

## “Arm Yourself with the Same Mind”

by Wayne Goff

*The first epistle of Peter has some interesting terminology when admonishing Christians to mentally prepare for faithfulness in their future lives.*

### “Gird Up The Loins Of Your Mind”

Admittedly the statement, “*gird up the loins of your mind*” (1 Pet. 1:13) is an unusual statement, but in our modern vernacular Peter is simply saying “be mentally tough”! It is obvious that he is preparing his readers for a difficult task ahead and warns them that they need to be mentally prepared for what is coming. The text tells us that this mental toughness is needed in order to obtain the “*grace*” that would come to them at the second coming of Christ. They would need to be “*obedient children*” to God, and not be “conformed” to their former lustful lives. If one expects to reach heaven at the end of time, then you must expect to be holy as God is holy. How many Christians have fallen short of this goal because they have been caught up in the lusts of the flesh?!

### “Arm Yourself With The Same Mind”

Now in 1 Peter 4:1, Peter again instructs faithful disciples to “*arm yourselves*” with the same mind that Christ had when He willingly suffered for us in the flesh! Jesus endured the horrible suffering on the cross by looking to the **end** being accomplished — the salvation of every faithful follower of God!

Christians are to “*arm*” themselves with this mentality; it is not something that God can do for us. The word “*arm*,” in the Greek language, referred to an instrument of war. In Romans 6:13, the same word is translated “*instruments*” of righteousness. Christians are in a battle for their souls’ salvation and must go to war against Satan by (1) preparing their minds, and (2) using their bodies as tools for right! Romans 13:12 uses this noun once again when it reads: “...*Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.*”

2 Corinthians 10:4 reads “*For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.*” Once again we find this word, suggesting that there are “*weapons*” or “*things*” which we can use in our battle against sin, Satan and spiritual death! Paul elaborates on what those things are in the next verse: “*Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ*” (v. 5). It would appear to me that the **spiritual** weapons to be used in this **spiritual** battle include using the Gospel, the “*sword of the Spirit*” (Eph. 6:17), to defeat every “*argument*” used against God and His purposes for us. The King James Version translates the word “*imaginings*.” The meaning is *reasonings*, or *fanciful imaginings* that are motivated by rebellion and not logic. Think of all the examples of this we see around us today — homosexuality, fornication and adultery, abortion, etc. — all called by different names, and legalized by some human government, as though that would make the wrong somehow right! You may refer to these sexual escapades as “*meaningful relationships*,” but to God they are just vulgar sins. You may defend “*abortion*” as a “*woman’s right*” rather than what it truly is — murder of an unborn child — but it will not take away the Divine wrath. But all of these are demonstrations of the “*arguments*” that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God!

It is our duty as Christians to “*bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ*”! We cannot afford to get caught up in the mindset of the world, for such is enmity and rebellion against God! Romans 1:18 warns “*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.*” So there you have it, dear reader. Today we see all around us the *vain imaginings* of wicked, unrighteous men in places of authority who think they can change the Will of God to suit their wickedness. They suppress the truth in their unrighteousness, but the truth will not be suppressed forever! In the end, it will judge all men!

Dear brother or sister in Christ, have you so armed yourselves so that you can oppose every “*fiery dart*” and “*arrow*” of the wicked one? When you do, then you will live for the will of God and not for the lusts of men (1 Peter 4:1-2).

304903