



A CHRISTIAN IS GOD'S SOLDIER

6 October 2013, Dr Stephen Smith

Behold, I have given him for a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander to the people.

Isaiah 55:4

No one can be a true soldier without being an ACTIVE soldier, and Christ needs soldiers - people of faith, courage, and devotion who will not back-off at any foe, and who will be constant in their opposition to anything that would degrade the lives of men.

OUR ARMOUR

Put on God's whole armour [the armour of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil.

Ephesians 6:11 (Amplified)

Armour is for protective purposes and each separate piece is essential for full protection.

- **The Belt of Truth**

Stand therefore [hold your ground], having tightened the belt of truth around your loins...

Eph. 6:14 (Amplified)

And you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free. (John 8:32).

The extent to which Christians are concerned for their salvation, is the extent to which they will ever be concerned in *speaking the truth in love* (Eph. 4:15). They will believe the truth, accept the truth, and obey the truth without hesitation or reluctance. Jesus prayed: *Sanctify them through thy truth. Thy word is truth* (John 17:17). The truth revealed in God's word will perfect the man of God *unto all good works* (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

- **The Breastplate of Righteousness**

The Commander tells His soldiers to *Put on the chest-plate of righteousness* (Eph. 6:14).

Our breastplate is not material; it is the principle of righteousness, which simply means "right doing." As long as we are always busy in the work of God, we will have no time to do wrong.

When Christians are trained to "be godly" (1 Tim. 4:7), they will always find spiritual work to do that will honour their Lord and beatify their own lives.

Christ went about doing good (Acts 10:38) and all His followers should emulate His example to their own happiness and to the blessing of others.

- **The Gospel Shoes**

We are to have our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace

Ephesians 6:15

How eager we should be to carry the good news to souls facing eternity, *having no hope, and without God in the world* (Eph. 2:12).

There is nothing that will make a Christian stronger than to work for the salvation of others. *How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things* (Isa. 52:7; Rom. 10:15). There can be no conquest of the devil

unless we bring freedom to those taken captive by him (2 Tim. 2:25-26). This is a vital part of our warfare and is a work that should be done by all members of the church, not just "The Minister." Christ came to preach *deliverance to the captives* (Luke 4:18), and that same preaching is the world's greatest need.

- The Shield of Faith

Above all, take up faith for a shield. With this, you will be able to put out all the burning arrows of the evil one.

Ephesians 6:16

Our shield is Faith. *Without faith it is impossible to please God* (Heb. 11:6), and that faith means far more than merely believing in God. It means taking God at His word! And faith is never passive. It is always ACTIVE. That is why Paul speaks of *the obedience of faith* (Rom. 16:26).

Discouragement is another well used tool of the devil against Christians. He cannot reach them on a moral issue, but if he can get them discouraged and thus lose faith, they became utterly useless to the Lord.

And he says to them, Because of your little faith: for truly I say to you, If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, Be moved from this place to that; and it will be moved; and nothing will be impossible to you.

Matthew 17:20

- The Helmet of Salvation

And take the helmet of salvation (Eph. 6:17). Elsewhere Paul describes our helmet as *the hope of salvation* (1 Thess. 5:8).

- The Weapon

Paul speaks of, *the sword of the Spirit. This is the message of God* (Eph. 6:17).

For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds,

[Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

God's message is alive and active. It is sharper than any sword with two sharp edges. It can slice between the soul and the spirit or between the joints and bone marrow. It can tell the difference between the desires and the intentions of the human mind (Heb 4:12). *With that sword the soldier of the cross is prepared for any good work* (2 Tim.3:17).

But before the soldier can use it effectively, he must have an excellent working knowledge of its truths. This is of supreme importance in our warfare and it is at this very point where the church today is failing.

OUR VICTORY

Jesus spoke of those who endure for awhile *but when tribulation or persecution arise because of the word, by and by they are offended* (Matt. 13:21).

Our victory is not won in a day or a year. The victory is sure if we with patience continue our opposition to all that which is evil. We have this assurance, *for he (Christ) must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed*

*is death (1 Cor 15:25-26). The devil's doom is certain: **And the devil that received them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever (Rev. 20:10).***

A Glorious Victory! ***He that overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son (Rev. 21:7).***

The victory of Christ is certain, but your victory depends on your efforts to live righteously and walk humbly before your God. So, ***work out your own salvation with fear and trembling (Phil 2:12).***

If you will not "endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" and faithfully keep His commandments, your doom will be the devil's victory even in his hour of utter defeat.

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6

...bring it to a flourishing finish (MESSAGE).

You Are Unique - Distinctive, uncommon, exclusive, unusual....

We Are:

- Men and women who bring redemption and freedom to mankind through the power of God.
- People who disarm the powers of darkness and liberate mankind from the clutches of corruption to bring them to glory, light and freedom through Christ.
- People who act Christ-like on earth based on their knowledge of being created in the image of God.
- The release of the Zoë life of God in people.
- People who are led by the Spirit of God.