

## The Whole Armor of God

*Spiritual Warfare between the Kingdom of God & the Kingdom of Satan*

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Darkness is increasing. Fortunately, Ephesians 6 and D&C 27 both address the Armor of God. They provide two witnesses for the faithful, detailing the defensive and offensive nature of this armor in spiritual warfare between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Satan. God is waiting for us to be actively engaged in receiving a portion of His power - that we might be protected and empowered as His servants to defeat evil. If we don't become equipped with God's protection and power, we will not “stand,” but become a casualty in the upcoming battles that lay before us - those of the “evil day.” We must fight valiantly as an *intercessor* for the innocents, in an invisible spiritual warfare with the dark powers of heaven, that we might win the victory for God and free the captives. Multiple times in the book of Isaiah God is calling out to those who might help Him, especially to the 144,000 that they might become effective *intercessors* with Him (note verses 41:28, 59:16, 63:5).

This is only possible if we are fully protected and empowered with *the whole armor of God*. We must ask God for it and ask Him to see it in our mind's eye, that we might have confidence in using it to battle darkness.

The seven pieces of armor are for our spiritual warfare. Paul addresses them in Ephesians 6:10-18 while our LORD does so in D&C 27:15-18 (the number 7 is symbolically tied to the concept of *full, complete* or *whole* in scripture). The armor is somewhat like a Roman soldier's shielding with weaponry, the biggest difference being it is **light**-based armor (see Rom. 13:12). There are five defensive pieces of armor (numbers 1-5 below) and two offensive weapons (numbers 6 & 7). The 7<sup>th</sup> weapon is God's words to us in revelation. He states that “the sword of my Spirit, [is that] which I will pour out upon you, and **my word which I will reveal unto you**” (D&C 27:18). A good YouTube video on spiritual warfare is given us by Mr. Derek Prince, entitled “*Casting Down Strongholds*,” found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Q2XsucBAIA>. Hereafter, I have included a description of the seven pieces of battle armor - **the Whole Armor of God**, followed by added *clarification* on some of them as supplied by a dear friend.

**1. Belt of Truth** The waist or “loins” area of God's soldiers is girded with **Truth** - a *Belt of Truth*, representing the need to first remove the false teachings and traditions of men (Isa. 11:5; D&C 27:15 & 16). These false teachings and traditions are tied to “iniquities” that are passed down from generation to generation. Note that this is the *first* piece of armor listed by both Paul and the Lord (the order of all seven pieces is the same in both lists, see also Ex. 12:11). Lehi and Nephi (sons of Helaman) in the Book of Mormon pierced the hearts of those they taught with great success. They spoke truth via the Spirit. They confounded their enemies with it. The more righteous among the Lamanites were “*convinced of the wickedness of the traditions of their fathers*” (see Helaman 5:19). See *Convincing Power* farther below.

**2. Breastplate of Righteousness** We must all put on the *Breastplate of Righteousness*. It provides protection for the heart. Note that one of the many name-titles for Christ is “*Righteousness*” (Moses 7:45 & 47). In Him there is all power, protection, and deliverance.

*Clarification* “The Breastplate of Righteousness protects you against the enemies swords, and causes their words to be unable to pierce your heart.”

**3. Shoes or Preparation of the Gospel of Peace** Soldiers have their feet shod with *the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace*. It allows “*the soldier of God*” (the meaning of the word “*Israel*”) to march forth speedily in proclaiming the gospel of Christ, while effectively battling the enemy. In the ancient world, those who conquered their enemies often placed their right foot on the neck of the defeated enemy, raising their right arm with sword into the air as a symbol of their victory. Our Lord was told that Satan would damage His heel, but that in the end He would crush Satan's head or skull. War dances among Native Americans involve stomping upon the ground to awaken the ancestors for help, and may have ties to crushing the enemy as well. The wicked are ground to dust in scripture. They are the salt that has lost its savor and have become good for nothing, but to be trampled under foot of men.

*Clarification* “The shoes are a symbol of your willingness to live and share the gospel and your testimony to every person you encounter. The shoes represent the destruction of the Adversary. They destroy his interference in your path by symbolizing the crushing of the serpent's head. The shoes are the last piece of armor you will use to defeat your enemies. The last step of battle is you will push your enemy down to Hell (which appears to create a portal that takes them away and/or seals up an existing portal). If the Spirit tells you to, stomp your feet three times, symbolizing it is finished. This is a witness and testimony of the battle in which you have fought. The shoes are also a symbol of your willingness to live and share the gospel and your testimony to every person you encounter.”

**4. Shield of Faith** Protected soldiers wield the *shield of faith*. It protects them against the arrows, spears, and other weaponry of the enemy – *the wicked*. With it we are protected from *the fiery darts* of the Adversary and his minions.

*Clarification* “The Shield of Faith gives you the strength to stand against your foes or enemies. It represents your faith in the Savior and the courage to do His will as a servant. It shines the brightest of all your armor pieces. It deflects or defeats the fiery darts of the Adversary. This is the testimony of your faith, as you stand as a witness of Jesus Christ.”

**5. Helmet of Salvation** God’s soldiers wear a *helmet of salvation*. It provides protection for our focused thoughts as we battle, and the mind generally, that we might have an eye single to the glory of God. In 1 Thess. 5:8 the word helmet is replaced with “hope,” thus in Christ we have “*the hope of Salvation*.” Satan takes away all hope. His servants seek to enter our mind and body through the top of our heads. To be pessimistic is to have no hope. This may reduce our faith in God. Hope is always available in Christ. With it we are optimistic, positive, hopeful, and faithful, even when all seems lost.

*Clarification* “The helmet of salvation means, “to save” or “make safe,” and stands for spiritual protection. It is a vital part of your armor. It gives you the power to control your thoughts and actions. Evil spirits try to enter into the crown of your head with all manner of devices or spiritual powers.”

**6. Sword of the Spirit** Powerful soldiers wield a powerful offensive weapon - God’s Spirit and power - via the *sword of the Spirit* (or the Sword of Truth). It comes by way of powerful, heartfelt prayer, praying in the Spirit, that we might receive the will of the Lord and act accordingly in battling our enemy. There are times when we must have the Lord’s guidance to know how to proceed with a particular enemy. We must ask and receive instruction from the Lord to act in confidence and with power. See *Convincing Power* farther below.

**7. The Spoken Word of God** The final or seventh part of the armor is also an offensive weapon. **When we speak with the Spirit, we speak with power!** Lehi and Nephi, sons of Helaman, spoke the word of God with power because of their preparation before doing battle. They had strong faith in Christ. They fasted and prayed often. They were about the Lord’s work. God’s word proceeds forth from the mouths of all His empowered sons and daughters as they serve the Lord valiantly. The 144,000 addressed in the Book of Revelation will have the seal of the living God in their foreheads – and the Sealing Power to command the elements, according to the Lord’s will. Their power will be *in their mouths* (Jacob 4:6; Rev. 9:19; Prov. 18:21; Matt. 12:36-37; Psalm 19:14). They will speak with the tongue of angels to both save *and* destroy. God promises to pour out His Spirit on all the righteous who serve Him in Spirit and Truth (D&C 27:18; Joel 2:2:28). With it the righteous have *power* because they have His Spirit with them. This *confounds* and *defeats* the enemy.

*Clarification for 6 & 7* “The Sword of Truth is used for piercing the heart of both the living and the dead with word of God. It uses your words with more power than words alone, because it pierces the heart and the soul of the spirits in who you stand against as a witness of all you believe. As you speak words of truth it pierces them to the very core and your testimony will stand as a witness against them at the last Day of Judgment. They ‘feel’ the sword’s power along with the words of truth, and it causes them to shrink and shudder”

#### **Example Scriptures Addressing God’s Whole Armor:**

*Convincing Power* Lehi and Nephi had great success among their enemies the Lamanites in the book of Helaman. They fasted and prayed often, receiving revelation daily. They thus had the Lord’s Spirit with them, giving them *the convincing power* of the Spirit – an effective sword of truth to *confound* their enemies and *pierce the hearts* of those they taught (see Helaman 5:17-19). Truth and light from above thus overcame all error and darkness. Many were “*convinced of the wickedness of the traditions of their fathers*” (verse 19).

*Dark Clouds May Blanket our Prayers* To finally answer Daniel's prayer (21 days in a “Daniel fast”), the angel sent of God had to descend to earth through the dark powers and mists above us, battling dark angels for many days to finally break through and present his message to Daniel (Daniel 10). We can use our shield of faith and our swords of truth and light to cut the binding cords and chains of the evil one and his servants. Ask for the Whole Armor and then proceed to cut the cords and chains via spoken words given of the Spirit.

*Binding Strong Men* To release held captives, oppressed by sickness or other darkness, it is helpful to discover and name who the “strong man” or *entity* is that may hurting the one affected, and then *bind* him - the “strong man” (Matthew 12:29). God may encourage you to “break” or “cut” the cords he has placed on another, and then to bind him with cords of light.

*Mighty Prayer* Christ prayed, giving thanks to God as He provided loaves and fishes for the multitude (John 6:23). The midnight prayer of Paul and Silas while in prison granted them a release from their trials. It was a powerful, united prayer of praise and thanksgiving, leading to freedom (Acts 16).