

THE ARMOUR of GOD



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1- INTRODUCTION

1. THE ARMOUR of GOD

In this book, I will teach you about the ARMOUR of GOD.

It is an ARMOUR that Every believer can and should have, so that they can win in life.

Ephesians 6:10

10 Therefore, my brothers, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

In Ephesians 6, we see that, first of all, we are exhorted to be strengthened in the Lord.

Why? Because God's things work.

In the following verse, the Apostle Paul tells us HOW we can be strengthened in God.

Ephesians 6:11

11 Put on the full armour of God, so that you may be able to stand firm against the devil's cunning schemes.

How can we be STRENGTHENED?
Putting on the full ARMOUR of GOD.

For what purpose? So that we may stand firm Against the devil's wiles.

Ephesians 6:12

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

In verse 12, we see that after we are CLOTHED with the armour of God, we must FIGHT in the spiritual world.

In other words, our fight is NOT in the physical world; it is in the spiritual world.

Often, to UNDERSTAND things in the spiritual world, we need to DRAW parallels with things in the physical world.

Jesus himself, when he was here on Earth, taught through parables.

In **Ephesians 6:10-18**, the Apostle Paul draws a PARALLEL between the physical world and the spiritual world, using the example of an ARMOUR.

Nowadays, the WEAPONS of an army are different from what they were in the time of the Apostle Paul.

But the truth is that the metaphor of armour demonstrates the following:

- Our war is NOT in the physical world, it is in the spiritual world
- We have various spiritual weapons at our disposal, just as a soldier has various weapons at his disposal to fight the enemy and conquer territory
- A soldier will hardly be able to survive OR conquer territory if he has only SOME of the pieces of armour. Likewise, a believer will hardly be victorious if he is not clothed with ALL of God's armour

Ephesians 6:11

11 Put on the WHOLE armour of God

2. OUR FIGHT IS SPIRITUAL

Our fight is NOT against people or circumstances, our fight is against the devil and his demons.

Ephesians 6:12

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

I often give the example of the bull and the bullfighter. The bull is a huge animal with a LOT of strength. But in a bullfight, the bull invests against the CAPE instead of fighting the bullfighter.

When the bull fights the cape, the bullfighter sticks barbs into the bull. CONSEQUENCE = the bull is injured and fights harder AGAINST the cape.

But all the while, his real enemy is the bullfighter; he is fighting the wrong enemy.

**The bull's enemy is NOT the cape,
it is the bullfighter who SWINGS the cape.**

This is what the devil does to many people - he DECEIVES them with disguises when, in reality, the true enemy is the devil and his demons.

3. THE PURPOSE of this BOOK

The Bible teaches that only those who PERSEVERE to the end will be saved; that is, those who remain faithful to the end.

Matthew 24:13

13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Many begin their walk with God,
BUT not all finish it.

When the Apostle Paul compares the armour of Roman soldiers with the armour of God, he is revealing a crucial truth to us:

- we are in a spiritual war
- if we do not use God's armour on our journey, we run the risk of falling by the wayside

Just as a soldier who goes into battle without his armour becomes vulnerable and may not survive, so too must Christians be spiritually equipped with the ARMOUR of God in order to reach the end.

What is one of the SECRETS to REACHING the END?

- WEAR the armour of God during your walk
- BE constantly steadfast in the things of God

The OBJECTIVE is that when you read this book:

- 1st - Learn WHAT spiritual WEAPONS you already have at your disposal
- 2nd - Learn HOW to use each of these weapons
- 3rd - Decide to CLAD yourself daily with ALL of God's armour

In summary, the PURPOSE of the armour of God in the life of a believer is to:

- 1st - **Stand firm** against the devil's traps
- 2nd - **Use the weapons to FIGHT** in the spirit world against the devil and his demons
- 3rd - **RESIST** on a bad day and stand FIRM

Why would you want to stand firm and resist the devil, using the spiritual weapons God has already given you?

- to KEEP your salvation
- to REMAIN faithful until the end
- to OVERCOME in your life and in your journey

The purpose of this book is not for you to gain KNOWLEDGE of what the Word of God says.

The goal is to lead you to USE the armour of God to be victorious in your walk with God.

A believer CLAD in the full armour of God becomes a DIFFICULT target for the devil.

2- WE ARE SOLDIERS of GOD'S ARMY

1. WE ARE on a PLANET at WAR

We live on a planet that is at WAR between God and the devil, and BOTH want people's hearts.

When God created the heavens and the Earth, He made everything perfect:

- there was no sin
- there was no disease
- there was no death
- there were no wars, etc.

Man was made PERFECT by God, to live forever:

- without dying
- without illness
- without poverty
- without sadness

But when Adam and Eve DISOBEYED God, the greatest tragedy in the universe occurred!

Sin ENTERED this earth, and as a consequence, this Earth became cursed.

Despite Adam and Eve's disobedience, God had mercy on us and made a plan of REDEMPTION so that we could be right with God again.

God's plan was to send His only Son, Jesus Christ, to come to this Earth and pay the price for our sins.

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 5:8,10

8 But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

10 For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

The word RECONCILE means: *"Make peace!"*

Jesus came to reconcile us with God.

2. HEAVEN and HELL EXIST

When a person DIES:

they either go to HEAVEN
or they go to HELL

Man is not the body that we see:

he is a spirit
he has a soul
and he lives inside a body

When we die, the real person - the spirit - leaves the body and goes to live forever either in heaven or in hell. The person never stops living.

What decides a person's eternal dwelling place, is the CHOICE they make here on Earth

If you RECEIVE Jesus as Lord and Saviour:
will live forever in HEAVEN

If you do NOT receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour:
will live eternally in HELL

3. SALVATION IS NOT JUST A PRAYER

Contrary to what many people think, salvation is not JUST saying a prayer and that's it.

The Bible teaches that only those who PERSEVERE to the end will be saved; that is, those who are faithful to the end.

Matthew 24:13

13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

This means that even after a person has given their life to Jesus, the WAR continues.

In other words, the devil will CONTINUE to battle to win that person back to hell.

4. THE WAR CONTINUES

The WAR continues between God and the devil:

- the target is not gold or silver
- the target is people's HEARTS

Both God and the devil seek people's hearts.

God wants to win people's hearts:

to help them here on Earth
healing people, making them happy
giving them happy marriages and families
blessing them materially
giving them ETERNAL LIFE in heaven

**But the devil wants to win people's hearts,
especially at this time:**

steal happiness (*drugs, etc.*)

steal health (*AIDS, cancer, tumours, etc.*)

steal finances (*unemployment, bankruptcy, etc.*)

destroy marriages, families (*divorce, etc.*)

It means that even when a person has already given their life to Jesus, the devil DOES NOT GIVE UP.

The devil will do EVERYTHING to see if he can:

- DISTANCE the person from God
- DISTANCE the person from the Word of God
- DISTANCE the person from the Church

John 10:10

10 The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy:
I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Every believer has two important tasks

1st - SAVE your own salvation

2nd - HELP God by protecting other people who have already given their lives to Jesus

That is why the Bible says that we are SOLDIERS of God, that is, we are part of GOD'S ARMY.

In this war between God and the devil:

The Church is God's ARMY that will win souls for Jesus and retain those who have already been saved.

This is an ongoing WAR that never stops; that is why we must continually remind ourselves of what we are doing here on Earth.

5. EXAMPLE WORLD WAR II

During World War II, Hitler conquered a lot of territory from other countries. He had occupied almost all of Europe and was preparing to conquer the rest of Europe and then the rest of the world.

He was a very STRONG enemy.

But the British and other nations that had not yet been conquered formed an alliance to fight Hitler.

They all got together to plan a strategy and to recruit as many people as possible.

Of course, no one likes war. But due to the circumstances, everyone was ready to enlist in the war with the goal of preventing their nation from being conquered by Hitler.

COMPARISON with SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The devil is a very STRONG enemy who wants to conquer as much territory (souls) as possible at all times.

Everyone who is already a child of God must participate in this Spiritual Warfare, being an active soldier in God's Army.

Many believers, when they hear that they must go into spiritual battle, think it is UNNECESSARY and a NUISANCE.

But perhaps if that same person lived in a country at war, they would be the first to enlist in the army to PROTECT their family and their nation.

In Hitler's day, men went to war and women were proud of them; they were proud of the PURPOSE that motivated them, which was to protect their nation and family.

In the Church, this is also the spirit that should prevail in US who are children of God.

What is the PURPOSE of being part of God's army? It is to GUARD our salvation and WIN more souls for Jesus!

Therefore, I urge every believer to have this DESIRE to actively participate in this spiritual warfare.

6. WE ARE PART of an ARMY

In this SPIRITUAL WARFARE, there are two sides:

- the side of GOD
- the side of the DEVIL

There are two ARMIES:

1. THE ARMY OF GOD

...is led by God

...is composed of everyone who has given their life to Jesus and WALKS with God

2. THE DEVIL'S ARMY

...is led by the DEVIL

...is composed of all those who want to do EVIL to God and His Church

Anyone who has never accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour is automatically on the devil's side / part of the devil's army.

When a person accepts Jesus as Lord and Saviour, they automatically become PART of God's army. BUT it is necessary for the believer to make the decision to PARTICIPATE in this spiritual warfare.

This is a real WAR that exists in the spirit world

whether one believes it or not

whether one FIGHTS in the spirit world or not

What is at stake in this war?

the HEART of people

the SALVATION of people

Even if a believer says they do not want to actively participate in this war because they think it is unnecessary,

- war CONTINUES to exist

- the devil CONTINUES to attack
- the devil CONTINUES to want to steal people back to his ways

In fact, the devil is even happy when a believer does not want to ACTIVELY participate in this war, because it means that person will walk UNPROTECTED (*without the armour of God*).

And just like in a physical war, a soldier who is unprotected in battle becomes an easy target.

So my goal is to lead you to desire to be an ACTIVE soldier in God's army

1st - to guard your own salvation

2nd - to help God win more souls and retain those who have already been saved

7. THE ARMY MUST BE WELL EQUIPPED

Just like a conventional army, God's army needs to be well EQUIPPED and well TRAINED.

It is not enough to be an active soldier; you need to be WELL EQUIPPED and know how to use the WEAPONS you have.

If the Allied army had not been well equipped and trained, it certainly would not have been able to WIN the war against Hitler.

My goal through this book is to teach you how to USE the ARMOUR of GOD, so that you are well EQUIPPED for spiritual battle.

Only by wearing the ARMOUR of God will we succeed:

1st - PROTECT OURSELVES from the devil's snares so that we may persevere until the end

2nd - HELP God more by winning souls for Jesus and retaining those who have already been saved

This introduction serves to EXPLAIN the importance of:

1st - In desiring to be part of God's ARMY

2nd - In desiring to be well EQUIPPED to fight in the spiritual world

There is no point in talking about the ARMOUR of GOD if you do not understand the PURPOSE of the armour.

We are in a very fierce war that is taking place in the spirit world! This war is about people's eternal life!

There is a great NEED for us to CLOTHE ourselves with ALL the armour of God, so that we may WIN this war that exists in the spirit world.

8. The ARMY of GOD has WEAPONS at YOUR DISPOSAL

Ephesians 6

11 Put on the full armour of God, so that you may be able to stand firm against the devil's cunning schemes.

13 Therefore, take up the full armour of God, so that you may be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

As in conventional wars, in this spiritual war there are also WEAPONS (which are spiritual).

What is the PURPOSE of weapons?

- 1st - **DEFEND OURSELVES** from enemy attacks
- 2nd - **ATTACK** the enemy and conquer territory

In the next few chapters, I will teach you

What are these WEAPONS at our disposal,
and how can we use them to WIN.

But for now, I leave you with this exhortation:

do not become COMFORTABLE with the life you already have; desire to become even STRONGER in the Lord and in the power of His might!

HOW? By putting on the ARMOUR of GOD!

3- THE ARMOUR OF GOD

1. INTRODUCTION

I want to give a brief recap of the last chapter, because it makes no sense to talk about the Armour of God without first explaining WHY we need this armour.

There is a constant SPIRITUAL WARFARE between God and the devil.

Those who give their lives to Jesus automatically become part of God's army.

Just like a conventional army, God's army needs to be well EQUIPPED and well TRAINED in order to achieve victory.

The devil always wants to DISTANCE people from God and the Word of God; his goal is for believers to walk unprotected (*WITHOUT the armour of God*).

Because, just like in a physical war, an unprotected soldier becomes an easy target to be shot down.

So the goal is:

1st - Knowing what WEAPONS we have

2nd - Knowing HOW to use these weapons

3rd - Let us be CLOTHED with the full armour of God so that we may RESIST the devil's attacks

A believer CLAD in the full armour of God becomes a DIFFICULT target for the devil.

The devil may attack, but if the believer is well equipped, he remains steadfast and the attacks fall to the ground.

2. WHAT IS IT?

The Armour of God is a spiritual metaphor used by the Apostle Paul to represent the weapons (or resources) that God makes available to every Christian.

God makes these weapons available to believers:

- to RESIST evil
- to be spiritually PROTECTED
- to OVERCOME in life
- to HELP God win more souls

Why does the Apostle Paul use the metaphor of ARMOUR?

- 1st - Because it is an easy comparison to understand
- 2nd - Because it represents the reality that every believer is in this spiritual WAR and needs to be properly protected

3. IMPORTANCE of GOD'S ARMOUR

Every believer should wear the ARMOUR of GOD:

- to RESIST the devil's snares
- to PROTECT your heart and mind
- to remain STEADFAST and not give in to the devil

Just as a soldier would never go into battle without wearing his armour, so too should Christians not live their daily lives without the armour of God.

It would be unthinkable for a soldier to go to war without a helmet or shield. In the same way, it is very "dangerous" for a Christian to live out their faith without using the WEAPONS that God has given them.

4. BE STRONG in the LORD

Ephesians 6:10-12

10 Finally, my brothers, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

11 Put on the full armour of God, so that you may be able to stand firm against the devil's cunning schemes.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places

Before the Apostle Paul describes the weapons of God's armour, he begins by highlighting three crucial points:

1st - We must strengthen ourselves in the LORD and in the strength of HIS POWER

2nd - We must put on the full armour of God

3rd - We must understand that our struggle is NOT against people, but against the devil and his demons in the spirit world

1st - BE STRONG in the LORD

Ephesians 6:10

10 Finally, my brothers, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

The Apostle Paul begins by exhorting us to seek strength in God and not in ourselves.

Many believers want to FIGHT against the devil's attacks or against problems using their own strength.

But in truth, God tells us that we will only overcome WHEN we are strong in the Lord and in the strength of His power.

How can we be strong in the Lord?

- walking with God
- filling your heart with God's Word
- having daily fellowship with God (CDP)
- being clothed with the full armour of God

It is not by our strength that we will defeat the enemy, but by God's supernatural STRENGTH.

It is important to note that BEFORE the Apostle tells us to put on the armour of God, he tells us to be strong in the LORD.

This means that BEFORE even "putting on" the armour of God, believers must be STRONG in God.

John 15:4

4 Abide in me, and I in you; as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

We will not have great victories without FIRST being strong in God, that is, being in Jesus and in His Word.

2nd - CLOTHE YOURSELVES WITH THE ARMOUR OF GOD***Ephesians 6:11***

11 Put on the full armour of God, so that you may be able to stand firm against the devil's cunning schemes.

Putting on armour is an intentional act; that is, no one puts on armour by chance.

The same applies to the armour of God; no believer puts on the armour of God by chance—it is a conscious decision that the believer makes to wear the complete armour of God.

Paul emphasises the need to put on “**ALL**” the armour of God, not just some parts.

Sometimes, believers think that putting on one or two pieces of God's armour is enough, but this will leave them vulnerable to the devil's attacks.

In order to stand firm against the devil's schemes, we must put on the WHOLE armour of God.

3rd - OUR FIGHT is against the DEVIL

Ephesians 6:12

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places

Our fight is NOT against flesh and blood:

- against people who have mistreated or offended us
- against adverse circumstances
- against problems

Our fight is in the spiritual WORLD, and it is AGAINST the devil and his demons.

The devil USES people, problems, circumstances, etc., to ATTACK us.

It is like the example of the bull and the bullfighter:

The bull thinks the cape is his enemy, when in fact, the enemy is the bullfighter who WAVES the cape.

Thus, the devil also wears many disguises, to see if we fight against the disguises instead of fighting against him.

But if we recognise that our true enemy is the devil, then we will FIGHT objectively and we will see results.

5. WEAPONS for DEFENCE and ATTACK

Every army needs weapons for DEFENCE and ATTACK. If soldiers only have weapons for defence OR attack, they are much more vulnerable to the enemy.

The same is true for believers - it is not enough to have weapons for attack, you also need weapons for DEFENCE.

When the Apostle Paul exhorts us to take up the WHOLE armour of God, this is what he is talking about - being clothed with the weapons of DEFENCE and ATTACK.

In this way, we will be able to stand FIRM on the evil day.

6. WEAPONS of DEFENCE

The Apostle Paul begins by describing the WEAPONS of DEFENCE that we have at our disposal:

- TRUTH
- JUSTICE
- THE GOSPEL
- FAITH
- SALVATION

Ephesians 6:13-17

13 Therefore, take up the full armour of God...

14 ...having girded your loins with truth,
and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 And having put on your feet
the preparation of the gospel of peace,

16 Above all, take up the shield of faith,
with which you will be able to extinguish all the
flaming darts of the evil one.

17 Take, also, the helmet of salvation...

In the following chapters, I will discuss in more detail
what these weapons of defence are and how to use them.

7. WEAPONS of ATTACK

As children of God, we also have weapons of ATTACK at
our disposal, as described in Ephesians 6:

- the WORD of GOD
- PRAYER

Ephesians 6:13,17-18

13 Therefore, take up the full armour of God...

17 ...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word
of God;

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the
Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and
supplication for all saints,

In the next few chapters, I will discuss in more detail
what these weapons of attack are and how to use them.