



July 10, 2016  
Celebration · 9:00 am  
Elevation · 11:00 am  
Pastor David Mitchell

## Dress for Success in our Spiritual Battles Ephesians 6:14-17

### The Armor of God

#### Belt of Truth. Ephesians 6:14

*“Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth...”*

Exodus 12:11, Luke 12:35, 1 Peter 1:13

- **The first piece of armor helps to gain mobility and remove distractions.**
  - We need objective truth of God - the Bible. Genesis 3:1 *“Indeed, has God said...”*  
Ephesians 4:14-15  
*“As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine...”*
  - We need subjective truth in our lives - our integrity and honesty.  
2 Timothy 2:4 *“No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life”*  
Hebrews 12:1-3 *“let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us”*
- We remove distractions and hindrances that are not based on God’s truth which trip us up.
- The 5 P’s of Pride can entangle you when the following are strong purposes for you:
  - **Position:** What I achieve gives me value in life.
  - **Prestige:** How others think of me gives me value in life.
  - **Possessions:** Things I gain and accumulate give me value in life.
  - **Power:** How I control my own life and others gives me value.
  - **Pleasure:** Whatever makes me happy is my priority for how I live.

#### Breastplate of Righteousness. Ephesians 6:16

*“having put on the breastplate of righteousness.”*

- This piece protects our heart and character so we confidently stand firm in the battle.
- Be aware of Satan counterfeit righteousness which does not protect you:
  - Perfectionistic righteousness which leads to feelings of shame and unworthiness because we never achieve it.  
Revelation 12:10 - *Satan accuses us day and night.*
  - Comparative righteousness where I find others more sinful than myself. I feel superior and righteous.  
Luke 18:10- *The Pharisee...was praying... ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people’*
  - Complacent righteousness where I no longer grow and mature but just accept my sinful weakness. I adjust my values to align them with the current cultural values. I live comfortably with the “lesser sins” such as jealousy, resentment, materialism, gossip, critical spirit, anger.  
Matthew 19:16-26
  - Self-righteousness where I achieve favor with God by doing good things in a legalistic life. My definition of sin should be the standard for everyone else. If people do not agree, I feel free to judge them. Some of those “sins” are merely opinions on how people should live.  
Matthew 23:27-28 - *‘So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy...’*
- Receive the righteousness of Jesus by faith in Him.
  - 2 Corinthians 5:21 - *“He made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*
  - Ephesians 4:22-24 - *“and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”*

## **Shoes of the Gospel of Peace.** Ephesians 6:15

*“and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.”*

- This piece allows us to not fall but rather stand firm and move forward for Christ.
- We stand firm because of our peace with God through Jesus Christ (Gospel message). Romans 5:1-5
  - God’s peace guards our hearts and minds when we are anxious. Philippians 4:6, 7
  - The peace of Christ offers a thankful life full of His Word and wisdom. Colossians 3:15-16
  - God’s peace cares for us when trouble surrounds us. John 14:27

## **Shield of Faith.** Ephesians 6:16

*...in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*

- Psalm 18:30
- This piece allows us to stand firm and recognize Satan’s “arrows” to defend our faith.
- Jesus’ temptation reveals three “flaming arrows” Satan will use. Matthew 4:1-11
  - An arrow to cause a doubting faith: I question my position in Christ and His love and provision for me when I have unmet needs. Matthew 4:3-4
  - An arrow to cause a testing faith: I only believe in God when He does what I want Him to do. I will misuse the Bible to make my case even if what I want is not the will of God. Matthew 4:5-6
  - An arrow to cause a selfish faith. I want what I want when I want it even if I need to disobey God. I should get what I want without suffering. Matthew 4:8-11

## **Helmet of Salvation.** Ephesians 6:17

*“and take the helmet of salvation.”*

- This piece protects my mind and the truth of my salvation which Satan wants to undermine.
- Understand and enjoy your great salvation (Ephesians 1:3-14):
  - We are blessed with every spiritual blessing from God already.
  - We are chosen by God before the foundation of the world
  - We are chosen to be holy and blameless for God
  - We are adopted as God’s children through Jesus Christ.
  - We are forgiven of our sins by His rich grace, which is lavished on us.
  - We have an inheritance from God waiting for us.
  - We have the Holy Spirit to secure our salvation and all these truths in our lives.
  - We have a salvation by our faith and God’s grace, not from any works by us. Ephesians 2:8-9

## **Sword of the Spirit, Word of God.** Ephesians 6:17

*“and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”*

- This piece gives us offensive power to attack back at Satan and His principles.
- The Bible works on my inner soul and spirit to grow. Hebrews 4:12-13
- The Bible offers practical wisdom to be fully equipped for my life. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

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## **LifeGroup Discussion**

1. Which of these pieces of armor are you already using? How have you seen it help you?
2. Which of these pieces of armor do you need to put on and learn better how to use?