

Armor of God

Today my sermon is about the armor of God. I am not sure how familiar you guys are with the British army so I'll go into a little detail. The British army was also known as the REDCOATS, because of the bright red coats they wore while fighting. The REDCOATS were a force to be reckoned with. They were a part of the Seven Years' War, the Napoleonic Wars, the Crimean War, World War I and World War II. Because they repeatedly emerged victorious from each of these wars, I began to look deeper into their success.

I'm not sure if you all know anything about the wars going on everyday but they come in different forms like loneliness, insecurities, depression, broken hearts, feelings of hopelessness, unemployment, lack of financial security, hate and the list goes on. We are in an everlasting battle, but everlasting doesn't mean losing, it just means we have a consistent enemy.

Just like the Redcoats God gave us the tools to stay strong in our fight with the enemy, so we can be just as successful in OUR own personal war, the first tool is recognition. We must know who our enemy is, the army's tactic of having redcoats was so they wore the brightest color on the yard so the enemy is easily recognized. A person just looking at a British army in their bold red coats knew who they were, and knew they were a force to be reckoned with. The grays and browns and creams all blended in with the enemy so they were unknowingly fighting their own team. We must wear our bright red coats to see the enemy for who it clearly is. For example you have been in a slump, cannot find a job, you finally after fighting and praying for so long you find one, but the boss and all your co workers are terrible! You work and work to satisfy everyone but they still find reasons to put you down. Normally we would say we hate our job and rationalize that the world is out to get us, we're worthless, and we can never get ahead. Is this really what we've been fighting for? But when placing our REDCOATS on our backs we see that the enemy is actually BEHIND the human flesh we see everyday!

Ephesians 6:12 states

“For our struggle is not against FLESH and BLOOD,
but against the rulers, against the authorities,
against the powers of this dark world and
against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

YIKES ... authorities, dark world, spiritual forces of evil? I don't know about y'all but after reading this I was kind of hoping my enemy WAS my short buck tooth boss or my co worker with the bad attitude. Lol but after that moment of instant fear we have to remember who IS on our side, Jesus and he definitely gave us more to fight with than just a coat! He gave us a BELT! 😊 I know I know it doesn't sound like much, but this a special belt! It is a belt of truth! Still don't see its importance? Okay I want you guys to honestly think of a few of the things you've heard in your life that stopped you from chasing your dream, from succeeding, from even feeling confident in yourselves...done, I'm sure a lot of us remembered someone telling us “Your not smart enough” “Your not pretty enough” “You? I think you should dream smaller, you'll never be your brother or sister” “why change, its been this way FOREVER!”, these things that stop us from prospering, from winning, from even LIVING are not true, which is WHY we need the belt of truth! God MADE you intelligent, God MADE you beautiful, God MADE you for God sized dreams which are catered to your heart, God did not make you in the shadow of anyone, and God definitely approves of change if its towards His will. The belt of truth allows us to have a filter and see if the “helpful advice” given to us every day is actually in His will and not in Satan's plan to keep us in a slump.

The rest of the armor He provided is all connected with the belt of truth I will just briefly explain these armor pieces, where they are placed and why! Then connect it all at the end so just stay with me!

The second weapon shield of faith allows us to see Satan's attacks in the form of insults, setbacks, and temptations. The shield of faith protect us, from Satan's flaming arrows by

ALLOWING US TO SEE GODS PERSPECTIVE! Our shield of faith allows us to see beyond our circumstances and allows us to remember that our role is NOT results- its obedience. It's the willingness to do as God says and let God do the rest, and to KNOW that the ultimate victory is ours!

SO NOW WE HAVE A BELT OF TRUTH, AND A SHIELD OF FAITH

The third weapon, helmet of salvation it is used to prevent Satan from trying to make us doubt God, Jesus and our salvation. The helmet is worn on our heads and protects our mind from doubting God's work for us. The helmet of salvation is a constant reminder that God is here for us it comes in many forms. In the form of the Bible that tells us what he has in store for us, it even comes in the form of a Fred Hammond station on Pandora that keeps reminding you of God's love, mercy, grace and protection over you. The helmet also comes in the form of a church family that constantly lets you know they're praying for you and how proud they are of you, it comes in the form of friends in a group chat that even in the mist of the busiest times of our lives we still send request of prayer from our peers. He brings these type of people into our lives as helmets to show us that in the mist of fighting the enemy he brought us people who are in the same fight with us, we have allies!!!

OUR ARMOR NOW INCLUDES THE BELT OF TRUTH, A SHIELD OF FAITH, AND A HELMET OF SALVATION

Our 4th weapon is our only weapon of OFFENSE is a sword of the word. With this weapon we fight using the word of the Lord. We can fight anything with this weapon...For example The devil brings greed upon your heart and gives you earthly reasons to justify this. He'll tell you "God wants you to succeed right? So that means going through any measures, if you have to RIGHT? Steal, sell drugs, sell yourself, do it! You need to live and do what you have to do for you and yours!!!" IN EARTLY LOGIC...this makes sense and usually we would contemplate on this, BUT with our knowledge of our weapons now we can take out our sword of the Word and First pull out Luke 16:13 that says

"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other,
or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

You cannot serve both GOD AND MONEY.”

In reply the Satan in our thoughts may say after; “thats okay... So how will you survive then if your “sword” has all the answers?!” We will then slice this thought with

2 Timothy 4:18 saying

“The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and
will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom.
To be with him in glory forever and ever. Amen.”

When he says evil attack that that’s not just meaning a physical punch it includes HUNGER, RENT, PHONE BILLS, CAR INSURANCE, THAT \$4.25 GAS AT THE CORNER! He will bring us safely through all these attacks and manyyyy more! So relax He got us! He will replenish us in every aspect!

NOW WE HAVE THE BELT OF TRUTH, SHEILD OF FAITH, HELMET OF SALVATION, AND A SWORD OF THE WORD

The last weapon He blessed us with is the breastplate of righteousness. The devil often attacks our heart- the seat of our emotions, our self-worth or trust. God gives us this breastplate to go over our chest to protect our vulnerable, easily targeted hearts. We’ve all either seen or experienced Satan going full force on us or someone close to us heart! Satan will bring us to one of the ugliest wars most of us have EVER fought... a bad relationship... a relationship that we believe will make us stronger, we believe we found our soul mate but it breaks us down so low that we have to start all over with our feelings, our trust, and most importantly our self worth! The heart is one of the hardest thing to mend. Satan knows our

weaknesses, and he attacks them strongly with no regard, but this why we need our breastplate to protect our heart!

This example will connect all of our weapons so you can FINALLY see them ALL in action TOGETHER. Our breastplate makes whatever wants to get to our heart go through all the weapons before it can get anywhere near the heart, FIRST it must go through our belt of truth so we can filter whether God wants this for us OR if this is just one of Satan's games, Secondly listen to God with his decision on whether this is for us and use our shield of faith to follow through if He wants this for us or not. Thirdly, whether it works out or not use our helmet to know that God is here. And the FINALLY PULL out our sword of the Word and measure it up to our favorite LOVE poem 1st Corinthians 13 "Love is PATIENT, love is KIND. It does not ENVY, it does not BOAST, it is not PROUD....so on and so forth

Now that you see the DIFFERENT TYPES OF WAR...and you finally see all of the weapons God gave to us for war ALL TOGETHER, let us not forget our proper attire! Our bold redcoats, just as a reminder the redcoat is not just a fashion statement it allows us to recognize the enemy, it shows what team were on, we don't wear creams, or browns or grays we wear a BRIGHT RED so the enemy knows what team were on, and knows were a force to be reckoned with! If you leave here with anything know that God did not abandon you in a fight with nothing! He gave us things that Satan did not want us to know we had! Satan was having a free for all before we started picking up our armor, he was playing puppeteer while we fought each other! Now that we see the enemy for who it is, we must put on our red coats and armor then fight accordingly...using the Lord!

I just have a little explanation as to why I needed to do this sermon and then im out of your hair 😊 So just give me a few more moments of your time! This scripture has been in my heart for about 2 months now! Every time I opened the bible it lead me to this scripture I really hope you guys enjoyed it...It was definitely a journey for me because as you guys may remember this is my second sermon and in my first sermon I preached about God's peace I had reached a pivotal point in my life and had a revelation and HAD to do that sermon. Well this one is A LOT differently I did know WHY God kept this in my heart! I had not fully lived this scripture

as I did my previous one, I honestly wasn't even applying it! But I HAD to preach on it. Then this past Tuesday I had an anxiety attack, about this and many other things in my life! Why did He want me to do this? I've honestly been fighting my entire life family, friends, relationships many other physical things, and I was victorious in the end of all of those battles. But then I got blind sided and He began to attack my self-worth, my joy, my concentration, no matter how many people stood in front of me I still felt lonely, Satan attacked my hope in entirety... See I've been fighting physical beings by pushing aside and that's easy, until depression set in... That IS NOT AN easy to fight you! Internal battles to me personally are the ugliest ones to fight, mainly because we don't look at them as battles, we just say pep up or put your feelings aside like you do everything else...cannot put aside the loss of satisfaction in everything , you cannot put aside the anxiety you feel when you wanna try because you've failed so horribly, you cannot put aside the feeling that you have no worth in yourself...God sent me this scripture not because I am successful in fighting His way, but so I can put it in a way that I can see it clearly while explaining it to you, So I'll read the last part of the scripture once again Ephesians 6:19-20 "Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be give to me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel. For which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should"