... Owning and Celebrating our Identity in Christ and Influencing Others to do the Same!



November 2021

Set Your Mind on Things Above! (Pt. 3) (The Armor of God - Pt. 2)

Hello, Friends,

It is my hope that you have been meditating the truths provided in <u>last month's letter</u>. The Lord had me to teach (with Rick Renner's help)¹ about the armor of God. This teaching stemmed out of the Lord's desire that we increase our awareness that there are two realms – the spiritual and the natural - and that we begin to consciously operate in the spiritual realm.

I ended the last two Ministry letters with the admonition that setting our minds (and keeping them set) on things 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 from there again: 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 [natural] of the world, but the Spirit [spiritual] which is of God; that we might know the things [spiritual] that are freely given to us of God.

One of the [spiritual] things God has freely given us is the armor of God. We began learning about the armor of God in last month's letter:

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 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." Last month we looked at the first three items – the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Righteousness, and the Shoes of Peace. Today we will continue with the last four (items 4-7): the Shield of Faith, the Helmet of Salvation, the Sword of the Spirit, and – the part of the armor that is often overlooked - the Lance of Prayer.

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 https://renner.org/product/dressed-to-kill/

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4. Shield of Faith (v. 16)

The Roman soldier's shield was not a small shield that only covered the top half of a person. No, this shield was long and wide and shaped like a door. This shield covered the soldier completely! If this was true of a soldier's shield in the natural, what does that say about the shield God has given us in the spiritual? God has given us enough faith to cover us from head to toe in every situation in life. We are completely covered!

The Roman soldier's shield was made of leather. It was vitally important for the soldier to maintain his shield. If he did not, it would eventually become hard, stiff, brittle, and ineffective. A soldier's failure to maintain his shield would cost him his life on the battlefield.

The soldier maintained his shield through a 2-part daily ritual: 1) by rubbing oil into the leather to keep it soft, supple, and pliable, and 2) by saturating his shield by soaking it in a tub of water until it was completely saturated. It was this saturation that equipped the shield – both to extinguish the fiery darts shot by the enemy and to march confidently into new territory. Just as the Roman soldier had to maintain his shield, we must maintain ours.

We maintain our shields with the oil of the Holy Spirit and the water of the Word. We must commune with Holy Spirit daily to receive fresh and frequent anointing (i.e., empowerment and ability). We must also study our Word daily.

- Offensive: Take territory! Our faith activates the power of God in our lives. Walk forward in the explosive and dynamic power of God (e.g., All things are possible with God..., God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that I ask or think...).
- <u>Defensive:</u> Use your well- and properly-maintained faith to extinguish all the fiery darts of the enemy! Stop the attacks in their tracks!

5. Helmet of Salvation (v. 17)

➤ We've covered Roman soldiers' most important piece of weaponry – the loinbelt. We've covered his most beautiful piece of weaponry – the breastplate. Now we will cover the soldier's most ornate piece of weaponry – his helmet.

The Roman soldier's helmet looked more like a piece of artwork than a piece of weaponry. It was very difficult to walk past a Roman soldier without noticing him! As eye-catching as it was, it served as protection for his head. Likewise, our helmet of salvation serves as protection for our spiritual heads (or our minds). When we walk confidently in the revelation of our salvation and all that belongs to us, we are protected from the attacks the enemy would launch on our minds. Not to mention — when we walk confidently in our salvation, we exhibit the beautiful glory of the Lord! So much so, it is difficult for others to walk past us without noticing us!



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- Offensive: Take territory! Think with the mind of Christ. Receive and employ Kingdom strategies that the enemy knows nothing about! (e.g., The Lord makes darkness light before me..., He gives me treasures of darkness and riches stored in secret places...).²
- Defensive: Use the revelation of your salvation to ward off the attacks the enemy would launch against your mind (I am saved..., I am delivered..., I am redeemed..., I am prosperous..., I have the victory, ...)

6. Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (v. 17)

Roman soldiers used five different swords in their confrontations with enemy forces. The sword Paul refers to as the "Sword of the Spirit" comes from the Greek word *machaira* and was the most dangerous of the five. It was approximately 19 inches long. Both sides were razor-sharp, and the tip turned upward, causing the point of the blade to be extremely sharp and deadly.

Before the Roman soldier withdrew this sword from the gut of the enemy, he held it tightly with both hands and gave it a wrenching twist inside the enemy's stomach. When the soldier withdrew his sword, the enemy's insides would spill out onto the ground. This sword, unlike some of the others, was not used to make a sweeping blow against the enemy. Rather, it was used to deal a *fatal* blow! So it must be when we use our Sword of the Spirit, *which is the Word of God* (Eph. 6:17).

The phrase "Word of God" refers to the Rhema Word of God, or the revelation Word that God gives you in and/or for a specific situation. Understand that the primary source of the Rhema Word is the written Word. In other words, if you do not develop an understanding of the written Word, you should scarce expect to develop an ear for the Rhema Word. (Click here to access my teaching: The Importance of Developing a Relationship with the Word.)

The written Word of God equips you to make a sweeping blow against the enemy, perhaps holding him back. However, it is the Rhema Word of God – the specific Word that Holy Spirit quickens to you - that enables you to deal a fatal blow to the enemy. Thus, you will be able to withstand his every attack, whether it be spiritual, mental, emotional, physical, or financial.

• Offensive: Speak the Word that Holy Spirit has quickened to you! Walk in your authority. Call those things that be not as though they were! As long as you are on the offensive, you won't be on the defensive.

² Do your due diligence to find the scripture references for these confessions. I'll not do all the work for you! © This goes for the Defensive tactics, too!

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Defensive: Be intentional about taking the enemy out! Don't be content to just shoo him away and hope he doesn't come back. He's already been defeated. Speak the Word that Holy Spirit has quickened to you and reinforce the victory that Jesus already won. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world!

7. Lance of Prayer and Supplication (v. 18)

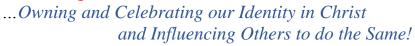
Many times, when teaching about the armor, people teach that it has six pieces. However, the Roman armor consists of *seven* pieces. At the beginning of this passage in Ephesians, Paul instructs us to put on the WHOLE armor of God. So what is this seemingly elusive seventh piece of armor?

After speaking about the belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of peace, shield of faith, and sword of the Spirit, Paul says, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit..." (Eph. 6:18). Though it is not mentioned by name, the seventh piece of armor is the lance of prayer and supplication.

A lance is something like a spear. It is an instrument to be thrust out a great distance before you – an instrument that takes the enemy out from afar. The Roman soldier had several kinds of lances at his disposal: single-head lances, multiple-head lances... small lances, long lances.... Similarly, we Believers have several kinds of prayer at our disposal – specifically the prayers of consecration, petition, authority, thanksgiving, supplication, and intercession.

The Roman soldier chose his lance based on the situation and the damage he wanted to inflict. He used smaller, shorter lances when engaging the enemy up close. He used longer lances to strike the enemy from afar. We, too, should choose our lance based on the situation and the damage we want to inflict. We should pray WITH INTENTIONALITY to get the results we desire. The good news is that we do not have to wait for the enemy to get close to us before we attack or fight back. We can pray in our authority before the situation ever escalates. By forcibly hurling our lance of prayer and supplication into the face of the enemy, we exercise the power God has given us to stop major obstacles from developing in our lives. (Access my teaching, "The Lance of Prayer" here.)

- Offensive: Pray in the Spirit. When you pray in the Spirit, you are praying the perfect prayer. You are praying the mysteries of the Kingdom and can reach into the supernatural realm to change situations present that you know not of and situations future that have not happened yet.
- <u>Defensive:</u> Pray in your authority. When you find that situations are already upon you or that you are in the thick of spiritual warfare, pray the Word of God, take authority, and shout the victory. (Don't wait to see the victory to shout the victory. You don't have to wait until the battle's over. Shout NOW!)





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! (Don't forget about last month's letter where we learned about the first three pieces of our spiritual armor!)

If you receive this Word, I encourage you to sow a 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.

You may give through the following outlets:

PayPal or Zelle: Godslovesong@outlook.com | **Cash App:** \$KIsFree (K Is Free – all one word)

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MPesa @ Ken Mutai +254 723 477 477 (SMS the following to Pastor Ken: GLSM + Your Name + Amount)



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. He said, "Every time I fellowship with you like this, I feel encouraged. I have not been the same because you've been blessing me and taking me from one level to the next [through your teachings]. To God be the glory!

Do *you* have a testimony to share? Click <u>here</u>. 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 <u>Light Be! Partner</u>. 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 <u>here</u> to learn more.

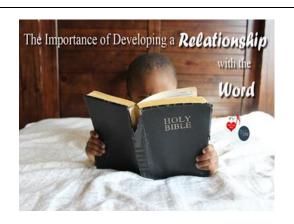
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Ministry Resources





Video:

The Importance of Developing a Relationship with the Word

YouTube

Video:

The Lance of Prayer: A Part of our Spiritual Armor

YouTube