

FULLY ARMED

By Dr. Randy Brodhagen

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FULLY ARMED

INTRODUCTION

GOD'S WORDS ARE SPIRIT AND LIFE

When you believe the Word of God and receive it, amazing things start to happen, for the Lord is going to perform that Word. It is not just talk, it is action. I thank Him every day that there is loving action, up close and personal, in Jesus Christ who loves us and cares about us. He knows about everything before it happens, and He has a provision waiting for us. Therefore, we can be strong and very courageous, knowing that He is with us and for us. *“If the Lord be for you, who can be against you?”* Nothing, nothing can be against us, for it has no power over us in Jesus' name. This is the reality of heaven, the reality of who the Lord is. The devil is a defeated foe, the world has no influence or pressure upon us, and the old selfish self is dead, thank God, thank God in Christ Jesus. Every day we simply tell the selfish self, “You are dead, I live for the Lord and I am His. I have the life of heaven in Jesus. He has set me free.”

It is very important to sow good things into the earth and to speak life. Continue to speak the goodness of God and the promises of God. Speak your faith in Jesus. Speak the life that the Lord has coming which is hope in God.

If people need anything right now, it is those good things, knowing there is a hope and a future in the Lord Jesus Christ. Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will not go away empty. They will go away from the evil, and they will come into all the goodness of heaven. It is just waiting for them.

THE BLESSING TRACK

Friends, we are on a track in life that the Lord has for us. I call it the blessing track. The blessing is happening, but the thief is always trying to knock us out of it. We do not even care about what he is doing because the Lord has good things in store, a hope and a future, and we just keep looking to Him. Don't take your eyes off Him and all that He has in store, for the goodness and the blessings of heaven will come. As you are submitted to God (James 4:7), under the blood of Jesus, under the shadow of the Almighty, the thief has no place, no power, no sickness, no disease, no poverty, no famine, no pestilence over us in Christ Jesus. We submit ourselves to God and say, "Go away in Jesus' name," and it will flee. The Greek says the thief will "flee as in terror." (James 4:7)

The devil is not afraid of us, understand that, but he *is* afraid of Jesus in us. Always remember, "*Jesus in me, the hope of glory.*"

RANSOMED FROM TYRANNY

During Isaiah's time when the Lord looked for justice on the earth, He found none. He found nobody standing against the oppressor, the liar, the thief, the murderer, the devil. Therefore, He Himself came to save us. (Isaiah 59) Jesus put on the armor of God from heaven, and he gives us the same armor. He wore it when He came, lived, and gave His life on the cross to save us. He paid the ransom that set all people free from the devil's tyranny. Jesus has provided an opportunity for us to receive the life of heaven.

The life that we live on earth is very short. Its purpose is to give us an opportunity to receive the Lord Jesus and be born again of God's Spirit, born of heaven. Our earthly birth was a fallen birth in that Adam chose to follow the devil and was separated from the Lord. His seed was put into people from that time forward. Jesus says we must be born again because we were born separated from God. He came that we might have life and have it more abundantly.

“The thief has come to steal, kill, and destroy, but I have come that you might have life and a more abundant life.” (John 10:10) Jesus came from heaven to show us heaven, and to give us heaven.

THE LIFE OF HEAVEN

As such, the life of heaven belongs to us in Christ Jesus. This life is all about being born again and then finishing out what the Lord wants us to do as lights for Him. Lights in the darkness.

Isaiah, chapter 59, describes the horrible darkness, futility, and rebellion, as well as all the nonsense, chaos and confusion that happens when people are under the rule of evil and the rule of the devil. But Jesus came to set us free from that so we might have the life of heaven. Now He wants us to help others to get free by receiving the good news that Jesus suffered, died, and rose from the dead to save them. He has ascended to His place as Lord of lords and King of kings. His Spirit has been put into the earth to enable and empower us to work the works of God.

FATHER, WHAT DO YOU WANT?

Jesus says, *“He who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also, and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. Whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”* (John 14:12-13).

We need to ask (the term actually means demand). It is a banking term. Naturally we do not disrespectfully demand of the Lord anything, and we do not certainly tell Him what to do or how to do it. To the contrary, we listen to Him and we ask, “Father, what do you want, and how do You want to do it?” We want the Lord’s will and purpose being accomplished in the earth as we work with Him. We never run off doing our own thing. No, we are to be just like Jesus who did not do anything or say anything that His Father in heaven did not give Him to do or say. He did everything that He was given to do and say. He demonstrated it. By the power of God in Christ Jesus we will do the same. Again *“He who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also, and greater works than these he will do”* because He was

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ascending to the Father. Now the Holy Spirit is in us and with us, enabling us to will and to do the good pleasure of the Lord.

“My people perish for lack of knowledge,” the Lord says in Hosea 4:6. The people there did not want the knowledge, but we do. We want to come into all that the Lord has and to be everything that He intends us to be in this earth. That is our heart, and that is our desire.

THE COMPLETE SET OF ARMOR

APART FROM THE LORD WE CAN DO NOTHING

“When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Lord raises a standard against him.” (Isaiah 59:19) In Christ Jesus the Lord has given us the same armor that Jesus wore when He came to the earth. Let us look at this and learn how it works, and then in life, in these perilous times, we will work it and use it. The Lord has given it to us to deal with all the raging that is happening in the world right now under the devil’s direction. Evil people, it says, will increase, but they will come to nothing, for the Lord will deal with them accordingly.

Expose the works of darkness, Lord. And expose the works of God, in Jesus’ name, and let the good triumph over the evil. Keep the good from the evil in the earth in Jesus’ name. Be exalted, Jesus.

- *“Finally be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.”* (Ephesians 6:10)

We never presume that it is our strength or our power. That was the old self-man’s way of thinking (where we were invincible and could do anything). No, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* (Philippians 4:13) Anybody who is really honest with himself understands that apart from the Lord he can do nothing, as Jesus said in John, chapter 15. Eventually even the strongest, the fittest, the smartest, and the wisest fail and fall. But *“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”* (Isaiah 40:31)

We have to come to grips with the facts. Be smart, friends. Just realize that apart from the Lord you can do nothing, but all things are possible in Christ Jesus. We will do everything the Lord wants us to be and to do. It is in His strength and His power. The prophet told us, *“Not by might or by power, but by my Spirit,’ saith the Lord.”* It is God’s Spirit in us directing us,

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controlling us, leading us that will make things happen. So that the Lord will be glorified! That is also our heart, that is also our desire.

CLOTHE YOURSELF WITH THE ARMOR

- *Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.*” (Ephesians 6:11)

Let me tell you, there are horrible schemes happening out there. They are intended to use and abuse people, to harm, to steal, to kill, and to simply destroy them. That is what the thief does.

The Lord has a better plan. We, as His people, are in this world but not of it. Let me tell you, if we are not in Christ Jesus with the full armor of God on, we will be affected spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and in relationships by what is happening around us.

You cannot stand by and think *Well, it's not going to happen to me.* No, *“Those who would be godly will undergo persecution.”* (2nd Timothy 3:12) Those who are standing in the faith will be attacked, and we have to be ready when those attacks and schemes come.

“Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God and in due season He will exalt you.” (1st Peter 5:6) Submit yourself to God and get under the blood of Jesus. Get rid of anything in your life that is not right with Him, and ask His forgiveness. Let Him forgive and cleanse you, and then take your place in the power of the Lord, *“In the power of His might.”*

We resist the devil, and he will flee. If we are not submitted to God, he is not going to flee anywhere. He will turn up the heat, and if we are not believing the promise of God, he will try to take the Word of God completely away from us so that it is of no effect in our lives. We cannot allow that to happen. We cannot allow ourselves to compromise with the world. It tries to put beliefs on us that are an abomination to the Lord, and then make us content with it. It is not of God. If it is evil, it is not permitted or tolerated in our lives or in our thinking.

So, we have to get aggressively active in the Spirit and put on the whole armor of God, **His provision to deal with life**. If we do not, we will be overwhelmed and overpowered. I am not promoting fear here, I am talking about a responsibility and commitment to be a believer. Not just in form, but in substance, so that everything in you allows the Spirit of the Lord to come against everything that is not of Him in Jesus' name.

BE VIGILANT AND STAND

Remember, *“Little foxes spoil the vines.”* (Song of Solomon 2:15) Little compromises. You cannot get lazy in the faith. You cannot get lazy in your actions because the compromise will continue.

“Cast all your cares on the Lord for He affectionately cares for you and watches over you.” (1st Peter 5:7)

“Be sober, be vigilant for your adversary the devil walks around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour who resists steadfast in the faith.” (1st Peter 5:8)

The adversary is after the real believers. He wants to eliminate them because they are a threat.

We can terrorize the terrorist in Jesus' name. The devil is the master terrorist, the leader, the scorner who leads all the rest of the fools who follow his bidding of evil, selfishness, greed, pride, and seeking power in the earth. These people are playing God, but the Lord says, *“You shall have no other gods before Me.”* (Exodus 20:3)

“God resists the proud, but gives grace to humble.” (James 4:6) If your guard is down, do not think for even a moment that you can sit by and you are okay.

“Watch and pray lest you enter into temptation. The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41)

Yes, if the Spirit is willing, the flesh is weak (helpless, harmless), but if you are not on guard, the flesh will take over. You will fall into trouble like

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Adam and Eve did when the temptations and schemes of the devil worked on them.

TAKE YOUR STAND

You have to *put* on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. If you are not paying attention to what we are talking about right now, you will not even be standing when he comes. Let me tell you, the thief is not passive, he is aggressive, and he wants to aggressively steal, kill, and destroy. If we do not stand up in the blood of Jesus, covered by God's protection and blessing, he will take us out.

Many people have fallen and perished, leaving the earth before their time because of lack of knowledge, for they just thought, *Oh, it's okay*. Sorry to say, I had to laugh about a mayor up in Washington state who was talking about living "the summer of love, summer of love" when she allowed terrorists to take over part of the city. If you allow the terrorist to take over part of your life, he will go for the whole thing. Sure enough, they started going into her area of town, and it was not anything about the summer of love anymore. It was about "Take them out! Get rid of them," and she called in the military (which should have been done immediately to stop lawlessness). You allow lawlessness to run rampant, and it will destroy everybody and everything.

You are not just dealing with people that are following evil practices and harming others. There is a devil behind the whole scene who wants nobody on the face of the earth to have a good life or to even have life. He wants to steal, kill, and destroy, but Jesus says, *"But I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly."*

Wake up, come to your senses, and quit believing Pollyanna ideas that evil will just go away. No, not without divine intervention, and not without God's people standing up for what is right, being strong and very courageous to deal with it. As the Lord says, the thief is trying to take out the real believers that do the right, good, God-like behavior, standing for justice, truth, liberty, freedom for all, and equality based on responsibility. This is

very important. If people want respect from others, then they need to respect themselves. They need to be living a life worthy of respect and honor.

THE FIGHT AGAINST EVIL FORCES:

The thief has schemes to destroy people, to hurt and to harm, but the Lord has prepared us for these times with the same armor (Isaiah 59) that Jesus wore when He walked the earth as a man. The Lord has given it to us in Christ Jesus.

- *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood (people), 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.”*
(Ephesians 6:12)

There is a dark state out there, this is very important, and its desire is to control the world, to control the people, to use the people for its bidding (not for their good). The Lord says that when they speak smoothly, do not believe them; they have seven abominations in their hearts. (Proverbs 26:25) They just want to set up people, use people as fools who follow something they do not really know about, thinking they are doing good. The devil always puffs them up, gives them a cause and makes them feel proud about it, but really in the end he wants to set them up to use them, abuse them, and then to throw them away as nothing. He promises everything and gives nothing. That will be the outcome.

But the Lord is just the opposite. He wants to use you, to bless you, to put His glory and all His benefits upon you, make His face shine upon you with favor and good will, and then to give you everlasting peace, joy, love, and life forever in Christ Jesus. See, that is why Jesus came.

We are not fighting against people, but there are evil people following the devil's evil schemes. God's people are following God's good will and God's promises. Justice and truth will prevail in the long run. Thank you, Lord. But not without a fight. This is very important. Evil will not just go away.

You have to resist it. Again, “*Not by might or by power, but by My Spirit,*’ saith the Lord.” It is in Christ Jesus and the power of God.

FEAR NOT, BELIEVE GOD

- “*Therefore, put on the full armor of God so that when the day of evil comes...*” (Ephesians 6:13a)

If you think it is not going to come, you have your head in the sand. The Lord says it is coming. Guaranteed. Especially if you are believing God. People ask, “Why is this happening to me? I am believing the Lord.” Well, that is why it is happening to you. The thief wants to take away your faith. He wants to take away your salvation. He wants to take away your life, everything you own and have. Just talk to Job. But the Lord put a sanction on Job so that the devil could not take his life. Let me tell you, the devil wanted to kill him. This is very important to understand. In his ignorance Job thought the Lord was doing all that. “*The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord.*” That is truly what Job said, but that is not a true statement, and many people have believed it.

No, Job said it in ignorance. He repented in chapter 42 (if you last long enough to get from chapter one to chapter 42). Understand, it was the Lord who gave, but the thief took it away. Why? “*That which I feared the most,*” Job said, “*is that which came upon me.*” He opened the door to evil, to unbelief in the Lord, and the hedge of protection that God had put around him came down. This is very important. “*That which I feared the most is that which came upon me.*” (Job 3:25) We are called to believe God, not to fear that evil will happen to us. Faith overcomes fear. “*God’s perfect love casts out all fear.*” (1st John 4)

We cannot be ignorant of these things. We have to know whom we have believed. We have to know He is a good God that loves us. Every word He has ever spoken for us is for good, not for evil. “*Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*” (Jeremiah 29:11)

THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

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The thief is the enemy, so this is where we need to bind spirits in Jesus' name. People are being used of the devil. We as believers can take authority over those spirits in Jesus' name, but not over the people's wills. They choose what they are going to have for better or worse, for good or for evil. "*God is not mocked.*" (Galatians 6:7a) People will have what they are doing, and God is not mocked, meaning His wrath is on those who are doing evil and wicked in the earth, doing their own purpose. However, it is not really their own purpose, for they are serving the devil and eventually he will use them, abuse them, and throw them away.

Understand, those who are doing right will receive blessing, but they need to stand up and take authority. I have the power in Christ Jesus, with authority over serpents, scorpions, and all the power of the devil. Nothing shall in any ways harm me. I do not have to be afraid of back-lash because I stand up for what is right and what is good.

What is happening in the earth is people are being intimidated and threatened for doing the right thing. This has got to stop in Jesus' name. If I am doing the good, God, right thing, the Lord will stand up in my behalf. Whatever the thief is planning to do has no power, and even if I am persecuted and die, I live forever with the Lord.

If I compromise, as it says in the book of Revelation, I will burn with the devil in the lake of fire along with all cowards when the time of judgment comes. So, I am not going to be ashamed of the gospel of Christ. I will not back down when intimidated about doing the right thing and believing the right thing, and standing for the right thing. To the contrary, we have a God-given right to do that, and nobody can take it away in Jesus' name. We may be persecuted for it, and oppressed for it, but we are not backing down on it, and we will love not our lives to the death. We will not compromise what God has put in our hearts and what is true about Him.

Some day you can talk to the martyrs who gave their lives for the faith, not willing to compromise with the world and the evil. We are to stand up, speak the truth, and act on it in Christ Jesus. The only way that good will

overpower evil is if people stand up in the Lord. Not in the flesh, but in the power of God's Spirit, in the wisdom and love of the Lord.

THE ABILITY TO STAND

The Lord has given us, therefore, Ephesians 6:13,

- *“Put on the full armor of God so that when the day of evil comes you may be able to stand your ground.”*

That is what we are talking about—not being intimidated, not being pushed back. Moses, one of the meekest men on earth, was not a wimp. No, meekness is actually the power of God. A meek person is submitted to the Lord, and the Lord stands up in his behalf. The evil one does not see him, he sees Jesus, and he fears and trembles. At the name of Jesus every knee has to bow, every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God. The devils have to back down and back off. What is intended for evil has to give way to us. We are not giving way to it in Jesus' name. Thank you, Lord.

- *“and after you have done everything to stand, stand...”* as you are believing the Lord.

You have submitted your cause to the Father who judges justly. (1st Peter 2) This is Jesus' example. Man does not always judge justly. Why not? The devil's influence. Get all the facts. Do not be quick to judge. Jesus actually says, *“Judge not lest you be judged. The same measure you judge out will come back to you.”* Let me tell you, if you are judging from an evil perspective I would not want to be in your shoes when judgment comes back. When you judge from God's perspective, it will be justice and truth. God is not mocked. But note, you will be able to stand. When the dust settles everything around you will be gone, and you will be left standing with the Lord and the people who love Him and love His appearing.

Stand firm then, do not move, and do not get shaken. This is very important. Be stable. Know whom you believe.

STAND IN TRUTH

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- *“Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist.”*
(Ephesians 6:14)

Truth does not change. God’s truth is the only truth and it will prevail. Everything else that purports to be truth is a lie. If it is not the Lord’s Word, then it is not truth.

His principles and His promises are how we live. You can stand firm when you have the truth, the promise of God, the principle of God, and you act on them accordingly. Obeying, believing. Thus stability comes into your life because no matter what else is happening you did what the Lord said; hence the Lord is going to do what He says. I do not have to fear what man shall do to me. The Lord is with me, He is for me, and all that matters is that I am right before the Lord. Personally I really do not care what anybody thinks of me, or certainly not what devils think of me. I do not even care about what I think of myself. What the Lord thinks of me is all that matters.

Lean not to your own understanding, believing you are unworthy or “just a sinner saved by grace.” No, get rid of all that. Jesus set you free. You are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. You have been declared holy by the blood of the Lamb. You are in right-standing with the Father. You have been given all of heaven’s promises, and Jesus made you worthy, so quit that other nonsense, and quit giving power to weakness. You are the best of the best through Christ Jesus, in Christ Jesus. When you are in Him, not even the gates of hell can prevail against you or the Church of the Lord Jesus.

Get the truth, understand it, walk in it. Then you can stand firm because there will be no doubts. The blood of Jesus has freed you from all sin. If you have done something wrong (the Holy Spirit is showing you), get rid of it. Ask God’s forgiveness and get back to doing the right, God thing.

Why are you tolerating sin in your life? It gives an entrance to the devil.
(Ephesians 4:26) *“Be angry, but do not sin. Do not give the devil an*

opportunity” (in the Greek: a place, a home). Quit it. Ask God’s forgiveness. You can get right with Jesus because of His blood. Then you can stand firm.

A BUCKLED BELT

You have to walk in truth. You have to walk in integrity. You have to know, *Lord, show me the motivation of my heart, is it of You or is it not?* The Holy Spirit will show you the truth. Why am I doing what I am doing? Ask the why question, and do not be afraid of it. *Is this for You, Lord? Do You think it is, or is it for me?* Understand “for me” is not really for me because I am in Christ Jesus. Is it for the selfish self which I am letting rise from the dead again? No, I want to crucify it with Christ Jesus. *“Because for me to live is Christ, to die is gain.”*

“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.” (Galatians 2:20) Enough of the “look out for me” selfish self who did not care about anybody except to promote itself and what it wanted. No, I am dead to that.

I am alive to Christ. I am about the will of the Father. I am about the truth of heaven. I am going to get all the facts about what is happening, and then I can stand firm. Otherwise I will be double minded, tossed to and fro. I have to have the truth, and I have to know it, believe it, think it, talk it, and live it. Then it will set me free.

“If you continue in My Word,” Jesus says, *“then you are really My disciples, you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”* (John 8:31-32) Not just make you free, it will keep you free as you continue in it.

It is the belt that holds all the armor on, so you are able to stand your ground.

- *“After you have done everything to stand, stand firm then.”*

Note, the belt of truth is buckled around your waist. Buckled means it is not just on, it is cinched. Tight. It is not going to come off. As soon as truth

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begins to disappear in your life and you start to compromise, you lie to yourself, you lie to others, and the devil is “on a roll” with you. Get back to Jesus, quickly. The sooner the better. Quit believing a lie.

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN CHRIST

- *“Stand... with the breastplate of righteousness in place.”* (Ephesians 6:14 NIV)

The breastplate covers all the vital organs (the lungs, the heart, all of the inside organs). What does it consist of? Righteousness – right standing with God. You cannot do that on your own, the Lord gives it to you. All the armor of God comes from His Word, and you cannot give it to yourself. Jesus, *“who knew no sin was made sin for us.”* (2nd Corinthians 5:21) He took away our separation from God, and all our sin. When people think about sin, they think about lying, cheating, gossiping, etc. Those are actions of sin that proceed from a nature of sin.

When Jesus came into your heart and into your life, you received the life of God and were born again. Jesus is your Lord. The old sin nature that came from Adam (passed down from generation to generation) was destroyed, and so, you are no longer a sinner. You have been made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus because Jesus took away your sin nature. All sins that people do against God are just the fruit of a rotten nature. Jesus said that if a tree be good, then everything is good. If a tree be bad, then all the fruit is bad because the fruit proceeds from its nature. This is why you will know what the nature of a person is. You will know them by their fruit because their actions will show who is working in them – the Lord or the devil. Very simple. You will know them by their fruit.

If we should sin, we have an advocate with the Father, our Lord Jesus, and He will work in us, causing us to acknowledge our sin. Be faithful to acknowledge it to God. (1st John 1:9) Then He will be faithful to forgive and to cleanse from all unrighteousness. In other words, as a Christian I cannot willfully, knowingly, continue to do something that I know is wrong before God (that is where the law of God shows us our sin). The Word of

God will show us, and the Spirit of God will not allow us to continue in that sin because we are of God.

Those who are not Christians, and do not have the Lord, are not alive to God. Their spirits are not alive to Him, and they do not care about sin. They do not care about God, they do not care about what they are doing. It is all about serving themselves. They think they are serving themselves, but the reality, the real truth, is they are serving the devil who controls them. Whereas the Spirit of God controls us Christians. (Romans 8)

- “...put on the breastplate of righteousness.” (Ephesians 6:14 KJV)

I am living for Jesus in the power of Jesus and the authority of Jesus. The blood of Jesus was given to take away all my sin and to make me righteous in Christ, and that protects my heart, my mind, and everything else in my life.

FEET COVERED WITH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

Next you have “*your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.*” (Ephesians 6:16) See, if your feet are attacked, it is like Achilles’ heel. When his heel was struck, it shut him down. The Lord has provision to cover the feet that bring the gospel. “*How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.*” The feet are very important. How can you stand if your feet are hurting?

The Lord has covered the feet with peace, the gospel of peace. You live your life in peace. Peace with God, peace within yourself. The Lord makes the peace within yourself, and now you can live at peace with others. Everywhere you go you are led by the Spirit of God and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding guards and keeps your heart and mind in faith in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. (Philippians 4:7)

What is very important to know is that when we are dealing with the evil one, we cannot leave the peace of God. What he wants to do is get us outside the peace of God. Then you are led into other places that will allow the thief to have opportunity over your life. When you walk over to those

places, you leave the path of God, the path of peace in Christ Jesus. Jesus died to give us that peace which His blood gave us, and you choose to turn to the left or to the right to get off God's path. Consequently you are not protected. But when you walk in peace, protected, you will see the blessing of heaven come to pass in the situation facing you. You are not moved outside of the peace of God that the gospel has given you.

FAITH QUENCHES THE FLAMING DARTS

- *“In addition to all of this, take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”*

Once upon a time, I had a dream in which I saw myself running. I do not know if you have ever had one of those, but they are awful because you are either running to something or you are running *from* something. In this dream I did not have peace as I was running from something. I was anxious, running with all that I could run with. I looked over my shoulder, and in the next moment I saw little creatures with fangs and sharp teeth. They were just tiny little guys, but ferocious-looking, with sticks and stones and spears. They were running as fast as their little legs could carry them. I was naturally outrunning them, but I was running *from* them. There were thousands and thousands of them. All I could see as I looked back were the little things chasing me, and I was anxious. Not afraid, but anxious. I do not know if you know the difference. The peace was not there. But in the dream I suddenly stopped, and I flew up into the air doing a kind of pirouette. I came down, my feet planted on the ground, and up flashed a big shield. As the sharp-toothed little creatures were firing little fire arrows at me, the big shield went up (consisting of a watery substance). The fiery arrows kept going into the shield, but the watery substance put out the fires.

The shield of faith only flashed up when I took my stand, and having done all to stand, stand. I was in battle position. All those little creatures started doing the skids and falling over each other because they saw that I meant business. God in me, not me, said, “Enough is enough! I am going to take my stand in God, and I don't care how many thousands of little things

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chase me and fire arrows at me.” The shield of faith went up and it quenched the fiery darts of the devil. In my other hand the sword of the Spirit flashed up. There I stood with the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit.

OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE WEAPONS

All of the armor parts are about the Word of God. *“Let it dwell richly in you.”* It is spiritual food (it gives you sustenance). It is how you know what to do in situations. The Word and the Spirit of God work together to cause us to overcome in life. So, up went the shield of faith, and then the sword of the Spirit. Offensive weapon. Actually the shield is offensive too, not just defensive. Long ago when the warriors used the shield, it would stop the enemy’s blow, but even more so it would push back the enemy. Push and then slash with the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. Remember, Jesus in Matthew chapter 4, when He was tempted, said, *“It is written.”* He would come back with *“It is written, it is written.”* It is the sword of the Spirit. He used the sword of the Spirit to come back against the enemy. That is the truth of God. *“It is written.”* This is the truth.

“Man does not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds forth from the mouth of God,” Jesus said. The devil was taunting Him, *“if you are the Son of God, turn these rocks into bread.”* Well, Jesus was hungry. Granted. 40 days and 40 nights fasting, but He was not going to do what the devil directed Him to do. He only did what the Lord directed Him to do.

Up went His shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit.

HEAD GEAR

The last weapon in the set of armor is the helmet of salvation which guards and protects your head. You have got to protect your thoughts. The helmet of salvation says, “I belong to the Lord Jesus Christ and nothing in hell can take that away from me.” My mind is the mind of Christ, and it will be protected and will keep me in the thoughts of God. When you do not have a helmet on, you are vulnerable to all kinds of things.

ALWAYS KEEP ON PRAYING

Wear the full armor of God so that when the evil day comes you can stand. Have the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God, and pray in the Spirit.

How important to speak in tongues! I know lots of folks say, "Oh I don't believe in that. I don't know about that, I don't need it." Well, I have been there and said that, but let me tell you, we need to be praying in the Holy Spirit *and* praying with our understanding. You cannot lean to your own understanding. Praying with your understanding is not praying what you think, praying your own will, or praying what somebody else thinks. It is praying by the Holy Spirit. It just comes out in a language you understand.

When you pray in the Spirit, God is actually giving the words to pray, unknown to you, but the words are the perfect will of God. (Romans 8:26) We need to be praying in the Holy Spirit as part of our weapons against the evil in the earth.

Lord, give me the words to pray about what is going on in Jesus' name.

You do not know what to pray. The Word actually says that you do not know what to pray, but God knows what to pray. He is having us speak life into situations, speak His will into situations. "*Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.*" (Ephesians 6:18) Different kinds of prayers and requests.

"With this in mind, be alert." You have got to be alert.

"Always keep on praying for all the saints," in the spirit *and* with your understanding (a language you know). You are not praying your own will, but praying what God's Word says. What does God's Word say? To pray God's will. "*Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*" I am going to pray God's will for good to overcome evil in Jesus' name: Protect our President, get rid of the evil leaders, or get them born again with God's Spirit so they are not serving the devil. You see, you serve only God, or you serve the devil.

I am not judging people; I am judging their works. You know people by their fruit. Are they doing right, or are they doing wrong? God determines what is right and wrong, not the people, not the leader. The Lord will judge what is right and what is wrong.

DECLARE THE WORD FEARLESSLY

Paul said, *“Pray also for me that whenever I open my mouth words may be given Me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel for which I am an ambassador in Christ and in chains.”* (Ephesians 6:19) He did not do anything wrong, but the world insisted that what he was saying and doing was wrong. He was told, “You cannot preach Jesus, and you cannot work the works of God. We are going to put you away in chains,” but they could not stop him because in chains he wrote the letter to the Ephesians (and to us today).

The work of God cannot be changed, it cannot be stopped, and it cannot be hindered. People have tried to do away with the Bible and prayer since the fall of man. They cannot do it because it belongs to God, and the Lord will always prevail. *“Pray that I may declare it fearlessly as I should.”*

Do what is the good, God, right thing and do not be intimidated by anybody or anything. You are not born of a spirit of fear or timidity, but of power, love, and sound, a well-balanced, disciplined mind. It is balanced by the Spirit of Christ, not extremes. Balanced and led in peace. That is you in Christ Jesus.

IN CONCLUSION

Jesus gave us the armor He used when He walked the earth, and now we use it. It will help us to overcome everything, just like Jesus overcame everything. We will finish all that He has given us to do. We have to work the works here, and we have to stand our ground and take back what belongs to God from the devil, like the lives of the people out there. We need to get the good news of Jesus out to the nations. Thank the Lord for the privilege of being part of that. We will get the job done with all the

ministries of God around the earth. We will love and care for them because Jesus is coming soon.

Start with the folks around you, and know that the good work that God has begun in you, He is faithful to perfect and complete in Jesus' name.

Amen.