

## IF THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S, DO WE NEED ARMOR?

The answer is that we DO need spiritual armor today. Why? Well, there is a war raging between good and evil. Christians become a target of the enemy (Satan/devil). He hates Christians because they love God (the Father), God (the Son, Jesus Christ), and God (the Holy Spirit). Satan hates God so he hates us and wants to make life miserable for us. "The thief [Satan] comes only to steal and kill and destroy, I (Jesus) have come that you may have life and have it to the full." (John 10:10 NIV) The Apostle Paul in the book of Ephesians gives Christians a way to gain victory in their lives in a daily basis. "For we are not fighting against flesh and blood, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12 NLT). Further, Paul states "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 (Eph 6:13 NIV). This sounds exactly how David beat Goliath. He had the LORD on his side and a little slingshot and one smooth stone took down the giant.

## WHAT KIND OF ARMOR DO I NEED?

Paul describes it clearly. "Stand, therefore, with truth like a belt around your waist, righteousness like armor on your chest, and your feet sandaled with readiness in the gospel of peace. In every situation, take the shield of faith, and with it you

will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:14-17).

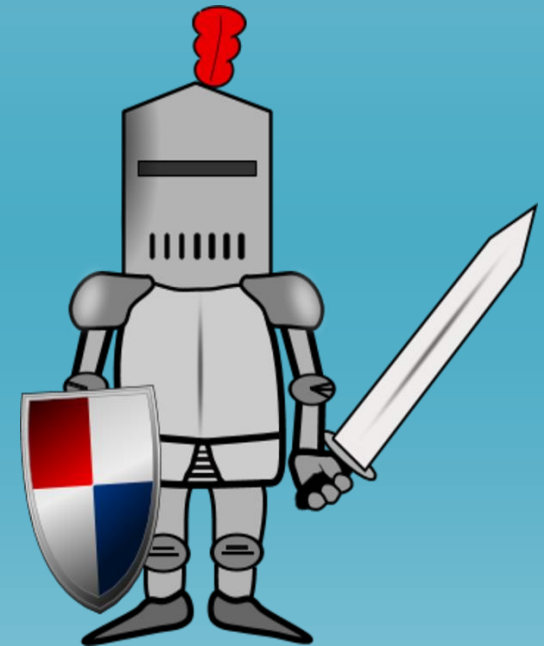
To understand this better: the belt of truth is **Jesus**. He said "I am the way, **the truth** and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6). The righteousness on the chest is the righteousness we have when we believe that the penalty for our sins and wrongdoing has been paid for by **Jesus' death on the Cross**, not by something we have done or will do in the future. The feet sandaled with the readiness of the Gospel is the good news that by **GRACE** we are forgiven of our sins, not by our works. We need to spread that good news. The shield of faith is our belief that we are right with God through Jesus and that God is on our side and His Word [the Bible] is true. This is the faith David had when he rushed in to defeat Goliath. The helmet of salvation is using our brain to believe that the penalty for our sins and wrongdoing has been paid for by **Jesus' death on the Cross** and that "What, then, can we say about all of this? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31) And finally, the Sword of the Spirit (this is the offensive weapon), which is the Word of God. There is power in the words contained in the Bible. There are promises that God made to care for us that we must access and stand on. Even Jesus quoted the Word of God, the Bible to Satan and defeated him. It is time to wear and use the armor provided by Jesus to win our battles. The other option is defeat.

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# Battle Armor

Protection in war



**DEFENSIVE AND OFFENSIVE**



## BATTLE ARMOR-THEN

For most of us, wearing armor (like the one in the picture) into battle is something that many of us do not have knowledge about. Full battle armor was worn to completely cover and protect a man and his horse from the attack of the enemy in battle. They were made of iron or steel and were very heavy to wear. The ancient Romans wore a type of this heavy armor as did other people in history. The suit of armor used at the end of the Middle Ages is the type we commonly see in many museums.

## BATTLE ARMOR-NOW

Nowadays, there are still groups of individuals that wear a type of personal protective equipment or a form of 'armor.' The police and state troopers use protection in the form of bullet proof vests during the course of their daily jobs. However, police in 'riot gear' wear a form of armor that has pieces of protection that more closely resemble the suit of armor of the past. Riot gear includes coverings for the head, the chest, arms, legs, and hands as well as a full length shield. They also carry weapons of protection. Most of this riot gear is for defensive protection, but the weapons they carry and use are offensive weapons used against others.

## BATTLE ARMOR IN THE MILITARY TODAY

Today's military members also have full body protection that is worn in a battle. The type worn varies depending which job they are doing. For example, the Navy seals recon team wears an

updated lighter weight form of full body armor of protection with their offensive weapons as well. The purpose of the gear is to have precision and accuracy, wearing armor that allows them to move quickly and silently in stealth mode to complete their mission.

## WHAT DOES ALL THIS HAVE TO DO WITH US?

We humans are in a battle every day. We can all agree that there are forces of good and evil at work in our lives. There are occasional stories of good people doing good things to others. But most of the daily news recounts story after story where people are hurt by others. People rob or beat each other. Partners abuse partners in a relationship (domestic violence). Children are beaten and abused by strangers, family members and even their parents. People throw things at innocent drivers on highways. The elderly are taken advantage of by others. Drug and alcohol abuse destroys the lives of individuals and their families every day. Even the wealthy are harmed by financial schemes that take their money but give nothing in return. The list can go on and on and grows every day. But what that does have to do with armor?

## THE BIBLE HAS THE ANSWER

It is no surprise that the bible in both the Old Testament and the New Testament talks about battles and armor. One of the most famous stories is of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17). David was a teenage shepherd boy who decided to go to the battlefield as he had heard that there was a Philistine giant named Goliath taunting and mocking the armies of Israel for forty days. Goliath believed he was untouchable and all men feared him. Saul, the King, heard that the little shepherd boy David was upset that the armies were not coming against Goliath to defeat him. When he decided to go into battle, Saul had him put on his own personal armor to protect him. But Saul's suit of armor was huge, heavy and did not fit David. Wearing that suit of armor would not have helped him defeat the giant. So, instead, David picked up 5 smooth stones from a stream and took his shepherd's staff and a slingshot to go meet Goliath. David's famous words to Goliath were: "You come against me with sword and spear; I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel." Then he defeated and killed the mighty boasting giant Goliath by using his slingshot with one stone that hit him in the forehead. Impossible? No, because he went in the name of the LORD, God of Israel. "All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands. (1 Sam 17:47).