

BLIND SPOTS SPIRITUAL BATTLE



Let's look at the Armor of God to determine how each piece is being used in our lives.

The Belt of Truth: A belt might simply be seen as a fashion accessory today. However, to a Roman soldier, it was an integral and central part of their uniform. The base of the breast plate would be fastened to the belt to keep it from sliding while in battle. Further, the sword was connected to the belt, as well as several pouches containing food rations, salt for wounds, and more. Likewise, an integral and central component to a Christian's success in battle is staying anchored to the truth of God's Word. This anchor keeps us moored to our Commanding Officer and aware of His instructions.

With this in mind, are you consistently reading and studying the Bible so that *[you] won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. [And you] will not be influenced when people try to trick [you] with lies so clever they sound like the truth* (Ephesians 4:14)?

How will you apply this armor?


Breastplate of Righteousness: For Roman warriors in Bible times, the metal breastplate protected most of the vital organs (particularly the heart) from blows by clubs, swords, maces, and more. For the Christian, our breastplate is a steadfast desire for righteousness, refusing to allow the devil to get at our heart—with lies, through entertainment choices, in compromise, etc.

With this in mind, how well are you following Solomon's words in Proverbs 4:23, *above all else, guard your heart, for it determines the course of your life?*

How will you apply this armor?

Shoes of Peace: We often picture Roman soldiers traveling around in thong-sandals. That, however, was not the footwear of your typical Roman fighter. A typical soldier's sandals were laced all the way up to the knee so that they would never come off in battle. Moreover, the thick leather sole of the sandal would be studded with hobnails, creating the ancient equivalent of cleats! This gave the soldier solid footing to best stand his ground while in combat. Today, in our spiritual battle, the shoes of peace represent a solid understanding that God is on the throne and He will win the victory.

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Such knowledge keeps us surrounded in peace, as the devil throws doubt and despair and discouragement our way. Without the solid footing of knowing God is in complete control and enables our victory, it would be very easy to fall back and give up ground.

With this in mind, are you living every day in the assurance that God is in control?

Application idea: Think through how you handle life when the devil assails with doubts, despair, and discouragement. Where do you run? Is it to God or to something else? If it is something else, you will need to repent of this and work to change.

Shield of Faith: Many movies depicting ancient armies show soldiers battling with relatively small, circular shields. That was not the kind of shield a Roman soldier used, however. A Roman shield was more than two feet wide and as much as four feet tall. In fact, when the Romans attacked Gaul (modern day France), the Gauls mocked them for “bringing a door to war.” Nevertheless, it was so broad and effective that hardly an arrow or sword could pierce it. Understand, in this spiritual battle we are in, Satan is indeed attacking. Since that is the case, we need a faith that is deep and wide, a faith that can deflect anything the devil might throw at us.

With this mind, what “faith building” exercises are you doing each day?

Application idea: Think through the past week. However, this time review how much time you spent in Scripture, in prayer, gathering with likeminded believers, and serving in a ministry. How much faith-building occurred over your last seven days? Where might you need to improve? Spiritual muscle is like physical muscle. Neither grow by accident. You must be intentional to grow in strength.

The Helmet of Salvation: The helmet of a Roman soldier, known as a galea, is an impressive testimony to ancient craftsmanship. It not only was designed to cover the skull, but also had thick metal plates which protected the cheek and jaw bones, the back of the neck, and the forehead. Certainly, a strong blow to the head could incapacitate any soldier making him an easy target. Likewise, the devil desires to target our minds (much like he does our hearts). If he can get us to doubt our salvation, the necessity of salvation, the reality of Hell, the importance of obeying Scripture, and more, he is well on his way to incapacitating us.

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With this in mind, how have you noticed the devil attacking your thought life? Where does he work to get you to second guess the truth of God's Word?

Application idea: Talk through any doubts you may have about your faith or about the truth of God's Word with your pastor or a trusted church leader. Don't allow Satan to win the battle of the mind.

The Sword of the Spirit (the Word of God): A Roman soldier's sword, or gladius, was generally light (around two pounds) and less than three feet in length. Not cumbersome, it was the ideal size and weight for inflicting quick and devastating damage. In our spiritual battle, the Word of God is our offensive weapon. It is a small but powerful weapon which enables us to quickly and decisively counteract the devil's lies, the world's lures, and temptation's guiles. To use a modern weapon analogy, each Scripture we memorize is like a bullet in a gun that we can fire back at Satan when he attacks. Of course, if we don't know the Scriptures well, Satan has no problem taking down the unarmed.

With this in mind, how well do you know the Scriptures? How many verses do you have memorized?

Application idea: Develop a plan where you memorize a verse or two a week. Moreover, don't just read the Bible, study it. There are many online tools to help you do just that.