

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The Christian's Holy War

The Helmet of SALVATION

Ephesians 6:10-18 ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints

The fifth weapon in the Armor of God is the Helmet of Salvation ^{Ephesians 6:17a}.

This study will probe the Scriptural significance of the physical aspects of a Helmet and how it is applied Spiritually, as well as God's Ultimate Gift of Salvation to the Christian.

As with all of God's Armor, the Helmet provides both Physical and Spiritual Protection.

In the OT, the LORD prepared to deliver Israel and take vengeance on His enemies by figuratively putting on His head the helmet of salvation, as well as wearing a breastplate of righteousness.

Isaiah 59:17a He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head,

God (through David) called Ephraim His helmet, as a symbol of the northern defense of Judah.

Psalms 108:8 Gilead is mine, Manasseh is mine; Ephraim is my helmet, Judah my scepter. ^{Psalms 60:7}

Soldiers down through the ages have always worn a helmet. ^{2 Chronicles 26:14, Ezekiel 23:24, 27:10, 38:5-6}

Jeremiah 46:3-4 Prepare your shields, both large and small, and march out for battle! Harness the horses, mount the steeds! Take your positions with helmets on! Polish your spears, put on your armor!

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For example, both Saul ^{1 Samuel 17:38-39} and Goliath had brass helmets in their personal armor.

1 Samuel 17:4-7a A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet tall. He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod; its iron point weighed six hundred shekels.

Protecting the Warrior's Brain/Mind in Physical/Spiritual Battle is the Job of the Helmet.

The thoughts of man are controlled by the Flesh Philippians 3:18-19 or by the Spirit Acts 4:31.

Romans 8:5-9 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ

The Goal: the Wisdom of God ⇔ the Mind of Christ.

Psalms 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

1 Corinthians 1:30 It is because of [God] that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God - that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

1 Corinthians 2:14-16 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?"
But we have the mind of Christ.

Salvation is an Eternal Blessing, also designed to be a Great Benefit in the Short Term.

Jesus' Sacrifice provided the Free Gift of Salvation, but it must be Received God's way. Romans 10:8-10

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.

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And, once a Person is Saved, Eternal Salvation is Guaranteed. Romans 4:16, 8:31-39, 2 Corinthians 5:5

John 10:27-30 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them & they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.

However, obtaining the fullness of Salvation in the present takes effort. Philippians 2:12-13, James 4:2-3

1 John 5:13-15 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him.

For the genuine Christian, salvation is guaranteed by God Ephesians 1:13-14; however, in order to obtain the “hope of salvation” as a constant, practical reality in their earthly life, the believer must daily put on the Helmet of Salvation, use their mind wisely and control their thoughts appropriately.

1 Thessalonians 5:5-8 You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

1 Peter 3:15 Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have, but do this with gentleness and respect.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Paul gave an excellent summary of the types of thoughts a Christian should focus on. Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.

The Helmet of Salvation is the fifth weapon in God's Armor, and it is designed to provide protection for the mind of the Christian. Maintaining the knowledge of God's principles & wisdom helps a Saved individual to have the best facts and thoughts to live a redeemed life in a darkened world. The Spirit-filled Believer will be more bold in their witnessing and strong & confident as they face the inevitable Spiritual Warfare.

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Acts 4:31 After [Peter, John and many disciples] prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Romans 4:16 Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring – not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham.

He is the father of us all.

Romans 8:31-39 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” ^{Psalms 44:22} No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 10:8-10 But what does [righteousness that is by faith] say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” ^{Deuteronomy 30:14} that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Ephesians 1:13-14 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of his glory.

Philippians 2:12-13 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Philippians 3:18-19 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

James 4:2-3 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

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