



Scripture of the Quarter

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.” 2nd Corinthians 10:3-4 NKJV

Are You Prepared For Battle?

When I began studying spiritual warfare, I soon realized that the New Testament speaks a lot about warring and warfare. For example, Scripture reveals where our warfare is and refers to our weapons, as the above scripture reveals.

Scripture also reveals that we can have a war within ourselves:

“Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?” James 4:1 (NKJV)

The **Book of Peter** speaks about fleshly lusts that war against the soul. The soul is your intellect or the mind.

“Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.” 1st Peter 2:11 (NKJV)

In **1st Timothy** the Apostle Paul says:

“This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.” 1st Timothy 1:18 (NKJV)

Notice that in the previous scripture references, the word war, warring and warfare do not specify that you are fighting a demon or principality. These scriptures are speaking to Christians. Before you accepted Christ, the enemy of your soul

blinded you from the truth. There is **no doubt** that spirits attacked you to keep you from hearing and believing the gospel. But now that you are saved, where is the battle? (read the Parable of the Sower **Matthew 13**)

The war is with the flesh. Your flesh can contain attitudes of the old nature and old ways of thinking, known as mental strongholds. Controlling the flesh is a serious aspect of spiritual warfare:

With this in mind, Ephesians 6:14-18 tells us that we have armor for our warfare

- **the loin girdle of truth (belt of truth)**
- **the breastplate of righteousness**
- **shoes of the gospel of peace**
- **the shield of faith**
- **the helmet of salvation**
- **the sword of the Spirit**
- **praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit. Meaning the Holy Spirit**

I would like to discuss each piece of the armor and how it protects us in our battle’s.

1. Belt of Truth: Truth is not negotiable. Everything you do with the sword and

shield must be supported by the truth of God’s Word. Why do we need truth? We cloth ourselves with integrity and truth in order to have spiritual freedom. Lack of integrity will hinder you in every situation in life.

2. Breastplate of righteousness: The breastplate of righteousness protects your heart. Jesus once said, *“Out of the abundance (the overflow) of the heart the mouth speaks.”* **Matthew 12:34** (NKJV). We know that if your heart is not right, the rest of your life will not be right either. In spiritual warfare we need to make sure our hearts are directed by God and not given over to the devil.

3. Shoes of the gospel of peace: The peace of God will guide us and keep hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. The peace of God will keep you balanced and in His will, no matter how fierce the battle.

4. Shield of faith: *“Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one.”* **Ephesians 6:16** (NKJV). Notice how God



wants us to know the importance of the shield of faith, so He had Paul to write two very specific words before describing the shield “above all.” We are supposed to be united in faith. The Bible says there is “*one Lord, one faith, one baptism.*” **Ephesians 4:5**. We must believe that no matter how fierce the battle is, if we keep our shield of faith up, God **WILL** make us victors **in every battle**.

5. Helmet of salvation: When you come to Christ, you are automatically fitted with the helmet of salvation. Before you were fitted with this helmet, you breezed through life, did what you wanted to and had no restrictions, and had no one to tell you where you were wrong. We are to cover our minds with the helmet of salvation. The mind includes the intellect, the emotions and the will. We are to protect all three with the gospel of salvation. Satan bombards us with fear, hatred, suspicion, depression, mistrust, false doctrines, and a host of other mental distractions. This is why we wear the helmet of salvation to guard our thought processes.

6. Sword of the Spirit: (The Word of God). If you go into battle with a dull sword you will lose the battle. This is why we must keep our sword sharp at all times. Paul tells us in **Romans 12:2**^(NKJV) “*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing** of your mind, (read the Bible daily) that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*” Remember you never have to defend the Word of God, but you do have to stand up for the **true** gospel of Jesus Christ. How do we sharpen our swords? We study, we memorize, we learn where to find scriptures that apply to the trial we are going through, and that we may help others in their trials.

7. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit (Holy Spirit) **Ephesians 6:18**. I included this one, because I truly believe it is part of the **FULL ARMOR OF GOD**. Prayer is powerful. I believe, when you pray, the windows of Heaven are open and the gates of Hell are shut. Personally, I believe no prayer—no power, some prayer—some power, and more prayer—more power.



Along with the full armor of God, the Lord gave us other weapons to combat spiritual warfare.

1. Prayer James 5:16^(NKJV) “*Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*”

2. Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Fire Matthew 3:11^(NKJV) “*I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*”

I would like to add a personal comment on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. I truly believe if you do not have this **free gift** found in **Luke 11:13** you cannot, be all that God has called you to be. Why? It helps you face all temptation with greater resistance to the temptation. The Holy Spirit will lead you into all truth, so you will not be **deceived** and you will receive more revelation and illumination of God’s Word. I know this for a fact! Before I received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, I lacked revelation and illumination of God’s Word. I pray in tongues daily as we are commanded 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.*”

And for those of you who **don’t believe** in speaking in tongues, because **some man** told you it isn’t for you or it ceased when the Apostles died. PLEASE look up **Mark 16:17**. Notice what it says these signs will follow those who **BELIEVE**. Notice it doesn’t say it is just for certain denominations, such as Baptists, or Pentecostals,

or Assembly of God, or Church of God, or Methodists, or Catholics or any of the other denominations. It is for **ALL** who **BELIEVE**.

Four Kinds of Soldiers

1. The first category of spiritual soldiers is made up of those who **know nothing** about the armor of God. (read **Hosea 4:6**) Not only are they always being beat up by the enemy, they also beat up on other Christians, often with such things as criticism, gossip and complaints.

2. The second category contains those who know about the armor of God, **but** they absolutely **refuse to wear it**. They prefer to fight on their own and with their own weapons instead. This is foolishness; it always ends in defeat.

3. The third category includes the soldiers who **wear some, but not all** of the armor. They may have victory in half of their lives and be victorious half of the time, but they are always half exposed and vulnerable to the enemy’s attacks.

4. The fourth category encompasses those Christians **who wear the entire armor of God and actually know** how to use it. These Christians have battles like everyone else, but they come through victoriously.

God has called all Christians to be **Warriors of God**. A warrior must have his armor on everyday for the daily spiritual battles we must fight. The armor helps us achieve the plan God has for our lives. My prayer, is that all of you put on your armor, and use it every day against the enemies of the Kingdom of God. Remember stand for the **TRUTH** no matter what the cost!