

Armor of God

1. Girdle of Truth

The Girdle of Truth is what we put on to show God to others. It is showing the power of Christ – the freeing power, the changing power, the power that makes someone more Christ-like. The essence of the Girdle of Truth is essentially being like Jesus. So often we are told to be like Jesus, but that statement is so diminished in what it actually means. I believe *Galatians 2:20* gives a very good statement as to what it is to be like Jesus, “*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*” I no longer live – it is not you showing people simply being like Jesus, it is a complete abandonment of yourself and living by the faith that you are living like Jesus. This isn’t the only instance we are told to abandon ourselves. *Matthew 16:24*, “*then Jesus said unto his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*” Jesus is telling the disciples to do what Paul was going to do. Taking up our cross and following Jesus, thus being crucified with Christ and now living by the faith of the finished work of Jesus. This is the truth of the Gospel, the revealing of the Father’s heart to us. *1 John 4:10-12*, “*This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.*” We reveal the love of God by choosing to die to ourselves, abandon ourselves and living by the faith of the finished work of Jesus sent by God which is real love. Loving each other with real love brings the truth of what the Gospel is. We have to understand the Truth in order to know God and to love others, to show the full expression of God’s love.

2. Breastplate of righteousness

The Breastplate of Righteousness is what we put on when we truly understand the righteousness we have through Jesus. This is a powerful message. I have been pestered with those thoughts of ‘I haven’t prayed enough.’ Those things. I always stopped those dreadful thoughts in their path. One that came to me a lot was, ‘I am not worthy to speak in tongues.’ I think to myself, do I not believe in what Christ did on the cross. He has made me righteous. I am worthy to speak in tongues. A righteous God, cannot have unrighteous children. *Romans 8:16-17*, “*The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if*

children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be glorified together.” If I am a child of God, then I must be righteous, if I am a joint-heir with Christ, then I must be righteous, if I am to be glorified with Christ, then I must be righteous, if I am to be seated in the same seat with Christ in Heaven, then I must be righteous, if I am to be in heaven, then I must be righteous. The finished work of Christ has made me righteous. I am on the same righteous standing as Christ. *Romans 6:18*, “*Being then made free from sin, became the servants of righteousness.*” We have been taken from that sin nature and put in the righteousness of Jesus. We must not think that his blood covers us, or God sees us through the blood. We are not covered by the blood, we are washed by the blood. We are not perceived as righteous, but we are righteous. We are the servants of righteousness, “*we must yield ourselves servants to righteousness unto holiness.*” *Romans 6:19b*. The Devil does seek to take our attention from God, but we must understand what Jesus has done for us. We must understand his words are lies, but God’s are not. Focusing on God is yielding yourself as a servant of righteousness, walking in his ways.

3. Gospel of Peace

Is what we bind to ourselves to show our walk with God is integral. If we do not walk in the ways commanded to us by God, then are we servants of righteousness? Walking with integrity can be another form of ministry. So often people leave the church due to hypocrisy, but that is something we must end. We cannot teach complacent Christianity. The Bible is clear, we have a mission. Walking in Jesus’ path is powerful one. *Psalms 23:4*, “*I may walk through the valley of the shadow of death, but I will fear no evil, for He is with me. His rod and His staff, they comfort me.*” This entire verse is about following Jesus and being made assured He is there to protect you. He leads with his staff and protects with His rod. What happens when we take our own path? We will be like the sheep Abraham found in the bushes when he was about to sacrifice his son. Lost, stuck, in danger. There is a reason sheep stay with the shepherd. People can see what God does for others, when they walk in His ways, in integrity. We are told by Jesus in *Matthew 28:19-20*, “*Go, you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you: and I am with you always, even unto the*

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the end of the world. Amen.” It begins with ‘go.’ How can we expect to change a nation when we act no different from the sinful ways of the people? We have to show people the order, the integrity, the beauty of following Jesus. It should not be enough that just I go to heaven, I should want others to go also. Walking in an integral way is actually quite simple in all reality. *Matthew 6:33* “*seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and these things will be added unto you.*” We were just given a priority... God. I once heard a pastor talk about his priorities, he said, “you know how people always put family first, they will give excuses for something and say ‘family first.’ Family is not my first priority, God is. Family is second.” I heard another say that our first priority should be our relationship with God. Seek first! The only reason Peter sank while he was walking on water, is because he took his focus away from Jesus. As long as he sought to reach Jesus he walked, but as soon as he turned away, he sank. I did some of my March blog on this. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Jesus is not a way to the Father, He is **The** Way. If Jesus were a way, then he would away. We wouldn’t need Him. We do. To further the point, Jesus is the Way in everything you do. Every single thing you do. Jesus should always be the number one priority. You work for Him, walk, speak, breathe, to live is for Christ!

4. Shield of Faith

Faith is the path to intimacy with God. The depth behind this is amazing. *Mark 11:23*, “*I say unto you, that whosoever shall say to this mountain, be removed and be cast into the sea; and does not doubt in his heart, but believes those things which he spoke shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he says.*” We know we cannot just quote this verse and expect to see the mountain jump into the sea. As we mentioned earlier, you have to die to yourself, you abandon yourself. It is not you moving this mountain, because, well, you can’t. It is not possible. It is God that moves the mountain. If we believed it was ourselves moving the mountain, then we would not be walking by faith. Moses could not part the red sea, but God can. Moses may have stretched out his hand, but it wasn’t his hand parting the red sea. It was God’s. So God stretched out his hand, but it was Moses, but it was God, but it was Moses, but it was God. Moses knew God, that is why he had that faith. The Israelites doubted God because they did not know him. That theme is all throughout the Old Testament. The only reason the Israelites failed in battle was because they

doubted God. Their unbelief caused them to stray. *Psalms 103:7*, “*He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.*” Moses knew God, but the Israelites did not, they only saw what God did. I can see, what Trump will do as president, but that does not mean I know him. Moses knew how God works, but the Israelites did not. *Ezekiel 37*, the story of the valley of dry bones. Is all about God telling Ezekiel to prophesy to the dry bones, but God tells him what to say, so Ezekiel says it. It is God speaking, but it is Ezekiel speaking, but it is God speaking, but it is Ezekiel speaking. You have to know God can do those things which you contend for by faith. It is not you, because you have died to yourself. Having intimacy with God will grow your faith. “*Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.*” – *Romans 10:17*. The Word of God here is not referring to the Bible solely. It is referring to what God says. Listen for the Voice of God and do as he says and you will gain faith, because he will talk to you and you will talk back, thus gaining intimacy. Having faith in God is knowing Him. You can have faith in your spouse that they will not have an affair, because you know them. We are the Bride of Christ, so we can have faith he will never leave us nor forsake us, but that is easier to believe when you know Him. We should know Him if we are the Brides of Christ. God will never turn His back on you!

5. Helmet of Salvation

The Helmet of Salvation is what we put on to guard ourselves from falling into the ways of the world. This is an interesting subject. When I was in Zambia, I was away from so many of the worldly distractions, I had almost forgotten about them. It was weird coming back to the States. The temptations are all around, but *James 1:2-3* says, “*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various temptations, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.*” I have to think back to that verse, and count it joy when those temptations do arise. It is funny, because that is still renewing your mind. Instead of falling and becoming resentful, I laugh. One of the fruits of the Spirit is joy. I now know that spiritual attacks can make me grow. When I was young, I made a decision, that I don’t want anything to hold me back. Anything that tries to stop me, I will use to climb higher. To find a Biblical basis for that thought is wonderful. So often you hear now-a-days ‘follow your heart,’ but then other people say, ‘you have to think.’ We deny both and follow God’s Spirit. *Jeremiah 17:9* “*The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who can know it?*” Then we

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choose to not live according to our senses as *Romans 8*: attest, “to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” Living without faith in what Jesus did for you is the gateway to hell. If you are not dining with God then you are dining with the devil, there is no in between. Unbelief is the gateway to all sin and death. We must live with God on the forefront of our mind.

6. Sword of the Spirit

The Sword of the Spirit is by far one of the most magnificent things God could have done for us. Giving us the ability to manipulate the world around us, but it isn't us. We couldn't do that; it is God that does it, but it is us, but it is God, but it is us, but it is God. The power of words was introduced to me at a young age, but often from a more secular standpoint. As far as a Biblical standpoint, it mainly began with, *Hebrews 4:12* “For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” I remember my mom talking to me about this revelation. I remember how she pointed out how the verse refers to the marrow of the bones. That is the most inward parts of the body. There is nothing underneath the marrow. Essentially, the Word of God has so much power that it can affect the most inward parts of the body. We have the Word of God. We speak that into their life and that can change so much. It isn't just a little change either. The verse says the Word is sharper than a two-edged sword. It does more than what a sword can do. A sword can cut off an arm, our sword can grow an arm. Which is more powerful? This can relate to prophecy. Speaking the Word of God into someone is essentially prophecy. Faith is a massive aspect to all of this. All of this is dead without faith. *Mark 11:24* “I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you have received it, it will be yours.” I love this. This verse isn't about asking or expecting, it is about believing and having faith. It does not say, “if you believe you will receive it.” No! it says, “believe that you have received.” It tells to believe we have what not is. This is what walking in faith means. Believing you have what you do not have. You speak as if it is. People do quote verses all the time. I had family that did that, but I never saw a difference. With faith, a difference will be made. This is no light subject. We can speak bad things. That is why we must be careful. *Matthew 21:19* “When he saw a fig tree in the way he came to it and found nothing on it, but

leaves, and said unto it, let no fruit grow on you forever and the fig tree withered away.” We can curse with our words. Of course, since Jesus did it, it must be fine, but there is always a time and a place. Jesus did not always thrash out in anger. He did that one time because the church was being defiled, he had a righteous anger. This fig tree did not provide for the Son of God. This why we must know what the Word says. We must know the life of Jesus, so we can abandon ourselves and live by the faith of Jesus Christ in us. If you don't know God, how can you be like Him? We are called to be imitators of God, like a son to his father. A son will follow his father's footsteps and watch his every movement and so must we watch God's every footstep and watch His every movement. This way, we can speak with faith the wonder-working power of Jesus Christ' words into people, because we know our God!

7. Praying

Something I draw from this, is how it tells us to go into prayer with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. So often people pray for themselves. I know other people who have told me how they want to pray for other people because they noticed they only pray for themselves. I believe this is very important. We need to press in for success for others. Those who achieve success in the Body of Christ achieve success for everyone in the Body of Christ. This isn't something we do every once in a while, but we persevere. Persevering is pushing with effort, continuing even when you are drained. I had a revelation, the Lord's prayer is such a powerful prayer, it is simple, yet it encompasses everything. *Luke 11:2* “he said to them, when you pray, say, our father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.” This simple part prays for God's perfect will on Earth. This prayer is about bringing Heaven onto Earth. I tell people, “if that's not how it is in Heaven, then that won't be how it is on Earth.” I have met with people for MPD and one person wanted to pay for my meal, he said, “gotta take care of the missionary” it had that tone of missionaries are poor so we must care for them since they suffer. I said, “I have a mansion in Heaven and since I have a mansion in Heaven, so will I on Earth, because your Kingdom come, your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.” My will is not perfect, but God's is. God knows everything, he knows what needs to be done, I don't pray for my will to be done, I pray for his. I don't tell him how to fix something, because

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maybe I don't actually know what is wrong, but he definitely knows, so I leave it up to him to do what needs to be done. If I feel a sickness coming onto me, I think to myself, "I'm not sick in Heaven, so I won't be sick on Earth, because I declare Heaven on Earth." The Bible is riddled with case studies of Individuals, mainly the old testament, showing their devotion to prayer. *Daniel 6:10* "But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God." This is an example of an individual who prayed even when the tides turned against him. He did not let the laws of the land instill fear into him. Perfect love casts out fear. In the lion's den, he had no fear. Praying in the spirit is beautiful, because it is so weird. It is something that stands out, that makes people look twice. When I run out of words to pray, I speak in tongues, because God knows more than us. He can continue the prayers we wish we could continue, but we just don't know what needs prayer. *1 Corinthians 14:5a* "I wish you could all speak in tongues." Speaking in tongues makes it so easy to pray. It is so powerful against the devil, since he doesn't understand. It is also fun to do. I speak in tongues out of boredom because it sounds cool, I like to listen to it, but I also know I'm praying and that makes it all the more better. We must never cease in prayer!

8. Which piece of armor struck me the most.

I would say the Helmet of Salvation. Renewing my mind has been a big thing for me lately. I see where I fall short in loving like God. It has been a struggle, because I don't want to fall into problems that I had. I want those ways and thoughts to change. I knew I can't love like God if I don't know him, if I don't know how to love like God. It was on my mind for a while then I heard a song where the person quoted *1 Corinthians 13:1-3* "If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but do not love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing." I saw that as, I may have faith and thus good works, but if I don't love, then my faith and works

are dead. That was terrifying. I want to be able to serve God, make a true difference in His name. That verse hit me so hard. I was driving when it happened, and let me tell you, don't cry while driving! It is very dangerous! I decided I would take a day and see what the Bible says about love, so read *1 John 4:7-21*. I started drawing so much from that. There were three main verses that really got to me. Verse 8, "but anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love." If I don't know how to love, then I don't know God, that really got to me. The God of the universe has made himself available to us, to know Him, yet I don't know Him. I want to know Him. I want to love others like He does. The next one that got to me was verse 18, "such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear". If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love." What fear do I have? Not knowing God, not loving like God, falling back into old thought patterns. During AMT, I had a powerful moment where I could see God as my father, but I had this image in my head. It was this gray orb that was mangled and nasty looking. All of a sudden pieces shot off of it and underneath the gray shell, was revealed a golden light. By the time it finished there was still gray left over about 60% golden light and 40% gray gunk. It was my mind being renewed, I could look back on my life and see Him in my memories. He was raising me. I knew that moment was just the beginning of seeing God as my father, as loving like God, as experiencing His love. More and more do I learn His love and experience His love. Since it was so powerful then and I know I'm just at the beginning, I know things are going to become ten-thousand times better. The final verse that hit me was after I read the same scripture two or three times. It was verse 10, "This is real love – not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent His son as a sacrifice to take away our sins." The answer was right there for loving like God. It says, "this is real love" I could see, what he has done, the gifts, the provision, His Spirit, His care for us, that he dwells in us, that is real love. I want that real love. I want my mind, the world I perceived replaced with His thoughts, and His world, and love. I don't want to perceive the world the way I do, but perceive it the way He does. I want that real love. I am still learning, He is still teaching me. He has risen me out of the pits I was once in, I just have to walk and I will be walking outside of those pits. That is how the Helmet of Salvation has been playing a big part in my life.