

Prayer and the Armour of God

Eph 6:10-13; 18-20

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² 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. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armour 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.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

For the next two weeks, we will be talking about the armour of God and how it applies to prayer. Becoming a Christian comes with a welcome pack. When you receive Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, you get everything that comes with it, which is a lot. Most of maturing in Christianity is just opening up and applying the different things that come with salvation that you didn't know came in the pack.

One of the things that comes with being a Christian is the armour of God, which Paul refers to in Ephesians 6. And he tells us to put on the armour of God. Notice that he doesn't say to earn the armour of God or make sure that you qualify for the armour of God, he just says to put it on. In other words, you've been given the armour as a gift, you just need to put it on.

The armour of God is one of those things that you're given when you become a Christian, and you're meant to put it on to function and fulfil your purpose as a follower of Christ. If you just take it along with you and never use it, you'll still get to heaven, but you'll miss out on all the benefits that come with the armour of God.

1. Feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Eph 6:15

¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Is 52:7

How beautiful upon the mountains
Are the feet of him who brings good news,
Who proclaims peace,
Who brings glad tidings of good *things*,
Who proclaims salvation,
Who says to Zion,
"Your God reigns!"

This scripture is actually talking about Jesus thousands of years before He was born. And the prophet Isaiah gets this revelation from God that the Messiah, Jesus, would bring good news, which is what the word gospel literally means, proclaiming peace, good things, salvation, and

that your God, the God you've been putting your trust in, reigns. Jesus would come and bring good news salvation and redemption for anyone who chooses to believe in Him.

So when the armour of God refers to the gospel of peace, it's really referring to this exact gospel, that Jesus has come to bring good news, peace, good things, salvation, and the reign of God. So the scripture tells us to have the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. Notice that it doesn't say readiness with the gospel of peace, it says readiness that comes from.

In this scripture, it says to have your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. It's not being ready with the gospel, is being ready because you have the gospel. The readiness and preparation that is the result of knowing the gospel.

The one thing that every believer must do is to believe and accept that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died on the cross for our sins, was raised to life on the third day, and ascended to heaven, and because of His sacrifice, when we die, we will have eternal life.

Compared to anything you could ever see on earth, the greatest miracle is when someone gives their life to Jesus and then the impossible happens – their eternity changes from hell to heaven, from condemnation to acceptance, from brokenness to wholeness, and that person will literally live in paradise forever in the presence of God.

If you can believe that Jesus died for you so that you would have eternal life, you can believe for anything.

Romans 8:32

³²He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Sometimes, the devil will come against you with this lie: "Prayer doesn't work. So don't bother praying."

If your prayer of salvation worked, for the greatest miracle of all, then all your prayers can work. When you understand the gospel of peace, you're ready to pray for anything. The gospel has transformed your life, and if you can pray, ask, and receive eternal life, you can pray, ask, and receive anything.

So when we think of the shoes that the soldiers would wear, they were called caliga, they were built for stability, to have grip, and to make sure that their footing was sure. When we remember that our prayer for salvation worked, it gives us sure footing to pray for everything else.

2. The shield of faith

Eph 6:16

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

In Genesis 14, we read about Abram and his nephew, Lot. Basically, what happens is that there's this great battle between all these kings and Abram and Lot are caught in the middle. They aren't really aligned to anyone there, just trying to make their way through. But during this battle, Lot is captured by one of the kings. So Abram gets his men and they pursue Lot and have to fight to rescue him.

Genesis 15:1

15 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I *am* your shield, your exceedingly great reward.”

God declares Himself Abram’s shield. God tells Abram not to act out of fear, but to instead trust God as his shield.

We can either create shields out of fear or shields out of faith. Fear can make us not want to move forward in the things that God has called us to or to shrink back from a purpose that God has placed in our hearts or to avoid having that difficult conversation that we know is the right thing to do or to not give that generous amount to someone because of high interest rates. And we make all these decisions out of fear to protect ourselves. So we resist what God wants us to do so that we feel more safe.

But you know what a shield of fear can’t do? It can’t protect us from the fiery darts of the enemy. Sometimes the enemy attacks with temptation, trying to make you enter into sin and destroy your character. Sometimes the enemy attacks your relationships and tries to put animosity between you and a loved one. Or maybe it’s a situation or health condition where the enemy is attacking you. One of the worst things about having a shield of fear is that we protect ourselves by not even trying to pray. “What if God doesn’t answer my prayer? What if I pray and nothing happens? What if my prayer is ignored?”

A shield of fear is false sense of security. Fear is never a good reason to make a decision.

God tells Abram, do not be afraid, I am your shield.

When you have a shield of faith, it means that you are putting your hope and trust in God, that God is the one who will protect, God is the one who will save, God is the one who will come through. When we exercise our faith, we put our hope and trust in God.

John 10:28-29

²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one.”

We pray out of faith, believing and trusting that God is greater than all, no one can snatch us away from His hand.

3. The sword of the Spirit which is the word of God

Eph 6:17-18 (NKJV)

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”

In the NKJV it goes from sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, and straight away says, praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit. The sword of the Spirit is the only part of the armour that has an offensive component to it. Right here, available for anyone who wants it, easy to access even online, is the greatest threat to every demonic attack and demonic force. And God has given it you. The most powerful weapon is right here.

The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. And we can use the bible to pray. In the NIV version, it says, “¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

Paul tells us to pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. That means that there are different types. And in all occasions, so not just before you have a meal, but all occasions. When you’re celebrating, when you’re mourning, when you’re going to work, when it’s someone’s birthday, when someone is applying for a job, when someone is sick, we need to pray.

Then the scripture says to always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. So don’t just pray for yourselves, but pray for everyone. Everyone has something that will benefit from prayer. Whether it’s a life or death situation, a need that they might have, a revelation that they need, spiritual growth, a new perspective, whatever situation, just keep on praying for them.

Basically, this is a lot of prayer. And for many different reasons, that can feel like an impossible task and something that we aren’t able to do.

But here’s the thing, God has given you the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and we can use this bible to pray. If you have no idea how to pray, you don’t know where to begin, you don’t know what to say, just start by using the bible. Read scripture as a prayer. Find the scripture that applies to your situation.

Whenever we read and pray scripture, the enemy has no comeback. When Jesus was tempted by the devil in Luke 3, He just quoted scripture and the devil moved on.

Eph 6:18-20

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Paul is asking them to pray not just for themselves so that they would be able to stand against the schemes of the devil for themselves, but also for the Lord’s people, in other words, for one another. And Paul asks prayer for himself, so that the word of God would go out, so that he would be fearless, and that ultimately, people would be saved and God would be glorified. When we pray, we don’t just help ourselves, we help those around us and we take territory from the enemy, seeing those around us find salvation.

If we would start to put on and activate the armour of God in our lives, we will begin to see the schemes of the enemy fall flat, and we’ll start to pray powerful prayers that not only help ourselves, but help those around us and grow the kingdom of God. God hasn’t given us the armour just as pieces of decoration, He wants us to activate them so that we would be ready for battle and to see demonic forces defeated and God’s kingdom grow here on earth.