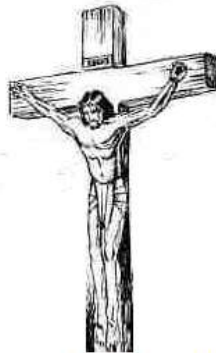


Again I'll start by telling each person who reads this: GOD LOVES YOU!

The Whole Armor of God

God offers you salvation, free and clear, already bought and paid for at great personal cost to Him. Have you said “Yes” to God and made a commitment to obey Him and follow His Son Jesus? It’s a very simple choice: do you want to live joyfully with your God forever, or **do you want to exist forever in the agony of being separated from God**, who created you and loves you? If you don’t say “Yes” to God’s offer, then you are in effect saying “No.” So say “Yes.” Then ask Him for Holy Spirit guidance, and He will give it to you—that’s one of the promises Jesus made for His followers.



GOD loved the world so much that He gave His SON ... (John 3:16)

Now, once you have made the commitment to follow Jesus, you have become Satan’s enemy. Let’s look at this Bible passage. There’s a lot of substance here for us to think about and to do:

*¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore **take up the whole armor of God**, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with*

which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. (Ephesians 6:10-20 ESV)

What is the Holy Spirit of God saying to us through these words written by the Apostle Paul?

First, as a follower of Jesus Christ, you’re in for a fight. You need to stand up, ask the Lord for strength, and be ready to be attacked. God provides equipment that you’ll need. Paul calls it “the whole armor of God.” Properly clad in this godly armor, and properly **strengthened in the Lord, in the strength of His might**, you will be able to stand firm and be victorious.



This armor consists, first of all, of **the belt of truth**. We know that Satan is a liar, and he will tell lies to you and about you. And the world is right there alongside him, with its own large set of lies and temptations. Jesus is the truth and the life (John 14:6). Let the truth of God’s love and mercy and goodness encircle your life like a belt, supporting you in everything. You can do all things through Christ, who strengthens you (Philippians 4:13)..

Next is the **breastplate of righteousness**—not you own righteousness, which is as worthless as filthy rags; but cover your heart with the righteousness of Jesus, which will protect you from the accusing thrusts of the evil one. You can be counted righteous, because you trust in the righteous Son of God. (Romans 5:17)

Readiness, being prepared for the fight, is available to you in **the truth of the Gospel**, God's holy plan for the salvation of human beings—salvation is by grace, through faith. It is a gift; not needing to be earned; you cannot possibly earn it by your works. You need to learn the Gospel; to study it so that you know it and are able to talk about God's amazing plan. Then you need to apply the Gospel to your feet—in other words, go and tell others the Good News; go and do the good works that God has prepared beforehand for you to be doing. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

The shield of faith—firm conviction of the truth of the Gospel of Christ—is your defense against the devil's "darts" of temptation and doubt. Faith is like a muscle—it gets stronger by being exercised. So if the Holy Spirit prompts you to do something a bit risky (such as giving your testimony to a stranger), then just doing it will strengthen your faith in God's willingness to be with you and for you, helping you to do His will. In Hebrews Chapter 11, each person listed there had faith, but went beyond that to do something "by faith."

The helmet of salvation protects your head—that is, your mind—from fear, confusion, and doubt. You are told to "fear God," which means to be in reverent awe of His power and glory and purity, so incredibly higher than us. But you do not have to be afraid of Him, for He loves you and has no desire to harm you in any way. And you should have no fear of death or the devil, because both have been conquered for you by the death and resurrection of Jesus. And once you have said "Yes" to God's offer of salvation, nothing can take it from you (Romans 8:38-39) unless for some reason you choose willfully to reject it. Misguided or false teachers may try to lead you astray, but they can't do it, if you will trust in God's power and promise to save you.

The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God must be "at hand"—that is, you need to read it and study it and know what it says, so you can use it to counter what the devil, the world, and your own desires are telling you. I have heard so many people misquote the Bible over the years—I have probably done it myself more than once. Do as Jesus did (Matthew 4:1-11), parrying falsehood and



You can't fight with the Word until you know the Word

lies, and even God's word used wrongly, with the truth of the word of God used correctly.

The world today teaches so much that is just wrong. It shouts, "Look out for number one!" but the word says, "Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-40). The world says, "If it feels good, do it." God's word says "be guided by the Holy Spirit, not by your lusts" (Romans 8:13-14).

As I'm sure you know, a sword is both a defensive weapon and an offensive weapon. It can be used to counter the thrusts of an attacker, and it can also be used to attack and destroy something that is evil and shouldn't be allowed to continue. I'm thinking now of the evil of abortion on demand. Many of those who are fighting that evil are trying to do it with politics. I believe it would be more effective if Christians would unite and use God's word alone, and use it so consistently and insistently that everybody would hear the truth and have no doubt about God's opinion of abortion. Just be aware that, when you take up the whole armor of God, there may be occasions when God's word needs to be used to pull down a stronghold or bring down a false teacher or idea.

"... praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication." Paul asks for prayers "for all the saints"—in other words, fellow Christians—and also for himself, that he be given the words and the boldness to proclaim the Gospel effectively. Those prayers are appropriate for us all today: for fellow believers in Christ, that we may all be upheld and guided by the Holy Spirit, to obey God and do the works He has for us to do; and especially for pastors and teachers to be given the words and the boldness to touch hearts and change lives by effectively proclaiming the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As you prepare to function as a Christian in your little corner of the world today, remember to put on the whole armor of God, so "that you may be able to withstand in the evil day [that is, today], and having done all, to stand firm."

Your friend in Jesus, and fellow wearer of God's whole armor—

Brother Roland

Bible Quiz

1. How many chapters are there in the book of Psalms? _____
2. What was the name of Adam and Eve's third son? _____
3. What Bible book tells the stories of Samson and Gideon? _____
4. How many books of the Bible were written by the Disciple, John? _____
5. What Bible book contains no mention of God? _____
6. What prophet started out on a ship and wound up inside a fish? _____
7. Who was King of Israel before David? _____
8. What is the longest chapter in the Bible? _____
9. What was the name of Abraham's first son? _____
10. What Bible book predicts the Messiah's virgin birth? _____
11. What two men in the Bible interpreted dreams for kings? _____ and _____
12. What was the name of the Moabite woman who married Boaz and became David's grandmother? _____
13. What ammunition did David take with him for his battle against Goliath? _____
14. Approximately how long was a biblical "cubit"? _____
15. What leader of the Jews was secretly a follower of Jesus? _____
16. Each of two names was the name of two of the disciples – what names were they? _____ and _____
17. What was the name that Jesus gave to his disciple Simon, and what did it mean? _____ (_____)
18. Not Counting Hebrews (whose authorship is disputed), what fraction of the remaining New Testament books are attributed to Paul? _____
19. Which Bible book is also known as "The Apocalypse"? _____
20. How many lepers were healed at the same time by Jesus on the Galilee-Samaria border? _____
21. Who succeeded David as King? _____
22. What weapon did Samson use to slay a thousand Philistines? _____
23. Who was the prophet who cried "Prepare the way of the Lord" in the wilderness? _____
24. How much money did Judas get for betraying Jesus to the authorities? _____
25. Who succeeded Moses as the leader of Israel? _____
26. What was the name of the mountain on which Noah's ark came to rest after the great flood? _____
27. Who was the father of the Disciples James and John? _____
28. What happened to Zacharias after his encounter with an angel? _____
29. What was the name of Elijah's successor? _____
30. What was Matthew's profession before he became a Disciple of Jesus? _____

The Whole Armor of God

This is an important Bible passage, and a good one to memorize so that you can always be aware of the weapons God has provided for you, to withstand the efforts of the world, the devil, and your desires that come against you, to bring you down. Amen!

Puzzle:

T N A N P B U E J P P U N U X J Y E J T G E E Z R V X F Y T N S O
T I R I P S E H T F O D R O W S V U N S L T H T Y L B L R O F H T
V G N N W U U B Z F W I Z A T I A Q E O V E M W A E D E T S T I B
R E Y A R P L L A H T I W N D R S M C I L M H Q G L L U W U R C L
K P O Q Q K Y O Z U G E I Y Z B I X Y D J I A I O A P S R I L O L
U G O S P E L O F P E A C E G T U C U W E Z V B P D P T P N A Y Y
N F J R F E K O Z B S N C C L I L M B Y C E M E N B F S S R F A K
O H A S Z W G K Y E O O U L F K K J B Z N I E A E O E D V A Q E U
R J M S C S F A H G X I A S U B X N D T A K V T T H Q E H B E Z C
J D N A T S H T I W O T E L B A E B H L R W O L T K T B K J J R J
M H L V A E L Z W N A A J S Y V M E C W E Z E N U G S F S V P D B
A Z E P N L N E O G R V J N I X W O X K V B I K K U F B O H U H X
K C P D A J Q O N G B L I G Y O R S H O E S F O R Y O U R F E E T
I U S R C V U I N Z H A S A R P B E Q H S R M H A N K X N O K H W
N P O G Y Q Y H O R Z S S D O D N I T R R Q I F N P I X T S A H H
G F G T X A C R B J E F S T P N A I T H E W O R D O F G O D T U O
S Z E R R Z I V G N B O Z W J A N K T L P A M G S Z Q U S C E O L
U A H P H Q K K I P Z T Z F Y T M E X R L Q A B U M A H T Z R Z E
P W T O E H A D M C H E T M K S B Y N O L M W V P V I H A P O N A
P V F S T R A D G N I M A L F E H T L L A E B W P E N Y N Q F L R
L Y O W H E H B P I A L S N B R I H M B H E Z V L C T Q D Q E S M
I R Y V R K T M C N I E K F Q O B J A L T R A D I T H F F R R L O
C S R E H C A E R P E H T R O F D N A F I I O T C X E Z I M E J R
A Y E T C S A W V K O B K Q X E W M B U W F T E A C E D R R H B O
T C T F M F I H Y K Z N M B T R V P H Z F E P X T T V D M N T Z F
I I S O F R I G H T E O U S N E S S Q A G X S E I I I K J P N T G
O Z Y Q X R I N B L P E M N U H R G I O R V E W O A L M S E S F O
N F M L H G L E Q J A P D C U T A T D I I T S Z N X D V A J J E D
M U P O I E H U G F J Z S F S R H A V I N G D O N E A L L H J K B
Y O U C A N E X T I N G U I S H Z M A D G B Y X H Y Y E L T X D C

Words:

THEREFORE TAKE UP
WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD
BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND
IN THE EVIL DAY
HAVING DONE ALL
TO STAND FIRM
THEREFORE STAND
FASTEN ON
THE BELT OF TRUTH
AND PUT ON
BREASTPLATE
OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

SHOES FOR YOUR FEET
READINESS GIVEN BY
GOSPEL OF PEACE
SHIELD OF FAITH
YOU CAN EXTINGUISH
ALL THE FLAMING DARTS
OF THE EVIL ONE
HELMET OF SALVATION
SWORD OF THE SPIRIT
THE WORD OF GOD
PRAYING AT ALL TIMES
IN THE SPIRIT

WITH ALL PRAYER
AND SUPPLICATION
KEEP ALERT
WITH ALL PERSEVERANCE
MAKING SUPPLICATION
FOR ALL THE SAINTS
AND FOR THE PREACHERS
BE GIVEN THE WORDS
TO PROCLAIM BOLDLY
MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL

Bible Quiz Answers: 1.150 2.Seth 3.Judges 4.Five 5.Esther 6.Jonah 7.Saul 8.Psalm 119 9.Ishmael 10.Isaiah
11.Joseph & Daniel 12.Ruth . 13.Five smooth stones 14.18 inches 15.Nicodemus 16.James & Simon 17.Peter (Rock)
18.One half 19.Revelation 20.Ten 21.Solomon 22. A donkey's jawbone 23.John the Baptist 24.30 pieces of silver
25.Joshua 26.Mount Ararat 27.Zebedee 28.He was struck dumb 29.Elisha 30.Tax collector