

ARMOR OF GOD

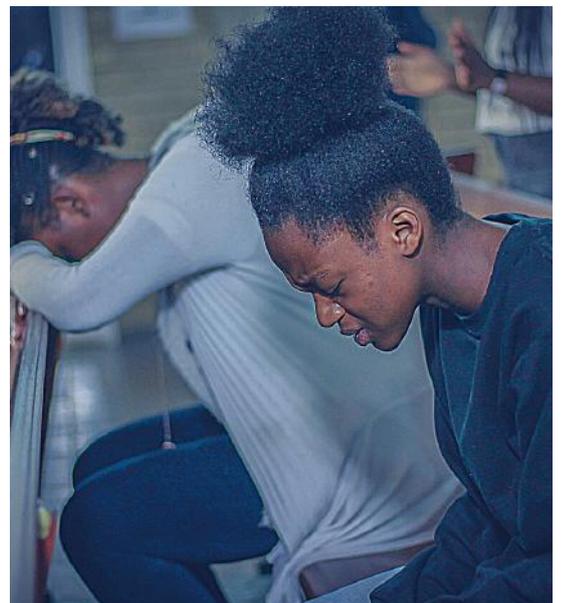
(Ephesians 6)



Paul's closing message to the church in Ephesus was a recommendation on approaching life. He wanted to raise awareness that the days are evil, the enemy has planned against them. He wanted to reveal to them that there was a war going on (not physical but spiritual), but above all, he wanted to show that everything they needed to stay standing was at their disposal. He describes this divine gear as the ARMOR OF GOD.

He starts by saying, "Be strong in the Lord and might of His power". This is to say that we can not do much with our strength. So to stay relevant in the battle, we need to rely on God's strength and trust that it is enough to see us through. We are weakest and most vulnerable to the enemies attack when we start depending on our strength. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, not half of it and stand your ground, not giving way to the enemy. Do not allow the enemy to bully you, nor become ignorant that there's an enemy.

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He then goes on to explain what this armor is comprised of. He speaks of the belt of truth that should be buckled on our waist. The belt carries your weapons; in other words, always have your weapons on you. Not only should you have your weapons on, but know what each weapon is for. What would it benefit you to have so many weapons without knowing how to use them? Be trained and become skilled by learning, studying and meditating the truth.

He also speaks of the breastplate of righteousness; its role is to guard your vital organ. Though we have been justified, it doesn't mean that we have to be partakers of unrighteous acts. Living right protects our vitals. When we honour God in the way we live, the enemy has no reach to our vitals. It also protects your vitals from the lies of the devil.

The next gear is the shoes, ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. God inspires the good news, but it is carried forth by man. Through our readiness to proclaim the good news, many will hear of this good God. Therefore, let your feet be ever ready to proclaim the gospel.

He advises that we should put on the shield of faith, of which we can stop the enemy's fiery darts. Do not undermine what faith can do for you. Hebrews 11 speaks of heroes that did wonders, and what they had in common was faith. The enemy's darts come in the form of fear, doubt, anxiety, and worry, but we can quench them and do exploits by faith. Faith is the shield that guards you, and if you feel as if your faith is shrinking, don't be afraid to ask God to strengthen your faith.

He adds that believers should put on the helmet of salvation. It means that one should guard their thoughts, filtering every thought through a renewed mind (see Romans 12:2). Let no believer entertain a thought contrary to what God thinks and we always should be mindful of the Lord's salvation.



Apostle Paul urges on to say that we should take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. "The word of God is alive and active" (Hebrews 4:12), and it is to our advantage to know it and apply it. It's not just good knowledge but a weapon that God has given us as believers.

Lastly, Paul encourages us to pray all kinds of prayers. Prayer is what gives access to the spiritual world. Through prayer, our weapons are put to work, whether for the defence or offence. Stay prayed up and praying for yourself and praying for others. Therefore, become conscious of the battle going on and put on the full armor because it is more effective when it's fully put on.