

Introduction:

1. **When fighting a war it helps to know who the actual enemy is...**
 - a. Asymmetrical warfare is designed to confuse a countries Defenses,
 - b. So they don't know who the enemy is until it's too late...
 - c. False-Flag Operations...Like A Computer virus that disables a weapons system—
but leaves the digital fingerprints of a different Nation-State.
 - d. Or Terrorist Attacks or Assassinations that Leave No Obvious Trace to the True Attackers
 2. **Our Enemy uses any tactic to Deceive Your Mind...**
 - a. Lies, False-Flags, False-Fronts, False-Teachers, False-Doctrines,
 - b. Propaganda, Deception, Transference, Blame, Control!
 - c. Like All the Skull-Duggery Going On Behind the Scenes Today...
is Only a microcosm of the Real War—the Spiritual War
 3. **But Sometimes we forget this is a Spiritual War—a war for your mind,**
 - a. and your mind is the Battlefield (2 Corinthians 10:3–5)
 - b. God has equipped us with Spiritual Armor because our Battle is a Spiritual Battle
- Put on the whole armor of God to stand against the schemes of the devil***
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I. ARMOR OF FAITH

A. ROMAN SOLDIER WAS EQUIPPED WITH A SHIELD FOR BATTLE

1. **There were two types of shields in Roman times...**
 - a) A Small Round Shield and a Large Oblong Shield used when advancing into Battle
 - b) It was as wide as a Soldier's body and up to four feet in length.
2. **But this Shield was more than a piece of personal protection,**
 - a) As Soldiers Advance in Rows, these Shields formed a Portable Wall of Protection
 - b) So the Enemy was met with a solid wall of Shields
3. **In Ancient Warfare, the Enemy used flaming Arrows...**
 - a) So These Shields were either metal, or Coated to extinguish the flaming arrows

B. WE HAVE THE ARMOR OF FAITH—Which Protects Us Like a Shield

1. **Just Like a Roman Shield, the Shield of Faith should do three things:**
 - a) It is Designed to Cover us so that no portion is Exposed
 - b) It Should Link Up with Other Soldiers of the Cross to Provide a Solid Wall of Defense
 - c) And it is Strong Enough to Extinguish the Fiery Darts of the Evil One
2. **The Flaming Darts of the Evil One are Continually Flying At Us:**
 - a) Fiery Darts of **FEAR** > Fiery Darts of **DOUBT** > and of **DISCOURAGEMENT**
 - b) Fiery Darts of **TEMPTATION** > Fiery Darts of **GUILT** > and of **CONDEMNATION**
3. **All of these Fiery Darts Are Intended to Injure and Kill with Mortal Wounds**
 - a) Whether it's Death by a Million Cuts, or Death by a Mortal Blow—Result is the Same
 - b) Our Faith is From the Word of God! (Romans 10:17)

4. **The Shield of Faith is Our Absolute Confidence and Trust in God!**

Faith in His Power, His Promises, and His Plan!

- a) God Wins this War! — and God is Our Shield! (**Gen 15:1; Ps 84:11**)
 - b) Faith is the Victory That Overcomes the World (1 John 5:4)
Even if It Costs Us Our Life! (**Hebrews 11:3; 11:33–40**)
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II. ARMOR OF SALVATION

A. ROMAN SOLDIERS WORE A HELMET FOR BATTLE

- 1. **This Piece of Armor Protected the Head from a Fatal Blow**
- 2. **The head, of course, was the core of a soldier's power to wage war.**
- 3. **His Thinking ability and Training was the most important factor in determining his victory or defeat.**
- 4. **Therefore, the soldier needed a helmet to protect his head and mind.**

B. THE ARMOR OF SALVATION—Protects Our Minds Like a Helmet

- 1. **One of Satan's most effective weapons against us is discouragement.**
 - a) This is the Battle for Your Mind (**Romans 8:6**)
 - b) We Cannot Love God & the godless culture at the Same Time! (**1 John 2:15–17**)
 - c) Every Thought Must Be Taken Captive...
Because We're Immersed in a godless Culture (**2 Corinthians 10:5**)
Do Not Be Conformed to the Culture of the World—but be Transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind (Rom 12:2)
 - 2. **When we're equipped with the helmet of salvation,**
We Can have the Protection, Knowledge & Hope of Salvation! (1 Thes 5:8-9)
 - a) If We Aren't Filling Our Minds with God's Word—We Aren't Wearing our Helmet
 - b) The helmet of salvation Gives Us Hope, protects us against discouragement, and keeps us from giving up in the face of hardship
 - 3. **The Assurance that God will triumph—Even Despite an Onslaught of Enemy Attacks (2 Corinthians 4:7–9)**
 - a) Our Salvation is in Christ Our Victorious King!
 - b) He Paid Our Debt in Full at the Cross!
 - c) We Know How This All Ends! —> And We Know Who Wins!
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III. ARMOR OF GOD'S WORD

A. ROMAN SOLDIER'S SWORD IS HIS OFFENSIVE WEAPON

- 1. **Sword Fighting was a skill but also one that meant life or death**
- 2. **Soldiers trained with their swords to fight hand to hand combat**
- 3. **One Wrong Move, one Delay of Action, One Distraction is all it would take to loose this battle**

B. WE HAVE THE ARMOR OF GOD’S WORD—Which Protects as A Sword

So Far We’ve looked at Defensive Armor—Our Sword is both Defensive and Offensive

1. **Your Sword is a POWERFUL WEAPON... (Hebrews 4:12)**
2. **Your Sword Gives You Light in the Darkness (Psalm 119:105)**
3. **Directing Your Steps (Psalm 119:11) Keeping Your Path Pure (Psalm 119:9)**
4. **Protecting You as You Heed God’s Word (Psalm 119:114)**
5. **Protecting You Against the Deceptions of the Enemy...
such as False Teachers and False Doctrines (1 Jn 4:1,6)**
 - a) Test the Spirits... HOW? —With the Word of God!
 - b) John Gave the Church Three Tests—Repeated Three Times in 1 John
 - (1) The Test of TRUTH (1 John 1:5–6)
 - (2) The Test of LOVE (1 John 4:20–21)
 - (3) The Test of OBEDIENCE (1 Jn 2:4)
6. **We Fight the Deception of the Enemy with the Truth of God’s Word!**
 - a) Which is Why the Enemy Has Attacked the Word of God for Centuries
7. **PROBLEM: Story of preacher in Scotland teaching some how to read...**
 - a) STORY...
 - b) The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God—NOT The Opinions of Men!
 - c) Faith Comes by hearing the Word of God—Not the Opinions or News of Men!

IV. ARMOR OF PRAYER

A. A SOLDIER IS TO BE SOBER, ALERT, WATCHFUL, READY...

1. **Sometimes the Life of a Soldier is hard...**
 - a) Moral drops, conditions are tough, the Mission is Hard...
2. **Taking on the work of a Soldier is not easy
and even more so as Christian Soldiers...**

B. BY THE ARMOR OF PRAYER—We Stay Sober, Alert, Watchful, Ready

1. **In the Garden of Gethsemene, Jesus taught that we must ‘watch and pray’,**
 - a) lest we enter into temptation (Mt 26:41)
 - b) But While Jesus Was Praying—the Disciples were Sleeping...
2. **Before becoming president, John F Kennedy Wrote, ‘While England Slept’
about the NAZI buildup that led to WW2...**
 - a) Winston Churchill was one of the few men in England who recognized the Threat of Hitler simply because he actually read what Hitler was saying...
 - b) Churchill recognized the Lies and deception of the enemy
 - c) **Winston Churchill said to Britain in the early days of the Second World War:**
“I must drop one word of caution, for next to cowardice and treachery, overconfidence leading to neglect and slothfulness, is the worst of wartime crimes.”

3. Often we don't pray because we are overconfident in our own abilities.

- a) Do You Experience Spiritual Depression?
- b) Do You Sometimes Doubt Your Salvation?
- c) Do You Get Discouraged because Other Christians are AWOL or MIA?
- d) Are You Taking Incoming Arrows from the Enemy?
- e) Are You Getting Hit with Anxiety? Worry?

4. Take ALL of it to God in Prayer! (1 Peter 5:7–9)

You Do NOT Have to Fight These Battles Alone!

In Fact We Also Battle for Others in Prayer!

- a) **(6:18) For all the saints**: We can battle spiritually not only on our own behalf, but also on the behalf of others. The soldier isn't only concerned for his or her own safety. He feels an instinct to protect and to battle on behalf of others.
- b) **(6:19) And for me, that utterance may be given to me**: After bringing up the idea that spiritual warfare can be waged on behalf of others, Paul asks his readers to pray for him.
- c) **(6:19-20) Boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel**: Paul could have asked prayer for many things, but he wanted his readers to pray for this. He probably had in mind his upcoming defense before Caesar.

5. Being Honest with God in Prayer is the Armor that Protects Us

CONCLUSION:

- 1. God Himself is Our Shield!**
- 2. God is Our Salvation!**
- 3. God's Word is Our Sword**
- 4. Going to God in Prayer is our Protection (2 Corinthians 10:3–5)**