

## Called To Be Warriors (Part 2)

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In a previous article (**AUGUST 2, 2015 VOLUME 30, ISSUE 31**) we examined that Hebrews 1:8 establishes that Christ is king over His kingdom and as Christians, we are citizens in the kingdom. As the king of our kingdom, Christ has both the authority and the responsibility to call soldiers to the defense of the kingdom. As Christians, we are called to be warriors in the kingdom and fight the spiritual battle against sin and the devil our adversary. We examined that Napoleon Bonaparte is quoted as saying "The First virtue in a soldier is endurance of fatigue; courage is only the second virtue." Hebrews 6:11-12 (NKJV) *"And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end."* We must develop our **endurance** to complete our tasks. The second virtue is that of **courage** which as defined by the *Oxford Press Dictionary* says that courage is "strength in the face of pain or grief."

Let us now consider that as soldiers we need to prepare for the battle we face by putting on our armor for our defense, protection, and ability to prosecute the war. Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:10-11 (NKJV) *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."* When properly arrayed (outfitted) for battle, each piece of armor serves a purpose. Paul tells us to put on the whole armor of God (the complete suit of armor), be completely arrayed, and prepared for the battle we are to fight. The first pieces of armor are defensive to protect us. First, we gird ourselves (encircle) with **truth**. The truth is our foundation and allows us to question and test the words of others. Our daily study of God's word should surround us and be our first line of defense.

Next, we put on the breastplate of **righteousness** to protect our hearts. One definition of righteousness is "acting in accord with divine or moral law." In Job 29:14 (NKJV), Job stated that he *"put on righteousness, and it clothed me."* Job's actions reflected the value of his heart, he stood for the widows, the lame, the poor, and *"broke the fangs of the wicked"* (29:17). He acted according to the divine law, rightly. Our actions reflect what we hold in our heart, we must hold the law of God in our heart and protect it, and His righteousness fortifies us.

Thus protected so far, then Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:15 (NKJV), *"and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of **peace**."* A Roman soldiers' footwear was studded like cleats helping them to stand fast (or stand their ground) in formation with other soldiers. Soldiers fight together as a unit and depend upon the other soldiers to stand and do their part in the battle. In 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 (NKJV) Paul, says *"Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in **which you stand**, by which also you are saved, if you **hold fast** that word which I preached to you."* The meaning I suggest here is that we must stand firmly facing our foes boldly as if in defending a fortress having been prepared by the Gospel, then we shall be victorious.

Next Paul tells us *"above all, taking the shield of **faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."* Even after all the armor we have so far, we add another layer of armor as we take with us the shield of faith. In 1 John 5:4 (NKJV) *"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 311203

311202