



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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God's Armor For Us!

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20

In the people of God's life, we battle against "**principalities and powers**" the powerful evil forces of fallen angels headed by Satan who is a vicious fighter. Peter tells us, *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour"* (1 Peter 5:8). We are engaged in a spiritual battle—all God's people find themselves subject to Satan's attacks because they are no longer on Satan's side. Thus, Paul tells us to use every piece of God's armor to resist Satan's attacks and to stand true to God in the midst of those attacks we must depend on God's strength.

Paul is not only giving this counsel to the church, the body of Christ, but to all individuals within the church. The whole body needs to be armed. As you do battle against "**the rulers of the darkness of this world**," fight in the strength and power of the Holy Ghost. Those who are not "**flesh and blood**" are demons over whom Satan has control. They are not mere fantasies—they are very real. We face a powerful army whose goal is to defeat Christ's church. When we believe in Christ and join His church, these beings become our enemies, and they try every device to turn us away from Christ and back to sin. Although we are assured of victory we must engage in the struggle until Christ comes, because Satan is constantly battling against all who are on the Lord's side.

We need supernatural power to defeat Satan, and God has provided that in His Holy Spirit within us and His armor surrounding us. If you feel discouraged, remember Jesus' words to Peter: *"Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"* (Matthew 16:18).

Satan fights with lies, and sometimes his lies sound like truth; but only believers have God's truth (The Holy Bible), which can defeat Satan's lies. He often attacks our heart—the seat of our emotions, self-worth, and trust. God's righteousness is the breastplate that protects our heart and ensures His approval. He approves of us because He loves us and sent His Son to die for us. Satan wants us to think that telling others the Good News is a worthless and hopeless task—the size of the task is too big and the negative responses are too much to handle. But your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace that God gives are the motivation to continue to proclaim the true peace that is available in God—news everyone needs to hear.

What we see are Satan's attacks in the form of insults, setbacks, and temptations. But the shield of faith protects us from Satan's fiery arrows. With God's perspective, we can see beyond our circumstances and know that ultimate victory is ours. Satan wants to make us doubt God, and our salvation. The helmet protects our mind from doubting God's saving work for us. The sword is the only weapon of offense in this list of armor. There are times when we need to take the offensive against Satan. When we are tempted, we need to trust in the truth of God's Word.

How can anyone pray all the time? One way to pray constantly is to make quick, brief prayers your habitual response to every situation you meet throughout the day. Another way is to order your life around God's desires and teachings so that your very life becomes a prayer. You do not have to isolate yourself from other people and from daily work in order to pray constantly. You can make prayer your life and your life a prayer while living in a world that needs God's powerful influence.

Undiscouraged and undefeated, Paul wrote powerful letters of encouragement from prison. Paul did not ask the Ephesians to pray that his chains would be removed, but that he would continue to speak boldly for Christ despite them. God can use us in any circumstance to do His will. Even as we pray for a change in our circumstances, we should also pray that God will accomplish His plan through us right where we are. Knowing God's eternal purpose for us helps us through the difficult times.

People of God Put on All of God's Armor so that you will be able to Stand in the Evil Day!