

October 2021

Set Your Mind on Things Above! (Pt. 2) (The Armor of God)

Hello, Friends,

It is my hope that you have been meditating the scriptures provided in <u>last month's letter</u>. The Lord's desire is that we increase our awareness that there are two realms – the spiritual and the natural - and that we begin to consciously (or more consciously, as the case may be) operate in the spiritual realm.

I ended last month's letter with the admonition that setting our minds (and keeping them set) on things that are above requires intentionality. We must CHOOSE to receive God's thoughts and walk in His ways. We must discipline ourselves to walk by faith and not by sight. We must take the initiative to study God's Word to know what is in our spiritual arsenal and learn how to use it.

Let's pick up there: *We must take the initiative to study God's Word to know what is in our spiritual arsenal and learn how to use it.* We must remember that 1) even though we are *in* this world, we are not *of* this world, 2) the spiritual realm is more real than the natural realm, and 3) the spiritual realm precedes and supersedes the natural realm.

Paul instructs us in I Corinthians 2:12: Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. In the spirit of increasing our awareness that there is a spiritual realm and a natural realm, let's read it again, substituting the **red** words with "spiritual" and the **black** words with "natural":

Now we have received, not the spirit of the *world* [*natural*], but the Spirit which is of *God* [*spiritual*]; that we might know the [*spiritual*] things that are freely given to us of God.

What are some of these spiritual things that God has freely given us? The list is endless. The three the Lord wants me to emphasize today are 1) the Holy Ghost, 2) wisdom and revelation, and 3) the armor of God.

- **THE HOLY SPIRIT** guides us into all truth (John 16:13); reveals the deep things of God (I Cor. 2:9-10); teaches us and brings all things that the Lord has told us to our remembrance, and strengthens us (John 14:26 AMPC).
- WISDOM AND REVELATION OF GOD give us insight into mysteries and secrets of the Kingdom of God, where we access plans, strategies, divine instruction, and divine provision. They also take us into places of greater intimacy and deeper knowledge of our loving, all-wise, all-knowing Heavenly Father. (See Eph. 1:17 AMPC.)



• **THE ARMOR OF GOD** (Eph. 6:13-18) consists of supernatural weaponry that, though considered by many to include only one offensive weapon, is both entirely offensive and entirely defensive. Rick Renner, a noted Greek scholar in the Gospel community, provides a wealth of information about the armor in his book, "Dressed to Kill." Let's look at all seven items (that's right – seven!) piece by piece. (You thought there were six, didn't you?) Let's take inventory:



Yep! That's seven! 😊

So as not to overwhelm you with a super long letter, we will discuss the first three pieces of the armor in this month's letter and will continue with the last four next month.¹

1. <u>Belt of Truth (v. 14)</u>

For the Roman soldier, whom Paul envisioned when he described God's armor, the loinbelt was the most important piece of his armor. Without the loinbelt, the soldier would have no place to hang his sword, latch his shield, or connect his breastplate. Rick Renner describes it this way:

> The loinbelt held it all together!... The soldier's armor would have literally fallen apart, piece by piece, if he hadn't had the loinbelt fixed in its place around his waist. That's why the loinbelt was so vital to the Roman soldier.... Without it, he had absolutely no confidence in fighting. With it, he was assured that all the pieces of his equipment would stay in place so he could move quickly and fight with great fury (pp. 262-63).¹

Just as the loinbelt was the most important piece of the Roman soldier's armor, so is it ours. The loinbelt of truth represents the written Word of God. It is by the Word of God that our lives are held together. It is the piece of armor on which all other pieces hinge. Without the Word of God, we would not be grounded in righteousness, faith, peace, or salvation.

The written Word of God gives us direction and brings revelation (Ps. 119:105, 130). It gives us wisdom (Ps. 19:7) and positions us for victory (II Tim. 3:16-17). Just as the Roman

¹ Much of this teaching is adapted from Rick Renner's Book, "Dressed to Kill."

Renner, R. (1991). *Dressed to kill: A biblical approach to spiritual warfare and armor*. Harrison House. Available for purchase at <u>https://renner.org/product/dressed-to-kill/</u>



soldier's armor would fall apart without the loinbelt, so will our lives without the written Word of God. (Click <u>here</u> to access my free ebook: A Sweet Love Affair (With the Word).)

- <u>Offensive:</u> Take territory! Walk in your identity as defined by the Word of God (e.g., This is my Bible. I am what it says I am, I have what it says I have, and I can do what it says I can do!)
- <u>Defensive</u>: Use the Word to cast down every high thought that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

2. Breastplate of Righteousness (v. 14)

Contrary to popular teaching, the breastplate does not just cover the front of the soldier. It consists of two pieces of metal held together by solid brass rings on top of his shoulders. It begins at the top of his neck and goes down to his knees – one piece covers the front, and one covers the back. While the loinbelt was the Roman soldier's most important piece of weaponry, the breastplate was the most beautiful.

The breastplate consisted of small, scale-like pieces of brass that would rub against each other when the soldier walked. The more the metal rubbed against each other, the more luster it created. When the soldier's breastplate met with the sunshine outside, it became a beautiful, dazzling spectacle. When the light hit it just right, it caused a glare that made it hard for others looking at it to see clearly.

The more the soldier walked in his breastplate, the brighter he shone. So it is with us. The more we walk conscious of our identity as the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, the more brightly we will shine as a light in a dark world.

- <u>Offensive:</u> Take territory! Walk forward in righteousness consciousness (e.g., I am in right standing with God, there is no condemnation to me...).
- <u>Defensive</u>: Use the reality of your being the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus to blind the enemy and thwart his attacks. Usurp every weapon that is formed against you and condemn every tongue that rises against you in judgment.

3. Shoes of Peace (v. 15)

The Roman soldier's shoes were composed of two parts: the greave and the shoe. The greave protected the soldier's leg from above the knee down to the foot. The shoe was made of two pieces of metal, which covered the top and bottom of the foot and were tightly bound together with multiple pieces of durable leather. The bottom of the shoe had extremely dangerous spikes that were one or more inches long.



The tightness of the shoes on the soldiers' feet provided them with firm footing. Hence, they had assurance that their shoes were ready to stay in place. The spikes allowed them to traverse tough territory and served to attack the enemy when needed. They were ready to march out onto the battlefield and confront the enemy. When we have our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, we can have that same assurance! The peace of God gives us firm footing and readies us to step out in confident, victorious faith.

- <u>Offensive</u>: Take territory! Walk forward in confidence with the conquering force of peace that prevails in every area of your life (e.g., I am not moved by what I see, I am not moved by what I feel...).
- <u>Defensive</u>: Use the peace of God as an impenetrable safe haven. (Isaiah 26:3 *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee.*)

As you can see, our spiritual armor is both offensive and defensive. As you go throughout your day, week, or month... as you head into the holiday season... as you move into the new year - how many ways can you employ these spiritual weapons that you have not employed them before? I speak Light Be! to you! Praise God for continued revelation of what is in our spiritual arsenal and for teaching us how to use it! (Be sure to look for next month's letter where we will learn about the other four pieces of our spiritual armor!)

If you receive this Word, **I encourage you to sow on the revelation.** Sow your seed as a faith expression that you believe you have received and that you expect to see results of this Word in your life. As always, name your seed for the harvest you are expecting. I stand in agreement with you on the Word of God found in Luke 1:45: Blessed are you that believe: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told you from the Lord.

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I AM EXCITED to share with you what God is doing through God's Love Song Ministries. I was speaking with a brother I minister to through our *Online Ministry to Kenya* Bible Study. His son became ill while he and his wife were out of town. He said, "When we reached home, [our son] wasn't feeling well at all and I had no money to take him to the



hospital. Day 1 and day 2 went ... he wasn't improving . I texted Prophetess Katherine that my son wasn't feeling well and that it was making me emotionally sick to see my son sick. She texted me back immediately, saying, "No, no, no! That is not the stance you take as a believer!" As soon as she texted, she called. She ministered the Word to me urgently and told me to confess [the Word] because the enemy always awaits the negative report out of our mouth and attacks us with that. I began confessing [the Word] that my son is whole...he is not sick. Within 24 hours, he stopped vomiting...then the diarrhea stopped...then the fever stopped - with NO MEDICATION at all!!! I've seen this happen for other people, but now I have a testimony for myself!" To God be the glory!

Do you have a testimony to share? Click here. Wondering how you can be a part of our Online *Ministry to Kenya?* Click here!

If you have been blessed through God's Love Song Ministries, I encourage you to go before the Lord and ask Him what your part is with this ministry. **PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER** becoming a Light Be! Partner. Not only will you be a partaker of the grace that is on my life and this ministry, but your prayers and financial seed will help us share the delicious Word you receive through this ministry with others worldwide! Click here to learn more.

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