
Philippians 4:6-8 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ESV

RESOURCES: The Armor of God Series, Pastor Neslson, Got Question?
How To Take up The Shield of Faith Christina Patterson
The Tony Evans Bible Commentary



Armor of God

Ephesians 6:14-18



**COVER
ALL IN
PRAYER**

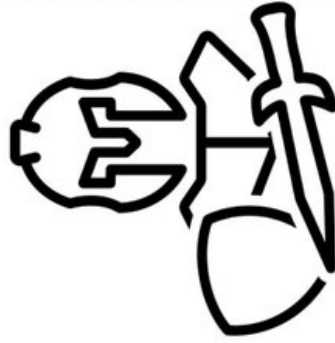
Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:10-12

The Armor of God

Put on the Whole Armor of God

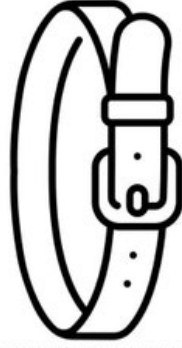


Ephesians 6:10-18

Breastplate of Righteousness



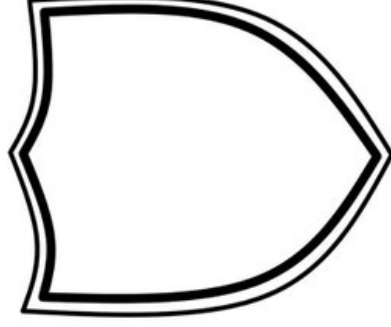
Belt of Truth



Shoes of the Gospel of Peace



Shield of Faith

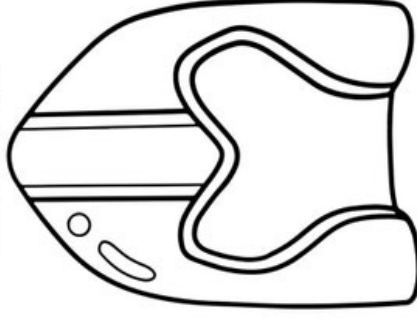


Sword of the Spirit



which is the word of God

Helmet of Salvation



Praying at all times in the Spirit

