



Chosen to be a Soldier

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Many are “called,” but very few are **CHOSEN**. If you are a child of God, you have been chosen to be a soldier of Jesus Christ while on this earth. As a soldier, our battles are 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” (EPHES. 6:12) that seek to tempt us through the flesh.

Satan knows that man’s fleshly nature is his **weakness**. Our salvation depended upon Jesus coming in the “**likeness**” of our sinful flesh, to condemn sin and set us free from the “bondage” of sin.

So, as “good” soldiers (2 Tim. 2:3), our daily warfare is bringing our bodies under subjection, so that we can remain “profitable” servants to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul said, “I have fought a **good fight**, I have **finished my course**, I have **kept the faith**” (2 Tim. 4:7). Our goal is to run “our” race that we may obtain “our” crown of righteousness!

Our **FIRST** duty then as a soldier is to **PUT OFF**.

WE ARE TO “...**PUT OFF** CONCERNING THE FORMER CONVERSATION (BEHAVIOR) THE OLD MAN...AND **PUT ON** THE NEW MAN, WHICH AFTER GOD IS CREATED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND TRUE HOLINESS” (EPHES. 4:22-24).

WHY? Because...

“...OUR OLD MAN IS CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST, THAT THE BODY OF SIN MIGHT BE **DESTROYED** (TO RENDER ENTIRELY IDLE), THAT HENCEFORTH WE SHOULD **NOT SERVE** (OR BE A SLAVE TO) **SIN**” (ROMANS 6:6).

Our duty is to **SUBMIT** ourselves to God...become **OBEDIENT** to His word. We are to **RESIST** the devil, and God has promised in his word...

“...HE **WILL FLEE** FROM YOU” (JAMES 4:7).

But Satan will be back to tempt us again. He will not give up “because he **KNOWETH** that he hath but a **SHORT** time” (REVELATION 12:12).

Paul said, “...I **keep under** (to subdue one’s passions) my body, and **bring it into subjection** (to enslave it): lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a **castaway** (unapproved; rejected)” (1 COR. 9:27). We should all do the same.

“...BUT **NOW** YE ALSO **PUT OFF ALL** THESE; **ANGER** (VIOLENT PASSION), **WRATH** (FIERCENESS), **MALICE** (ACTIVE ILL WILL), **BLASPHEMY** (THE USE OF ABUSIVE LANGUAGE), **FILTHY COMMUNICATION** (OFFENSIVE TO THE SENSES; REPULSIVE; DISGUSTING) OUT OF YOUR MOUTH. **LIE NOT** (TO UTTER AN UNTRUTH) ONE TO ANOTHER, SEEING THAT YE HAVE **PUT OFF** (TO STRIP OFF) THE OLD MAN WITH HIS DEEDS (OR PRACTICES); AND HAVE **PUT ON** (TO SINK INTO A GARMENT) THE NEW MAN, WHICH IS **RENEWED** IN **KNOWLEDGE** (DISCERNMENT) AFTER THE IMAGE OF HIM (GOD) THAT CREATED HIM (THE **NEW MAN**)” (COL. 3:8-10).

Our **SECOND** duty as a soldier is to **PUT ON**.

We are commanded to **put on** the **WHOLE** armor of God, not just “part” of it. We need a complete **SUIT** of protection...

“...THAT YE MAY BE ABLE TO **STAND AGAINST** THE WILES (OR **TRICKERY**) OF THE DEVIL” (EPH. 6:11).

PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

"WHEREFORE TAKE UNTO YOU THE **WHOLE** ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YE MAY BE ABLE TO **WITHSTAND** IN THE EVIL DAY, AND HAVING DONE ALL, TO **STAND**" (EPH. 6:13).

In the last days, "**evil men** and **seducers** shall **wax** (or **GROW**) worse and worse, deceiving (to cause to roam from truth), and being deceived (to roam from truth)" (2 TIM. 3:13). Also, "they shall **turn away** their **ears** (faith comes by hearing...) from the **TRUTH**, and shall be **turned** unto **fables** (fiction)" (2 TIM. 4:4).

TRUTH There are six items that complete the armor. The first item of armor is the belt that encircles about our loins...called **TRUTH**: "**Stand** therefore, having your **loins girt about** (to fasten one's belt) with **TRUTH**...

"JESUS SAITH UNTO HIM, I AM THE **WAY**, **THE TRUTH**, AND THE **LIFE**: **NO MAN** COMETH UNTO THE FATHER, BUT BY ME" (JOHN 14:6).

RIGHTEOUSNESS The second item of armor is called the **BREASTPLATE**, which during medieval times was to protect the front and the back of the body. "...and having on the **breastplate** of **righteousness** (justification=just as if you have never committed a sin)...

"FOR AS BY ONE MAN'S DISOBEDIENCE (**ADAM**) MANY WERE **MADE SINNERS**, SO BY THE OBEDIENCE OF ONE (**JESUS CHRIST**) SHALL MANY BE **MADE RIGHTEOUS**" (ROMANS 5:19).

THE GOSPEL OF PEACE The third item of armor is the **PREPARATION** to go into **ALL** the world and preach the gospel to every creature..."And your feet **shod** (to put on shoes or sandals) with the **preparation** (be in readiness) of **the gospel of peace**...

"AS IT IS WRITTEN, HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE **FEET** OF THEM THAT PREACH **THE GOSPEL OF PEACE**, AND BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS" (ROMANS 10:15)!

FAITH The fourth item of armor is the **SHIELD** used for protection from incoming threats. "Above all, **taking** the **SHIELD** (a large shield, as door-shaped) of **FAITH** (persuasion), wherewith ye shall be able to **quench** (to extinguish) **ALL** the fiery darts of the wicked...

"NOW **FAITH** IS THE **SUBSTANCE** OF THINGS **HOPED** FOR, THE **EVIDENCE** OF THINGS **NOT SEEN**...BUT **WITHOUT FAITH** IT IS **IMPOSSIBLE** TO PLEASE GOD: FOR HE THAT COMETH TO GOD **MUST** BELIEVE THAT HE IS, AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THEM THAT **DILIGENTLY SEEK** HIM" (HEBREWS 11:1,6).

Remember, **EVERY** word of God is **PURE**. God is a **SHIELD**...but **ONLY** unto them that **PUT** their **TRUST** in Him (Read Proverbs 30:5).

SALVATION The fifth item of armor is called the **HELMET**, used for the protection of the head. "And take the **helmet** of **salvation** (defense)...

"NEITHER IS THERE **SALVATION** IN **ANY OTHER**: FOR THERE IS **NONE OTHER NAME** UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN AMONG MEN, WHEREBY **WE MUST** BE SAVED" (ACTS 4:12).

THE SWORD The sixth, and final item of armor is called "...**the sword of the Spirit**, which is **the word of God**...

"FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS **QUICK** (TO MAKE ALIVE), AND **POWERFUL** (ACTIVE; ACCOMPLISHING WHAT IS DESIRED), AND SHARPER THAN ANY TWOEDGED SWORD..." (HEBREWS 4:12).

So, in summery, If we have been "**called**" to be a soldier, then we **MUST** be prepared to do battle against the flesh. No soldier of Jesus Christ will "...entangeth himself with the affairs of this life; that he (the believer) may please him (God) who hath **chosen** him (put your name there) to be a soldier" (2 TIMOTHY 2:4).

"Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (ROMANS 13:14).