

Called To Be Warriors (Part 2) {concluded}

by Van Knolton

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has overcome the world, our faith." In Acts 3:16 (NKJV) we see *"through faith in His name, has made this man strong,Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all."* Our faith comes from and through Christ and our confidence in His power to overcome all that the devil can throw our way.

Finally, we put on the helmet of **salvation**. The helmet protects our head, our center for sober and reasoning thought as in 1 Thessalonians 5:8. In our heads we commit a reasoned argument for our hope and we are saved in our hope, Romans 8:24 (NKJV) *"For we were saved in this hope."* These pieces of armor are the **defensive** pieces of armor for our protection. We have no power without Christ and the author of our salvation.

Now properly arrayed for defensive and trusting in His power, the next piece of our armor is the **offensive** part, the sword of the **Spirit**. Paul reminds us that our weapons are not carnal but spiritual *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God"* 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NKJV). The word of God is our sword, it is mighty and sharp, judging our thoughts and purpose. Using our rational and sober thought, having prepared ourselves through the daily study of His word, we are able to enter the battle prepared to present ourselves as a soldier arrayed for the spiritual battle confronting us to refute the lies Satan spreads.

Our next weapon is **prayer** as in Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV) *"praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints."* Prayer is a weapon available for us to use and we are to use it daily. We are told to pray without ceasing and in everything giving thanks. Here we are also told to be watchful with perseverance and supplication (petition and prayer) for our fellow soldiers. How else do we talk to God, gain peace from casting our cares away from us, and focus our minds on the battle we must fight daily?

Brethren, we must remember that our battle is a spiritual war that we are called to wage. We're given the full array of armor to both defend us and provide us with the means to defeat the adversary. Pieces of armor must be worn and used together to be effective, you cannot come to the war in just your helmet or only carrying your sword. You must wear your armor daily, be clothed in it as Job tells us, and you must train to use it effectively for your soul and that of the fellow soldier next to you. Put on your armor today, prepare yourself for battle, and join the fight with your fellow Christians. If we persevere with Christ to the end, we will be victorious and win the reward of eternal life from which only He can provide.

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