

Christian Armor, Part 3

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 5.

B. The Christian has an enemy--the Devil--who must be resisted.

C. The Christian is in a warfare situation. In light of this God dealt a crushing blow to Satan at the cross so he could not have final victory, and he gave us a suit of armor to struggle against Satan in the present.

II. The belt of truth.

III. The breast plate of righteousness.

IV. The gospel of peace.

V. The shield of faith.(1 John 5:4)

VI. The helmet of salvation.

VII. The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

A. The sword is as much an offensive weapon as it is a defensive weapon.

B. The Word of God is our weapon, not our own intellect.

C. It is effective against Satan because he believes it.

D. Our weapons are spiritual. (2 Corinthians 10:3)

E. Jesus counters Satan through the Word of God. (Matthew 4)

1. Jesus was tempted not to trust the care of the Father. He responded by quoting the Word of God. (Deuteronomy 8:3)

2. Jesus is tempted by the lust of the flesh but he quotes Deuteronomy 6:16.

3. Jesus is tempted to compromise but he again quotes Scripture.

4. We must know the Word of God in order to defend against Satan's attacks. It does not need to be defended. It only needs to be used.

F. The Word of God is also offensive. (Romans 10, 1 Peter 1)

G. Satan brings persecution and riches to get people away from the Word of God. (Matthew 13)

H. The words of God applied to specific situations is the sword of the Spirit.

I. Faith comes with a knowledge of God's utterances.

J. The ability to triumph is always there. (2 Corinthians 2:14)

Application Questions:

1. Why is carrying a Bible around insufficient for yielding the sword of the Spirit by itself?

2. Why does the Devil respond to quoted Scripture so readily?

3. What is your plan for memorizing Scripture? Outline it below.
