

## Dressed For Battle

Ephesians 6:10-18

If you are a Christian, you have been enlisted into God's army. Warren W. Wiersbe said, "The Christian life is not a playground, but a battle ground. When we accepted Jesus as our Savior, His enemies became our enemies.

Jesus said in John 15:18, "*If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.*"

The Apostle Paul told Timothy to be a good soldier of Jesus Christ, because we are in a spiritual war. The war is between the army of God and Satan. Ephesians 6:12 states, "*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.* So we understand that we cannot fight a spiritual enemy with fleshly weapons (2 Corinthians 10:4).

The good news is that the fight has been fixed. Victory is already ours in Christ Jesus, and the enemy is a defeated foe. He knows He can't win, so he'll try to take as many out as he possibly can. He's out to discourage us, discredit us, and to ultimately destroy us!

All soldiers wear uniforms which identify the branch in which he or she serves. The Bible instructs us on how we should dress for battle. The armor is to be worn daily since we never know when the enemy will strike. Whatever part of the body that is left unprotected can, and will be, targeted by the enemy. That's why the Bible tells us to put on the whole armor of God, so we may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil (Ephesians 6:11).

Let's take a look at the pieces of armor recommended:

1. **Belt of Truth** - The belt is worn on the waist to securely hold garments in place. As soldiers we are to hold the TRUTH of God securely around us. Jesus said in John 14:6, *I am the way, the Truth and the life.* "On the contrary, Satan is a LIAR and the father of lies. It is not in God's nature to lie and it's not in Satan's nature to tell the truth.
2. **Breastplate of Righteousness** - The righteousness of Christ covers and protects our hearts from the evil one.
3. **Feet shod with Peace** - As Christians we are to walk in peace as much as possible. The enemy wants to steal our peace and bring about disharmony. He

creates confusion among believers, so he can divide and conquer, but Jesus, who is our peace, desire that we wear it daily.

4. **Shield of Faith** - When we are shielded by faith, we are protected from the deception, lies and thoughts sent by Satan to cause us to doubt God. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6)
5. **Helmet of Salvation** - Our heads need covering so our minds can continually be on Jesus. What we concentrate on continually is what we will become.
6. **Sword of the Spirit** - A sword is used in defense to keep the enemy from gaining ground. Our sword is the Word of God. The only way to defeat our enemy is through studying the Word of God and prayer.

Sisters and brothers, are you dressed for battle?

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