

## “Praying The Armor Of God,” Part 2

In last month’s newsletter article I introduced the idea of using Paul’s discussion of the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18) as a guide for prayer. It lends itself to this since it covers the entire gamut of our walk with Christ. Here are several points of focus arising from these verses.

### Honesty

Paul tells us to fasten on the belt of truth (6:14) which most likely deals with our being honest in regard to where we are at with God. Since the heart is very deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9), it is easy to tell our self we’re fine, when in reality we are not. It is easy for us to ignore what God’s Word says, thinking we don’t need it when we do. So, pray for your leaders, your family, and your friends to be honest and open about where we are with our Lord.

### Righteousness

The Roman soldier’s breastplate protected their vital organs from fatal blows. Paul says that when our behavior is in line with God’s character, in other words, when we are righteous in what we do, there is much protection (6:14). This fits with Proverbs 14:12: “There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death.” (NLT) When Christians live out the new life that we have in Christ it tends to protect us from much unnecessary hardship and pain. Ask God to give you and others grace to follow His will.

### Gospel Readiness

First century soldiers wore spiked sandals which not only gave stability by supporting the ankles with straps, but enabled them to keep their feet on bloody battlefields. In the same way, when Christians regularly focus on the gospel to remember they are both empowered and forgiven, it keeps us on our feet. Paul teaches in Ephesians 6:15, we must pray we can daily preach the gospel to self and apply it.

### Faith

To trust that God will be for us all He has promised to be for us in Christ is crucial for us to follow Him. Without faith to shield us from the devil’s doubt-laden arrows, we will doubt God’s favor toward us and His commitment to care for us (6:16). With no hope we will typically take things into our own hands and consent to follow sinful, harmful ways. Pray, therefore, that our faith will be continually strong, growing, and will protect us from our enemy.

### Salvation

In the same way a soldier is dangerously exposed without his head covered, so we are exposed to Satan when we are not saved and/or when we are not learning about how our salvation should inspire hope. (6:17) Pray, therefore for people’s salvation and also for continued increase in the understanding of our salvation.

### Bible Intake

Finally, pray that every Christian you know would take in the Bible, believe it, and do it on a regular basis. The sword of the Spirit is our only offensive weapon!

God grant us grace to be prayer warriors!

