Ephesians 6

“Before Paul told you to put on the armor of God, God was already wearing it.

Most people who are exhausted from spiritual warfare are exhausted for one reason. They have been trying to produce what was always meant to be received; fighting a battle that was already won.

Ask someone what it means to put on the armor of God and they will describe a morning discipline. A declaration routine. A daily act of spiritual preparation before going out to face the enemy. The armor becomes something they generate; something their faith produces, something their consistency maintains. And when the battle gets long and the pressure does not lift their narrative, the first question they ask is what they are doing wrong. Why the armor is not working. Why they are still tired.

Nobody told them where the armor actually came from.

Before Ephesians 6, go to Isaiah 59:17; speaking about God the Prophet wrote "He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head." Then see Isaiah 11:5 - "Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins."

Paul did not invent the armor revelation. He borrowed it from Isaiah. And in Isaiah, God is the one wearing it.

The breastplate of righteousness is God's breastplate. The helmet of salvation is God's helmet. The belt of truth is God's belt. When Paul says put on the whole armor of God, he is not describing spiritual equipment you manufacture through discipline. He is describing the nature and character of God Himself, and telling you to clothe yourself in it. The armor is not what you wear to war. It's what God wears. And Paul told you to put it on.

The belt of truth. Jesus said in John 14:6 that "I am the way, the truth, and the life." You are not putting on an abstract principle. You are putting on Christ.

The breastplate of righteousness. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says you have "become the righteousness of God" in Him. The righteousness is not something you develop through spiritual maturity. It is something you were given the moment you believed. You are putting on what you already are.

The shoes of the gospel of peace. Romans 5:1 declares that "we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." The peace is already established. The shoes are not about acquiring peace. They are about walking in what you already have.

The shield of faith. Galatians 2:20 declares "the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me." The faith originates in Christ. You are not generating it from your own spiritual reserves. You are standing in what He already produced.

The helmet of salvation. Not a future hope, but a settled certainty about what has already been accomplished. A mind protected by the assurance of finished work of grace. Salvation is not an insurance against anything, but assurance that your new life is perfected and secured in Christ.

The pattern is the same across every single piece. None of it is self-generated. Every piece is received. Putting on the armor is not an act of spiritual production. It is an act of recognition; choosing to stand in what is already yours in Christ.

Which brings you to the word Paul uses most in this passage. And almost nobody has counted it.

The word stand appears four times in seven verses;

"That you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil." Verse 11.
"That you may be able to withstand in the evil day." Verse 13.
"Having done all, to stand firm." Verse 13. "Stand therefore." Verse 14.

Four times. Paul never says advance, conquer, take new ground or fight. The Greek word is "histemi" which means to hold your position, to remain upright, to refuse to be moved from where you are.

The armor was never primarily designed for aggressive military advance; fighting and winning battles. It was designed for one thing. Standing; holding ground you already occupy.

And the ground you already occupy was taken by someone else. Colossians 2:15 says "He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them." This scripture is in past tense. Complete. Christ already won. The armor enables you to stand in that victory. Not to win a battle that was already decided before you arrived.

This is why the warfare is exhausting so many believers. They are fighting for a victory that was already secured at the cross. You are not fighting to win. You are standing in what won.

Paul wrote Ephesians chained to a Roman soldier. He knew Roman military equipment intimately. And the Roman shield, the scutum, was not designed for individual fighting. It was designed for the testudo formation; where soldiers locked shields together into a structure that made the unit essentially impenetrable. A Roman soldier fighting alone was exposed on every side. A Roman soldier in formation had his vulnerable sides covered by the shields of the soldiers standing beside him.

Your faith does not only protect you. It covers what the person standing next to you cannot reach on their own. Their faith covers what yours does not. The shield of faith in formation extinguishes everything. One shield alone leaves gaps.

"With which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one." The "all" is only possible in formation.

Paul ends the armor passage by adding "praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication for all the saints." not with a personal victory declaration. The armor ends in community. Standing together. Shields interlocked. Each one covering what the other cannot reach alone. That's love and God is Love.

In Christ you are already putting on the amor; dressed in God's nature. And you were never meant to wear it alone.

The believer who understands the armor stops asking why the warfare is draining them. They were fighting for what they already had.

Are you still fighting for victory or from victory? One keeps you weak, while the other keeps you strong.

Ref: Isaiah 59:17, Isaiah 11:5, Ephesians 6:10-18, John 14:6, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 5:1, Galatians 2:20, Colossians 2:15

#Christianity #BiblicalTruth #FaithOverFeelings #ArmorOfGod

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