

Dear Fellow Bible Students,

While going over Ephesians 6:10-20 it appeared that there could be several more pieces of armor than the customary 6, which are (the belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, gospel of peace shoes, shield of faith, helmet of salvation and sword of the spirit).

The word **armor** means (whole, all the forms, all, any, every, the whole, all manner of, means, daily and thoroughly, Strong's G3833, G3956).

The word weapon means, "armor, instrument, weapon" (Strong's G3696). From these definitions we see that the words armor and weapons are linked and can be used interchangeably. This linkage allows for the inclusion of several other pieces of armor that are not normally considered armor.

Withstanding, standing, praying for others with an arsenal of prayer, watching and boldness are also armor weapons found in Ephesians 6:10-20. Please take a look at the following word study for both clarification and confirmation of the foretasted claims about the armor.

Withstand:- meaning antihistamine (Greek). From anti, "against" and histemi, "to cause to stand." The verb suggests vigorously opposing, bravely resisting, standing face to face against an adversary, standing your ground. Just as an antihistamine puts a block on histamine, antihistemi tells us that with the authority and spiritual weapons granted to us we can withstand evil forces, (NKJV notes)."

Think about when you have a cold or sinus problem, you take what is called an antihistamine to fight the histamine that is causing a stuffy nose, watery eyes, itchy throat, etc. Histamine causes the attack within the body and antihistamines block the attack. Withstanding is therefore an important part of our armor/ weaponry.

Stand:- Histemi (Greek) meaning "to abide, appoint, continue, covenant, establish, hold up, stanch."

It would seem that there is a contradiction between being told to withstand (antihistamine) and now to stand (histemi). There is no contradiction. In the first instance we are being told to block the enemy's attacks by withstanding him but now as we are instructed to stand we take the roll of the aggressor against the enemy. We are now attacking him (histemi). As indicated in the definition of histemi we are to abide, continue and hold up no matter what the enemy brings against us. Stand is stated three times from verse 10-14, which indicates its importance as a piece of armor.

Belt of truth:- The belt of truth is so important! It is critical that we keep our loins (reproductive area) covered with truth. This piece of armor ensures that we *reproduce* godliness in the earth for God's kingdom.

The belt of truth had another very significant purpose during the time Paul wrote Ephesians 6. It was used to hold the entire armor together! How critical this aspect of the belt is to all the other pieces of armor.

Without truth girding our loins, other pieces of armor cannot be held in place. We then become exposed and open to infiltration by the enemy. The truth keeps us grounded in battle as we remember that God is true including His promises to deliver us through every battle. Jesus prayed asking the Father, "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth" (John 17:17).

Because other pieces of armor are dependent on the belt of *truth* we realize that the belt also sanctifies the other pieces of armor.

Breastplate of righteousness:- This piece of armor covers the heart and lungs. If the heart is sick it impacts the rest of the body. The heart is responsible for transporting the blood through the **body**. If the heart is full of evil then the blood that travels through the heart will be corrupted thus poisoning the entire body. This means that the person carrying bitterness in the heart will corrupt not only themselves but also others in the Body of Christ.

The lungs are also important organs that are protected by the breastplate of righteousness. The body can in most cases survive a collapsed lung depending on the severity of the injury. However, if both lungs collapse the injury may prove to be fatal as the lungs lose the ability to provide sufficient oxygen to the vital organs. See http://wiki.answers.com/Q/If_the_lungs_are_punctured_what_happens

In the beginning God breathed into man the breath (wind, vital breath, divine inspiration) of life. This says to me that it is by the wind or Spirit of God that the body of Christ is sustained. We cannot afford to let Satan take our breath away because without the Breath (Spirit of God) the body will surely die.

To take our breath away means to seduce or entice us emotionally or by pleasure. This is what happened with Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3). Satan "*took her breath away or punctured her lungs*" and the spirit of mankind died (Genesis 2:17). When Jesus came to earth, He returned life (breath, restored spirit) to mankind (John 1:1-4).

From this we see how important it is to wear the breastplate of righteousness. Righteousness combats the sin that would seek to pierce the heart and lungs.

Gospel of peace shoes:- This piece of armor speaks about our readiness for action and the peace of God that we take with us no matter where the Lord may lead. If our feet are not covered with the proper shoes there are certain places we cannot go. Have you ever tried to walk on hot concrete or sand? What was your reaction? I know what mine was! I was dancing around and even running to find a place where my feet could cool off from the blistering attack of the heat. Having our feet properly covered will allow us to go into the heat of battle in God's peace.

The Shield of Faith:- The Bible is quite clear that this piece of armor is every important. It states, "Above all, taking the shield of faith" verse 16. There is an urgent emphasis in having this piece of armor in place. Looking at the definition of words will show us why.

We are told to take the shield of faith to quench **all** the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Shield:- Strong's (G2375), a large shield as a door, door, a portal or entrance, the opening or closure, gate.

Faith:- Strong's (G4102/ G3982), persuasion, credence, moral conviction, truth, truthfulness of God, reliance upon Christ for salvation, assurance.

Quench:- Strong's (G4570) Extinguish, put out.

Fiery:- Strong's (G4448) To be ignited, glow, to be inflamed with anger, grief, lust, burn be on fire, try

Dart:- Strong's (G956/ G4496) Missile, spear, arrow, violence or intense, strike, throw down, sudden motion

From looking at the definitions of these words we can see why we need to have our shield of faith in place. The shield when held in place acts as a closed door to the violent, angry, lustful, sudden missiles the enemy would seek to launch at us. Apostle Kimberly Daniels in her book, "Take it Back" states that the shield of faith is a door and we keep out the fiery darts from making contact with our armor by keeping the door closed. In other words, we are not to give place to the devil. We must keep the door to him shut at all times. It is our faith in Christ as noted in the definition that keeps the door shut to the enemy. We keep him out by keeping our trust in the Lord. We are fully persuaded of our Lord's authority and power to save, sustain, deliver and provide everything we need spiritually, emotionally, financially etc.

Helmet of Salvation:- This piece of armor has an interesting meaning. It means "encirclement of the head, completeness" (Strong's G4030/ G4012/). The next meaning is, "In the sense of seizing the head, as the part most readily taken hold of."

Wow! The helmet of salvation encamps around us for our protection to keep our minds from being captured by the enemy. Oh how quickly and easily our minds fall prey to the lies, suggestions and deceptions of the devil! We must keep our helmet of salvation on so that our minds stay balanced and at peace no matter what we face in life.

The word salvation as connected to our helmet means, "defender or defense" (Strong's G4992). Our salvation in Christ is the headgear that protects us from the infiltration of the enemy.

The Sword of the Spirit:- The sword means, "a knife, war, judicial punishment, fighting, to quarrel, dispute" (Strong's G3162-4). To quarrel means to have a heated verbal conflict.

We understand from Hebrews 4:12 that the word of God is sharper than any two edged sword. This being the case, we see that to use the sword means that we speak the word and not with timidity. We must quarrel against the works of darkness. We speak the word of God fueled by the Spirit of God. It is the Holy Spirit who leads us to the s**Word** appropriate for the situation or battles we are facing. We fight and beat down the enemy with the word of God. By the authority of Christ, we issue judicial punishment against the words and works of darkness.

Various prayers in the Spirit:- This means that we offer to God on behalf of others, every kind of prayer available as led of the Spirit of God. Only the Spirit of God can lead us into prayer that will move the heart of God to intervene in the lives of those we are praying for. Sometimes it's warfare prayer, other times it's the prayer of thanksgiving, repentance, petition etc. The Spirit of God leads us into the right vehicle of prayer to get the job done. It is a powerful weapon or armory against the enemy.

Watching:- This means, "to be sleepless, keep awake, watch." Vigilance is an important part of the armor. We are being called to watch each other's back. When we watch out for others, we benefit ourselves. We strengthen the body and in turn receive help from the body when the need arises. The persons back you watch out for today may be the one who watches your back tomorrow. We are to look out for each other.

Boldness:- This is such an important piece of armor. It means, "to be frank in utterance, or confident in spirit or demeanor, all out spokenness, assurance" (Strong's G3955/ G3954). Paul had been beaten, jailed, shipwrecked, accused, and so much more, all for the sake of the gospel. He needed the armor of boldness to continue to stand strong and face whatever opposition might come his way because of the gospel. When we apply this piece of armor to ourselves we are more prepared to face those who may resist the gospel. We don't shrink back in fear because of the world's rejection of us. We boldly declare that Jesus Christ is Lord even if it means our death!

We hope this lesson on the armor of the Lord has blessing to you.

Sincerely,

Apostle Jael J Hodge

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