

Our Spiritual Armor
Turnpike Wesleyan Church – September 1, 2019

Introduction

2 Corinthians 9:8 says this ... “And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” Notice these key expressions: in all **things**, at all **times**, and all that you **need**. Why? So that you may **abound** in every good work!

2 Peter 1:3 enforces this blessing by telling us ... “His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.” Through our relationship with Christ, we have absolutely **everything** we need (not want) so that we can live a life that truly **reflects** Christ!

Only when we are **coupled** with Christ will we have the power to be **overcomers** in this world.

Spiritual warfare in the “heavenly realms.”

Ephesians 6:11-13 ... “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*. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.”

The “heavenly realms” seems like a peculiar expression. In fact, this phrase only appears **five** times in the Bible and each one is found in the book of Ephesians.

God reminds us that we now live in **two** realms at the same time, the **earthly** and the **heavenly**. We are creatures of **two** natures, and we are engaged in the spiritual **warfare** that is raging in both realms.

Put on the armor of God.

Ephesians 6:14-17 ... “Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up

the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

God has provided us with a **suitable** armor to **withstand** the spiritual attacks from the “heavenly realms.”

God’s armor includes **five** defensive weapons and **one** offensive weapon. We need to understand that the purpose of these weapons is to enable us to **stand** against the **evil** forces in the “heavenly realms.”

1. The belt of **truth**. This reference is two-fold in nature. It refers to God’s **absolute** truth, the Bible. And it points to the **ultimate** truth, Jesus Christ. If the Truth shall set you free, you shall be free indeed!
2. The breastplate of **righteousness**. The breastplate of righteousness refers to the righteousness **purchased** for us by Jesus at the cross (2 Corinthians 5:21). It is specially designed by God to protect our **heart** and **soul** from evil and deception. The breastplate of righteousness has Christ’s name stamped on it, as though He said, “Your righteousness isn’t **sufficient** to protect you. Wear mine.”
3. Your feet fitted with **readiness**. The word readiness implies constant **vigilance**. When we are ready with the gospel of peace, we live with the understanding that we are **continually** under attack from Satan. In addition to standing our ground, shoes are also for **moving**.
4. Shield of **faith**. The type of shield a soldier would carry was as large as a **door** and would cover the warrior **entirely**. It provides a **blanket** of protection. 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. 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.
5. Helmet of **Salvation**. A helmet was vital for survival, protecting the **brain**, the **command** station for the rest of the body. Salvation is not limited to a **one-time** act of the past or even a **future** hope. God’s salvation is an **ongoing**, eternal state that His children enjoy in the present.

6. Sword of the **Spirit**. 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**. The Greek word used in Ephesians 6:17 for the “word” of God is unique. There are **three** Greek words used in reference to the Bible. One referring to the book as a **whole**. The second word (Logos) refers to **every** word in the book. The word used in our text actually means to **proclaim** the book!