

Confidence, Boldness, and Humility

We have established throughout this book that there is a real spiritual war happening around us. That the enemy is active, strategic, and relentless. That we are not fighting against people but against powers and principalities that have been at work since long before we were born.

Knowing that, there are two wrong responses.

The first is fear. The paralysis that comes when you see the size of what you are up against and forget who is standing with you. The second is pride — the misplaced confidence that looks at the battle and thinks it can handle it in its own strength.

Neither one will serve you. Neither one is what God is asking for.

What He is asking for is something different. Something that looks like confidence and boldness on the outside, but is rooted in something the world does not produce on its own. He is asking for the courage that comes from knowing you are not alone, that the battle has already been won, and that the One fighting with you has never lost.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. — Joshua 1:9 ESV

That is the foundation. Not strength mustered from within. Not confidence manufactured through willpower or positive thinking. Strength that comes from knowing who is with you.



PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. — Ephesians 6:10–13 NIV

This is the walk. This is what it looks like to move through life with your eyes open to what is actually happening around you. We cannot live as though there is no spiritual war. We cannot be complacent. We cannot treat Scripture as if it is describing something that happened to other people in another time.

It is describing us. Right now.

And God's Word is telling us plainly: you need this armor. Not for decoration. Not for comfort. For protection. Because the enemy is real, his schemes are real, and the battle

is real. But so is the victory. Jesus said in this world you will have many troubles — and then He said He has overcome them all. That is the ground we stand on.

Let's look at what we have been given.



THE BELT OF TRUTH

In ancient times, a soldier's belt served a few critical purposes. It gathered up the long robes he was wearing so he could move freely — so he could fight, run, and act without getting tangled in what he was wearing. It secured his armor close to his body. It held his weapons. It was the difference between a soldier who was ready and one who was loose and unprepared.

The belt of Truth works the same way. Truth is what prepares you. Truth is what keeps you from getting tangled up in the lies, the confusion, the noise that the enemy constantly generates around us. A person who does not know what is true will be tripped up before the battle even begins.

This is about being sober and alert. Not laid back as if nothing is coming. Not passive, assuming everything will work itself out. Knowing the truth of who God is, what He has done, who you are, and what the enemy is actually after — and being ready to act on it when the moment comes.

If we are not prepared, we will not be able to defend ourselves or the people we love when the enemy moves.



THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The breastplate covered the most vital organs. The heart. The lungs. Everything that keeps a soldier alive in battle.

This righteousness is not our own. That is the most important thing to understand here. It is the righteousness of God covering us — It is the only righteousness that holds up under the enemy's accusations.

Here is why that matters. The enemy is described in Scripture as the accuser. He has had centuries to study God's law and will catalog every failure, every sin, every moment you fell short. And he will bring those cases forward. He will remind you of your past. He will try to convince you that because of what you have done, you have no right to stand in God's army. That you are too broken, too inconsistent, too far gone to be useful.

In your own righteousness, he has a point. Isaiah says even our best efforts at righteousness are like filthy rags apart from God. We cannot defend ourselves with what we have produced.

But that is not what we are wearing.

We are wearing the righteousness of Jesus Christ. And on the day we stand before God, the verdict is not based on our record — it is based on His. The penalty for sin is death, but the debt has been paid in full on the cross. Not guilty. That is the breastplate. That is what protects the heart. And that is the ground on which we can stand with genuine confidence in the fight.

◆◆◆ FEET FITTED WITH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

Fitted is a specific word. Not loose. Not too tight. Fitted — meaning the right size, the right shape, secured properly so you can move.

The Gospel of Peace is the good news that we have been made right with God. There is no greater news than this. The God of the universe sent His Son to free us from slavery to sin, and instead of enemies of God, we are adopted sons and daughters. Our souls are at peace with Him. That is the foundation we stand on.

And it has to be fitted. Not loosely held — not a halfway belief you pick up and put down depending on how you feel. Fitted means it is secured. It moves with you. You go where it goes.

Think of it this way. A soldier in loose-fitting shoes will stumble. But shoes that are too tight will restrict movement just as badly — and that is what legalism does. The Pharisees put so many rules around God's law that people could barely move. Counting steps, withholding mercy, making the law a cage instead of a path. That is not the gospel.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is freedom. Freedom from sin, freedom from condemnation, freedom to move. Fitted for the battle ahead.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. — Romans 5:1 ESV

◆◆◆ THE SHIELD OF FAITH

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. — Hebrews 11:1 KJV

Faith is not the thing hoped for itself — it is the settled assurance of it. People put faith in things every day without thinking about it. When you sit in a chair, you do not stop and analyze whether it will hold you. You sit, because you trust it will do what it was made to do.

Imagine if our faith in Christ was that real. That settled. Not just words we say, but a confidence so rooted that we rest in Him the way we rest in the things we trust without thinking.

The shield of faith is this: when the enemy fires, we do not have to question whether God is our covering. We trust that He is. When the flaming arrows come — the accusations, the doubts, the fears, the worst-case scenarios — the shield does not waver because our trust does not waver.

But I want to be clear about something. Faith is not passive. Faith without works is dead. If someone came to my house and told me it was on fire and I said “I believe you” and then went back to what I was doing — did I really believe? Faith produces action. If we say we trust God as our shield and then collapse the moment an arrow comes, we were not actually holding it.

Pick it up. Use it. Trust Him enough to act like you trust Him.

“But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” — James 2:18 ESV



THE HELMET OF SALVATION

We talked in an earlier chapter about the captured mind — how the enemy targets our thinking above almost everything else. The helmet of salvation protects exactly that.

When you become a genuine threat to the enemy, one of his primary tactics is to attack your assurance of salvation. Thoughts begin to surface: maybe you are not really saved. Maybe you have sinned too many times. Maybe God is done with you. Maybe you have gone too far.

If you are not wearing the helmet, those thoughts find their mark. Fear sets in. Doubt takes hold. And a soldier paralyzed by fear and doubt is not fighting anyone.

This is why we must know what Jesus has done. Know His character. Know that He is our high priest, our advocate before the Father. John says plainly: when we sin, we have an advocate with the Father — Jesus Christ the righteous. The enemy wants us to make sweeping statements about what we will never do again, because he knows that the moment we fail — and we will fail — he can use it. “Ah, you said you would never. And now look at you.”

Put on the helmet. Know what has been secured for you. Know that your salvation does not rest on your perfect performance but on the finished work of Christ. That is what protects the mind.



THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

Every other piece of armor is defensive. This one is the weapon.

The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. And it is the most powerful weapon a follower of Christ wields.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Through Him all things were made. And then — the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. The Word is Jesus. Scripture does not present the Word of God as something separate from Christ — it shows us that the fullness of the Word is revealed personally in Him.

At the same time, all Scripture is given by inspiration of God. It is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit. It discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart. It is not a historical document sitting on a shelf. It is alive. It is active.

Jesus demonstrated exactly how to use it when He was tempted in the wilderness. Every time the enemy came at Him, He answered with the same three words: it is written. He did not argue. He did not reason with the enemy. He drew the sword. And the enemy fled.

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” — James 4:7 NIV

That is what we have. Every lie the enemy speaks, every temptation, every accusation — there is a word of God that answers it. The more we know Scripture, the more precisely we can fight. The more we walk with Jesus, the more we love the Word that reveals Him. And the more we carry it — hidden in our hearts, alive in our minds — the more effective we become in the battle.

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. — Hebrews 4:12 ESV



NO ONE PUTS ON ARMOR NAKED

My dad used to say something that has stayed with me. I mention briefly about this in another chapter. We talk so much about putting on the armor of God — and we should. But we often leave off what the armor goes over.

Colossians 3 says this:

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another... And above all these put on love. — Colossians 3:12–14 ESV

No one puts on armor naked. It goes over something. And what it goes over — compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience — and above all, Love.

God is Love. We have said this throughout this book and we come back to it again here, because it is always true and always relevant. We can do nothing without God. The confidence and boldness we carry into the battle is not ours — it is His. The Love we fight from is not ours — it is His working through us.

Humility is knowing that without Jesus, none of this is possible. That the strength we stand in is not self-generated. That the armor we wear is not something we earned. That the victory we are fighting toward has already been won — and we are simply being asked to stand in it.

So put on the armor. All of it. Every piece. Stand firm. Be bold. Be courageous.

But first — put on Love. And remember that it is His.