

Sovereign Grace Church
“Spiritual Armor II” outline
January 21, 2018

Ephesians 6: 16-20

This morning we will finish our brief study of the account in Ephesians concerning the armor which God provides to enable us to withstand the spiritual attacks of the Devil as well as those from the world and our own flesh. The final three pieces of armor are the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit.

Of course we must do more than simply learn about these tools and the supreme advantage they provide in our fight against the forces of darkness. We must also appropriate them into our personal lives and character. They must go from our minds to our wills and back to our minds. We must seek to see them instilled into our bodies as natural and habitual ways of living. Then their effect in our personal relationships and the broader world will begin to be felt.

We cannot just choose to utilize them because as personal beings we are complex beings. Our wills can really be at a disadvantage as they seek to work against old and crusty fleshly habits engrained into our bodily actions and reactions. Only the transformations of our whole persons by the power of the Holy Spirit will enable us to utilize this armor to its fullest effect. The armor of God is used throughout this process of spiritual transformation into Christ-likeness. In the beginning this armor may prove cumbersome but with practice it can be used to move mountains and defeat our Goliaths. Using this armor is not a matter of age....it is a matter of grace plus practice.

1. The Shield of Faith 16

- **What faith is and what it is not Heb. 11: 1**

- **Satan's attacks Matt. 4: 5-7**

- **The Work of Faith Matt 18: 22; Eph. 1: 7; I Jn 1: 9**

2. The Helmet of Salvation 17a

- **What is salvation**

- **What is the effect of salvation appropriated Ac 19: 11-17; I Jn 5:4; II Tim. 1:12**

3. The Sword of the Spirit 17b

- The Spirit and the Word
II Pet. 1: 20-21; Heb. 4: 12; II Cor. 3:6

4. Bathed in Prayer 18-21

Other Scriptures: Matt. 16:18; 6:33; Col. 3: 1-2

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

1. How important is faith in your life? What are various ways you utilize faith in the normal affairs of your life? How is faith used against attacks of the Devil?
2. Is faith opposed to knowledge? How are faith and knowledge interrelated? Why is it important to know in whom or in what you believe?
3. To what does our helmet of salvation refer? Is salvation exhausted by understanding our justification by faith alone? How does our salvation affect our lives. Should saved people live differently than unsaved people? How might we discern the difference. Who's power lies behind our salvation? Is it adequate?
4. How does the Spirit use the Scriptures as a means to defend us from Satan's wiles? How does Satan use the Scriptures to attack us as followers of Christ? What is the difference between these uses?
5. What is the significance of prayer in our use of the armor of God? How do you see prayer in your life? How does prayer both lead to and result from spiritual vitality? Is there a difference between prayer and walking with God? Can you walk with God and not pray? Can you pray effectively without walking with God? If the answer is no to both does this mean that prayer and walking with God are the same or that they are co-terminus? *Come on! Use your dictionaries! Words are useful tools too!*