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**The Whole Armor of God
By Arlen Chitwood of** [**Lamp Broadcast**](http://lampbroadcast.org/)

[Ephesians 6:10-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10-18&t=NKJV) is the passage in the Word of God that instructs Christians concerning how to be properly clothed in order to withstand the onslaughts of Satan and his demons today. There is a battle presently being waged. This battle is specifically said *to not be* “against flesh and blood [*not against* fallen man residing on the earth],” but, *instead*, “against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world [age], against spiritual wickedness in high places [against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenlies]” ([Ephesians 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.12&t=NKJV)). And the issue at hand concerns a *future governmental control over the earth from a heavenly realm as joint-heirs with the “King of kings, and Lord of lords*.”

A battle of this nature requires extensive preparation, and *only those* properly prepared can be victorious in the battle. This is the reason given in [Ephesians 4:11ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+4.11ff&t=NKJV) for the *placement* of pastor-teachers in the Church, and this is the reason given in [Ephesians 6:10ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10ff&t=NKJV) for the battle-dress in which Christians are to be *arrayed*.

Christians entering into this conflict are to take unto themselves “*the whole armor of God*.” Nothing short of this will suffice, for Christians are able to *withstand* Satan’s attacks (are able to stand against the wiles of the devil) *only in this manner*.

Six items are listed for Christians to take in order to be *properly* clothed in the present conflict:

1)  *“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth . . . .”* ([Ephesians 6:14a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.14a&t=NKJV)).

There is no definite article before “truth.” This is *not* “the truth,” which is the Word of God. That appears *later* ([Ephesians 6:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.17&t=NKJV)).

The girdle is placed about the waist first, and the other pieces of armor are affixed to the girdle. Placing the girdle about the waist is with a view to the *other* pieces of armor *also* being *taken and put on*; and for a Christian to put on the *girdle of truth* can only be synonymous with a Christian *entering* the conflict in a *truthful or sincere and earnest manner*, looking ahead to *continuing* the process of putting on the armor, ultimately resulting in his *being clothed with the whole armor of God*.

Arraying one’s self with the girdle has to do with a Caleb and Joshua type attitude toward the goal in view:

*. . . Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.* ([Numbers 13:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+13.30&t=NKJV)).

2)  *“. . . having put on the breastplate of righteousness”* ([Ephesians 6:14b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.14b&t=NKJV)).

Note that this is something that the Christian *himself* is to put on. This has *nothing* to do with the righteousness of Christ *imputed* to the Christian at the time of the birth from above. Rather, the “breastplate of righteousness” has to do with *right living*. It has to do with the “righteous acts of the saints” ([Revelation 19:8, ASV](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19.8&t=ASV)), which *make up the wedding garment*.

3)  *“and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace”* ([Ephesians 6:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.15&t=NKJV)).

Note the emphasis in verses eleven, thirteen, and fourteen relative to *standing as one goes forth to battle*: “*to stand*” ([Ephesians 6:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.11&t=NKJV)), “*withstand* [*lit*., ‘stand against’],” “*to stand*” ([Ephesians 6:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.13&t=NKJV)), and “*Stand*” ([Ephesians 6:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.14&t=NKJV)). One must have *solid* footing to stand upon. Both feet must be *firmly* planted, “*shod . . . with the preparation* [‘readiness’] *of the gospel of peace*.”

There are *two aspects* to the gospel in Scripture. One appears in connection with “*peace with God*,” and the other appears in connection with “*the peace of God*.”

“*Peace with God*” comes about through *justification* by grace through faith, as seen in [Ephesians 2:8-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.8-9&t=NKJV): “*Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*” ([Romans 5:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+5.1&t=NKJV)). This peace results from one *being placed upon the foundation*, with the most *sure, steadfast footing possible*, *apart from which* there can be no conflict.

However, distinctions between “peace with God” and “the peace of God” are *not* what is in view in [Ephesians 6:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.15&t=NKJV), for availing oneself of the proper footwear (for both feet) is something that, contextually, occurs following salvation.

In a parallel passage to that which is in view, the *latter* part of [Romans 10:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+10.15&t=NKJV) states,

*How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!*

The feet are seen as the vehicle of *transportation* for the messenger, as he goes about proclaiming good news concerning peace. Within the overall scope of the good news, as previously stated, there is a facet of the message having to do with “*peace with God*” (for the *unsaved* [[Romans 5:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+5.1&t=NKJV)]) and there is a facet of the message having to do with the “*peace of God*” (for the *saved* [[Philippians 4:5-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+4.5-7&t=NKJV)]). The contextual emphasis in [Romans 10:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+10.15&t=NKJV) though has to do with the *saved*, *not* with the *unsaved*.

Exactly the *same* thought is in view regarding the *armor* in [Ephesians 6:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.15&t=NKJV). Having one’s feet properly *shod* has to do with proper *preparation* relative to the good news concerning *peace*, as it pertains to the *saved*, exactly as seen in [Romans 10:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+10.15&t=NKJV); and this would be based on the person *already* having “*peace with God*,” as seen in [Romans 5:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+5.1&t=NKJV).

The messenger’s feet being properly *shod* shows a proper *preparation* of the messenger as he goes about *proclaiming* this message concerning peace. And this message of peace would have two facets — the peace *o*f God now (having to do with the *present aspect of salvation*, the *outworking* of the *saving of the soul*), culminating in a *future* peace when the Prince of Peace is Himself *present* (having to do with the *future aspect of salvation*, when the *salvation of the soul will be realized*).

4)  *“Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one”* ([Ephesians 6:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.16&t=NKJV)).

“Faith” is simply *believing that which God has to say about a matter*. The weakness of the average Christian is *lack* of faith, which results from the *neglect* of prayerful study of and meditation in the Word of God. [Hebrews 11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11&t=NKJV), the great chapter on faith, provides the capstone to the first ten chapters of the book of Hebrews; and the opening two verses of [Hebrews 12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+12&t=NKJV) provide the capstone to all that is stated in chapter eleven.

In these verses, Christians are exhorted to “*lay aside every weight* [every hindrance in the spiritual warfare], *and the sin which so easily ensnares us* [lack of faith, the besetting sin common to every Christian (ref. [Hebrews 11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11&t=NKJV))].” And in this *manner alone* Christians are to *“run with endurance”* the race set before them, “*looking to Jesus* [*lit*., looking from, to Jesus (*i.e*., looking from all that surrounds, to Jesus)] . . . .”

5)  *“And take the helmet of salvation . . . .”* ([Ephesians 6:17a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.17a&t=NKJV)).

[1 Thessalonians 5:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Thessalonians+5.8&t=NKJV) reveals that this helmet *is* the “*hope of salvation*.” This is the salvation to be revealed (salvation of the *soul*) at the time Christ *returns*. The hope set before Christians is the *hope of occupying a position with Christ in His coming kingdom*. There is no other doctrine in the Word of God that will inspire and encourage a Christian *more* in the present conflict against Satan and his demons *than* the doctrine of “*that blessed hope*” ([Titus 2:12-13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Titus+2.12-13&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Colossians 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Colossians+1.5&t=NKJV), [27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Colossians+1.27&t=NKJV); [Titus 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Titus+1.2&t=NKJV); [3:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Titus+3.7&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 3:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.6&t=NKJV); [6:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+6.18&t=NKJV)).

6)  *“and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God”* ([Ephesians 6:17b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.17b&t=NKJV)).

Christ Himself, in the temptation account, demonstrated that the *one great weapon* to be used against Satan is *the Word of God*. Satan *also* knew and attested to the power of this Word when he attempted to use it against Christ ([Matthew 4:1-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+4.1-11&t=NKJV); [Luke 4:1-13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+4.1-13&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Hebrews 4:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.12&t=NKJV)). David said, *“Your Word I have hid in mine heart that I might not sin against You”* ([Psalm 119:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+119.11&t=NKJV)). It is vitally important, it is imperative, that *Christians know and use the Word of God in the present conflict*.

Having properly clothed and armed themselves, Christians are to then be:

*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.* ([Ephesians 6:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.18&t=NKJV))

*Overcoming is a lifelong task, provision has been made, and proffered rewards await the victors*. In the words of Paul, as he was moved [borne along] by the Holy Spirit, *“So run, that you may obtain”* ([1 Corinthians 9:24b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+9.24b&t=NKJV)).

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[Bible One - Arlen Chitwood's Judgment Seat of Christ, Ch. 4, The Whole Armor of God](http://bibleone.net/JSC04.htm)