



Warrior of Faith MM Orlando

Introduction to Discipleship

When we joined this ministry, we confirmed our enlistment in the army of God. Our creed states:

I am a warrior in the army of God. The Lord Jesus Christ is my Commanding Officer.

The Holy Bible is my code of conduct. Faith, Prayer, and the Word are my weapons of Warfare. I have been taught by the Holy Spirit, trained by experience, tried by adversity, and tested by fire. I am a volunteer in this army, and I am enlisted for eternity.

My prayer is that you gain a deeper understanding of Spiritual Warfare and your God-given armor.

Discipleship Program

Paul wrote this letter to the church he planted in Ephesus during a time of cultural unrest. Ephesus was a hub for various religious practices, including worship of Artemis.

Ephesians 6:10-20 NKJV

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— ¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

What is a Warrior?

We sew a patch on our cut that has **EPH 6:10-20**. We are warriors in the army of God. In motorcycle ministry, it is imperative that we can walk the talk.



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The Jewish community in Ephesus was familiar with the language Paul used in his letter, and there was little doubt they knew from experience what a warrior was.

Roman soldiers were the finest military machines of their day and among the most skilled soldiers in the history of the world. These men were trained killers.

When Roman soldiers went out to fight, their commanding officer told them: "It would be better to die on the battlefield than to come back here and tell us that the enemy has won, so don't return to our encampment until the enemy has been annihilated. Make sure that you come home a winner, or don't come home at all."

They left for battle with the mental conviction of returning triumphant.

Roman Soldier's weaponry

- Belt – common, holds everything together
- Breastplate – some wore mail shirts, some wore scale armor
- Shoes – greaves from below the knee to top of foot, brass on top of foot, fastened to the foot with heavy leather straps
- Shield- battle shields were very large, made of animal hide
- Helmet – with side plates to protect the face, and a large plume on top
- Sword – several types of swords
 - *Pugio* - dagger
 - *Gladius* – most common
 - *Spatha* – long sword
- Lance/Javelin
 - *Hasta* – thrusting spear
 - *Pilum* – heavy javelin used for throwing

Spiritual Warfare

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 NKJV

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

Though we walk in the flesh – Nearly everything I do is in the flesh:

- I eat in the flesh
- I recreate in the flesh
- I sleep in the flesh
- I think in the flesh
- I study in the flesh



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My life primarily consists of this earthly realm, but Paul is telling us that we do not 'war' in the flesh. He is referring to the militant attitude of a trained soldier.

The weapons of our warfare are not of this earthly realm. In order for spiritual weapons to work effectively, they must be accompanied with a divine strategy on how to use them.

Anytime you are on the frontlines of battle and are doing something significant for the Kingdom of God, the enemy's attacks against your life will escalate.

Even Jesus came under such an attack when He was preparing to cast a legion of demons out of the demoniac of Godara (Mark 4:35-41).

Stronghold – a fortress or prison. Whereas a fortress keeps outsiders from getting in, a prison keeps insiders from getting out.

- When a person has a mental or emotional 'stronghold' in his life, he has walls around him that are so thick, others cannot seem to break through that barrier to help him
- Unrealistic fears of rejection will keep you from developing healthy relationships in your life
- Unrealistic fears about the future of your marriage will hinder you from functioning in the marital relationship as God intended.
- Unrealistic fears about potential failure will keep you from stepping out to obey God and do something worthwhile with your life

What's your Battle Plan?

Our view of spiritual warfare must begin with the basic understanding of Jesus already accomplished victory over Satan (1 John 3:8). The victory has already been won; there is nothing we can add to the destructive work Jesus did to Satan's domain when He was raised from the dead.

Colossians 2:15

And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

- Spoiled refers to the act of stripping one's garment off to the point of nakedness
- He completely stripped principalities and powers and left them utterly naked with nothing left at their disposal to retaliate
- Jesus didn't stop when His mission was accomplished, and His sacking and plundering was complete. Instead, Jesus rubbed this defeat in the devil's face

Your mental attitude has everything to do with how well you perform in the midst of a fight. You must be mentally prepared. This is why the apostle Peter said, *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end...*" (1 Peter 1:13).



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- *Gird up* – (Picture a Greek runner) – in order to run faster and better, he takes hold of his tunic and tucks it up underneath his belt. By doing this, he girds up his tunic, freeing his legs from getting caught up in it when he runs
- Peter commands us to gather up all the loose ends of our minds – to pull them up, tuck them under our belts
- If we are to successfully run our spiritual race and fight this fight of faith, we must prepare ourselves both emotionally and intellectually.

God's perfect plan is that His prevailing and conquering peace will dominate your life. When this kind of peace is firmly fixed in your mind and emotions, there is little the devil can do to move you! This peace gives you a firm footing.

- Peace of God is a protective peace. It protects you from fretfulness, anxiety, worry, and everything else that the devil might try to use to disturb your enjoyment of abundant life.

Full Armor of God

Ephesians 6 NKJV

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

- Stand = the image of one who is so confident that he is standing with his head held high and his shoulders thrown back.....i.e. a proud Roman soldier
- When you have put on the full armor of God, you have every reason to stand upright and be confident in God!
- 1 Corinthians 16:13 *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith....*
- 2 Corinthians 1:24 *...it is by faith you stand firm*
 - Have you ever tried to stand in faith?
 - Have you ever tried to stand for a miracle?
 - Have you ever tried to stand for a financial situation to turn around?
 - Have you ever tried to stand in faith for a relationship to be healed?
 - There's a whole lot more to standing than first meets the eye!
- When you stand in faith, the enemy will try to eliminate your faith

Loinbelt of Truth

- Common piece of equipment, plain; however, it holds armor together
- Without your belt, your pants will fall down!
- It's easy to fall apart when you don't have your belt on.
- The loinbelt was the most vital part of all the weaponry the Roman soldier wore.
- The only visible (we can hold a bible) part of our Spiritual Armor for it is the written Word of God (logos).



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- If you lay aside your Bible (your 'loincloth of truth'), in time you will begin to lose your sense of righteousness.
- Lay aside that loincloth of truth, and you will slowly begin to lose your sense of peace.
- Lay aside that loincloth of truth, and you will feel the joy of your salvation begin to deplete.
- If you toss that loincloth of truth, you will begin to lose your ability to believe in God and walk in faith.
- You absolutely cannot function as a believer without the Word of God.
- *The written Word of God supports everything else in your walk with God!*
- If you are not walking daily in the power of God's Word, neither are you walking in your God-given suit of spiritual armor. Without the Word of God operational in your life, you have no support for other pieces of spiritual weaponry. For you, there is no fight. Your battle is over before it ever begins. You have forfeited your victory by rejecting the most important piece of weaponry of all: the Word of God.

What would happen to your sense of righteousness if you stopped feeding on the written Word of God?

As you take an honest look at your own life, can you see areas that are beginning to fall apart at the seams because you have neglected the Word of God? What practical changes can you make to restore divine order to those particular areas of your life?

Breastplate of Righteousness

- 2 Corinthians 6:7 – *By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness....*
- Isaiah 59:17 – *For he put on righteousness as a breastplate...*
- The breastplate was the shiniest, most beautiful, and most glamorous piece of weaponry that the Roman soldier possessed.
- Several layers to complete the soldier's breastplate,
 - Coat of mail covered with brass discs (scale armor)
- Both defensive and offensive
 - Brass discs rubbed together while the soldier moved about and could blind opponents
 - The beauty of the Roman soldier's breastplate was enhanced by his using it and walking around clothed in it. Had the breastplate been stored in a dark room and never used, it would have been beautiful simply because it was made out of brass. But as the soldier used his breastplate and walked around wearing it, the breastplate became more and more beautiful with time.
 - The more you wear your breastplate of righteousness, walking through life fully conscious of your righteousness in Christ, the more brightly you will shine as a light in a dark world of sin.
- Christians who don't know they have been made righteous in Christ tend to habitually walk in condemnation.



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- On the other hand, when you know that God has made you righteous – when you have your breastplate of righteousness fixed firmly in place – it doesn't matter how many arrows the enemy shoots against you because not one arrow will penetrate. No word of condemnation, no false allegation, and no guilty thought will penetrate your heart or lodge in your mind when you are walking in your breastplate of righteousness.
- When you understand that God has freely imparted righteousness to you and that this God-given righteousness now serves you as a gorgeous breastplate, it will affect your attitude quite positively and profoundly.
 - You will discover that your level of confidence rises dramatically because an attitude of righteousness imparts both confidence and tremendous authority.

Consider your present prayer life. Do you pray with boldness and confidence, or are your prayers weak and hesitant? Do you see a need to meditate more on what it means to be righteous in God's eyes?

How might a greater understanding of your righteousness in Christ affect the way you go about your daily affairs and how you relate to other people?

Shoes of Peace

¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

- Greaves and spikes
 - Greaves were a tube-like piece of bronze or brass that began at the top of the knee and extended down past the lower leg, finally resting on the upper portion of the foot.
 - Made from a warped sheet of beautifully tooled metal that had been specifically formed to fit around the calf of the soldier's leg
 - The top and bottom of the foot was covered with fine pieces of brass. The sides of the shoes were held together by multiple pieces of durable leather. On the bottom, were dangerous spikes. If a soldier was involved in active combat, his spikes could have been close to three inches long!
 - Important for traveling rocky ground
- If your feet aren't protected, you can't advance on the enemy
- Peace not only protects you, but it also provides you with a brutal weapon to wield against the enemy when he attacks.
- If you use the weapon of peace correctly, it will keep spiritual foes where they belong – under your feet! One good kick, and the enemy's strategies against you will be crushed
- 'having your feet shod' – binding something very tightly
 - We must firmly tie peace around our lives. If we only give peace a loosely fitting position in our lives, the affairs of life will easily knock our peace out of place.
- When peace is foundational in our lives, we have a firm footing
- Colossians 3:15 – *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts*
 - Let the peace of God call the shots in your life



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- Let the peace of God umpire your life and your actions
- Let the peace of God referee your emotions and your decisions
- When this supernatural peace rules in your heart – umpiring your life and serving as a referee to your emotions and decisions – the devil cannot gain a foothold in your life. *Satan can't play games with your emotions or your mind when they are being governed by peace!*
- As you grow in your walk with God, spiritual confrontations will come to challenge your new growth. You must walk in the prevailing and conquering peace of God; otherwise, the enemy will throw you into a state of mental and emotional irrationality that will destroy your effectiveness for the Kingdom of God.
- Philippians 4:7 – *and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds...*
 - Keep = to guard, to protect or to garrison. It is the picture of a band of Roman soldiers who are standing watch over something that needs protection.
 - Peace will surround your heart and mind, just as a band of Roman soldiers surrounded important dignitaries and places of special importance to guard them from possible harm
 - When God's peace is active in your life, it surpasses all natural understanding in its ability to protect, guard, keep, and defend you from the enemy's attacks.
- Spikes – God gives us supernatural peace to firmly plant our feet in the ground. His peace enables us to say, "Regardless of what I see or what I hear, I'm not moving! I don't care how hard it becomes, the peace of God keeps me here, and I'm not moving until the work of God in this area of my life is finished.
- Peace is also an offensive weapon. Romans 16:20 *And the God of peace will bruise Satan under your feet shortly.*
 - Bruise – also used to denote the act of snapping, breaking and crushing bones. A picture of breaking bones so terribly that they can never be mended or healed.
 - Satan's only rightful position is under our feet, completely subdued
 - It is important to point out that this breaking and crushing of Satan is done in cooperation with God. Alone, you are no match against this fallen angel.
 - Even in his fallen state, he has retained his original intelligence. He is very smart, cunning and crafty, and he is extremely strong.
 - Jesus completely destroyed Satan's power over you through His death and resurrection. Satan was utterly smashed, crushed, and bruised by Jesus' victorious resurrection from the dead. Now your God-given mission is to reinforce the victory already won and to demonstrate just how miserably defeated Satan already is!

Shield of Faith

¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.



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- The shield and the loincloth were inseparably linked to each other. The massive shield of the Roman soldier rested on a small clip attached to his loincloth when it was not in use
 - The loincloth is representative of the written Word of God, the Bible. Attached to this 'loincloth of truth' is the shield, which is representative of faith.
 - Your faith is attached to the Word of God!
 - If you fail to give the Word of God a place of top priority in your life, it is only a matter of time before your faith will begin to dwindle and wane – because the presence or absence of faith is determined by the presence or absence of God's Word.
- **Romans 10:17 states, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** This verse emphasizes that faith is developed through listening to the message of Christ, highlighting the importance of preaching and sharing the Gospel.
 - Get in the Word of God. Hear the Word of God. Meditate on the Word of God. It will put a shield into your hand! Faith and the Word of God are inseparable
 - Where there is no Word, there is no faith
- Battle shields were large and oblong, not like the 'parade' shields, as big as a door
 - God has given us enough faith to make certain we are completely covered
 - Made of many layers of thick animal hide, tanned and tightly woven together making it extremely strong and exceptionally long-lasting and hard-wearing
- **Care of shield.** Although the many layers of animal hide made the shield extremely durable, that tough, thick leather could become stiff and breakable over time if not properly cared for.
 - Soldiers were given daily schedules for shield maintenance. Each morning when he woke, he would reach for his shield and for a small vial of oil. After saturating a piece of cloth with this heavy ointment, he would thoroughly rub the oil into the leather of the shield to keep it soft, supple, and pliable.
 - For a soldier to ignore this daily application of oil and to let his shield go without this kind of required care was essentially the equivalent of his inviting certain death
 - Because the shield is representative of our faith, this analogy tells us that our faith requires frequent anointings of the Holy Spirit.
 - Without a fresh touch of the Holy Spirit's power on your life, your faith will become hard, stiff, and brittle. If you ignore your faith and allow it to go undeveloped, never seeking a fresh anointing of God's Spirit to come upon your life, your faith won't be soft, supple, and pliable enough to stand up under attack when a challenge comes your way.
 - **Faith that is ignored nearly always breaks and falls to pieces during a confrontation with the enemy.**
- Before going into battle, the soldier placed his shield in a tub of water; then left it soaking until it was completely saturated. Why? Because their enemies used arrows that carried fire. Even when those dangerous flaming arrows hit their target, the wet surface of the shields would extinguish them on impact. Those wet shields gave the soldier an upper hand in battle by putting out the enemy's fire.



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- *Above all* describes position, not importance. Paul is saying your faith is supposed to be out in front where it can cover all. Faith was never meant to be held next to your side or to be timidly held behind your back.
- *Taking up* – our shield of faith can be picked up or put down. The choice is ours to make
 - If we've gotten discouraged and laid down our faith and stopped believing God to work in our lives, it's not too late for us to pick up our shield and walk in faith again.
- *With which* denotes explosive power or dynamic power. When you hold your shield of faith in front of you – and when that shield of faith is both anointed by the Holy Spirit and saturated with the Word of God – your faith positions you to move in God's explosive and dynamic power!
- There is an unseen connection between the power of God and the operation of faith in your life. (1 Peter 1:5). Power and faith working together in your life will spiritually equip you to hold an ironclad position against the enemy without taking any serious blows yourself.
- *Fiery darts* arrows containing combustible fluids that burst into flames upon impact
 - These arrows were reserved to inflict damage on a fortified place or an encampment
 - When Satan has no easy access into your life, he will try another, more covert way to come against you – shooting a fire-bearing arrow into your emotions.
 - Many believers are hit by the enemy's fiery arrows every day because they are not walking with their shield of faith held out in front of them, where it belongs. Not only that, but they neglect their shield of faith, failing to keep it anointed by the Spirit and saturated with the water of the Word.

Helmet of Salvation

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

- Helmet is prominent, noticed
 - Flamboyant piece of weaponry, very ornate and intricate
 - Made of bronze and equipped with pieces of armor that were specially designed to protect the cheeks and jaws

Paul likened salvation to the flamboyant helmet that was worn on a soldier's head where everyone would notice it

- 2 Timothy 3:15 *"And how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ"*
 - This tells you the *Scripture puts a helmet on your head!*
 - As you renew your mind to the Word of God, the truth contained in that Word becomes your spiritual helmet.



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- If your salvation – like a helmet – is not worn tightly around your mind, the enemy will come to chop the multiple benefits and blessings of your salvation right out of your belief system.
- He will whack away at your spiritual foundation, trying to tell you that healing, deliverance, preservation of mind, and soundness are not really a part of Jesus' redemptive work on the Cross.

When you are walking in the full knowledge of your salvation, you think and talk like a saved man or woman.

When your mind is renewed with the Word of God concerning all the blessings contained in your salvation, you think and talk like a saved man or woman.

When your mind is filled with the goodness of God because salvation is tightly wrapped around your mind, you think and talk like a saved man or woman.

- You think differently when you wear your helmet of salvation

Take – translated as the word 'receive' 40 times in the New Testament. Thus, the verse would be better translated, "And **receive** the helmet of salvation"

- God is not going to force a renewed mind on you, you have to receive this helmet of salvation. You have a part to play in the saving of your mind.

The devil wants to rob you of every blessing that God has prepared for you. Satan wants to take every good thing from you that he can. So it's up to you to fill your mind with all that God has done for you.

Sword of the Spirit

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

- Language used by Paul identified the type of sword as one of deadliest carried by soldiers at the time
- Double-edged sword, approx. 19" long, with upturned tip
- Where did the Roman soldier find his sword when he needed it? It was hanging in its scabbard on his side, attached to a clip that hung from the *loinbelt*. (the written Word)
- Paul's language for 'word' is *rhema* – something spoken clearly, vividly....
 - A *rhema* is a specific word or message that the Holy Spirit quickens in our hearts and minds at a specific time and for a special purpose
 - The written Word (*logos*) is the primary source for a *rhema* Word

Hebrews 4:12 – *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow.*



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- When you walk in the Word of God, you are in position for the Word to pierce and to discern the thoughts and intents of your heart.
- When the word of God gets in your heart and mind, that Word begins to impart light and direction to you.
- When the divine light of the Word is working in your spirit and mind, that light will come forth like a mighty blade out of your mouth, giving you the very words and direction you need to overcome the devil's attacks at that precise moment.
- Jesus used the written word against Satan when he was tempted in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-3)

Lance of Prayer

Not many realize there is another piece of weaponry available for us to be used from a distance. Paul does not name a 'lance of prayer' in this passage, only giving instruction to pray always with all prayer.

¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

- Long distance weapon – used for hurling at an enemy from a distance
 - Soldiers had various kinds of lances, short, long, narrow, wide, pointed, dull, jagged, multiple-blade
 - The average soldier in the infantry carried five short lances and one long lance
 - Roman army used a lance called the *pilum*
 - As enemy forces approached, they would hurl these heavy lances towards their foes, thereby striking them to the ground before they were able to penetrate their army encampment
- Paul is imagining the entire range of lances and spears as he comes to the issue of prayer.

Praying always – at each and every occasion, at every opportunity, every time you get a chance, at every season, at each and every possible moment.

With all prayer – translated as 'with all kinds of prayer'

- Just as the Roman soldier had a short lance for thrusting an enemy at close range, nothing can compare to a believer's prayer of faith that is filled with authority!
- Just as the Roman soldier had a long lance to hurl at his opponent from afar, we have the weapon of intercession that allows us to thwart an enemy attack in our lives or in someone else's life before it ever occurs.
- Pray with all manner of prayer



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- Pray with all kinds of prayer
- Pray with all the kinds of prayers that are available for you to use.

Prayer of Consecration (*proseuche*)– Hannah’s prayer (1 Samuel 1:11, 19, 20) come face to face with God, and surrender your life in exchange for His, consecrating your life in an ongoing basis – most common word for prayer – used approximately 127 times in the New Testament

Prayer of Petition (*deesis*) – expressing one’s basic needs and wants to God. A person praying this kind of prayer appeals to God from a position of humility as he or she asks God to grant some kind special petition – used more than 40 times in the New Testament

Prayer of Authority (or the Prayer of Faith) (*aiteo*)– tangible needs (food, shelter, money) – used approximately 80 times in the New Testament

- John 15:7 – Jesus says, “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask (*aiteo*) what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”
- You can boldly assert your faith and expect God to move on your behalf (Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.)
- If the word of God permanently dwells in us, and if we pray according to that indwelling Word, we can come into the presence of God and make our requests known with great boldness, courage and confidence.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*eucharistia*) – refers to wonderful feelings and good sentiments that freely flow up and out of the heart in response to something – used 15 times throughout the New Testament

- It is primarily used in Paul’s epistles when he joyfully thanks God for someone or for a group of individuals.
- Ephesians 1:16, Colossians 1:3, 1 Thessalonians 1:2
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 – In everything *give thanks*: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Prayer of Supplication (*enteuxis*) – to fall into a situation or to happen into a circumstance with someone else – used 5 times in the New Testament

- Carries the idea of one who comes to God in simple, childlike faith, to freely enjoy fellowship in the presence of the Lord.
- Romans 11:2; 1 Timothy 2:1; 4:5)

Prayer of Intercession (*huperentugchano*) – only used once in the New Testament

- Romans 8:26 - Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes *intercession* for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
- The word intercession is an old word that means to fall in on behalf of someone else. (to rescue)



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God has given us three offensive weapons, three defensive weapons, and one neutral weapon. The breastplate, the shield, and helmet are defensive weapons. These are weapons that protect you and give you confidence and assurance so you can move forward in your spiritual growth.

The three offensive weapons are the shoes, the sword, and the lance. These are weapons that enable you to enforce and demonstrate Satan's already secured defeat.

The neutral weapon is the loincloth, which is representative of the Word of God. It is the central piece of weaponry that holds all of these other pieces together. Without this central piece of spiritual armor, the written Word, the other pieces cannot function properly in your life.

Spiritual battles are just like natural battles. Nations don't constantly engage in warfare; they fight when a problem comes along. Afterward, their soldiers return home, enjoy a time of peace and refreshing. God has given us spiritual weaponry so that when battles do come, we will be prepared to maintain our victorious position over Satan.

No matter what challenge you encounter, your ultimate victory depends on whether or not you use the spiritual weapons God has provided for you.