

## **Elder Vernon Johnson**

### **Numbers**

#### **Seven**

##### **Complete Armor for God's People**

We are told in Eph. Chapter 6 that we are to put on the whole armour of God: 10 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

In this spiritual warfare to which we as good soldiers of Jesus Christ are to fight God has given us seven pieces of armour by which we may stand against the wiles of the devil:14 "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

The first piece of armour is about our loins. The loins is the strongest and largest muscles of the body. It is where the main strength of the body lies. We are to have our loins gird about with truth. With truth, we can begin to stand in our fight against the principalities, powers, and the rulers of the darkness of this world. Without truth, we have no strength to stand.

The second piece of armour goes about our chest. We are to have on the breastplate of righteousness. The breastplate protects our vital inwards. Having no righteousness of our own, we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ. We are made righteous through the shed blood of Jesus Christ that is imputed unto us in regeneration. Having the imputed righteousness of Christ protects us against the accusations of Satan whereby he would destroy our heart toward a walk of faith.

The third piece of armour is about our feet. A soldier must have his feet properly shod and protected. If the feet are not properly shod, then he cannot stand to

fight against the enemy. In our Christian warfare we have our feet shod by the preparation of the gospel of peace. The gospel prepares us for the trials and battles of life and instructs us in how that we are to stand against the wiles of the devil.

The fourth piece of armour is the shield of faith. The shield is necessary in protecting against the fiery darts that are hurled our way. These fiery darts would destroy us in our Christian warfare if we had no faith by which we can trust in the God who has bought us and given us exceeding precious promises. However, with faith we can quench Satan's fiery darts.

The fifth piece of armour is the helmet of salvation. The helmet protects our mind. A lack of understanding of both our eternal salvation and our timely or temporal salvation will greatly affect our mind and how we react to the problems, adversities, conflicts, tribulations, and temptations of life. Having a proper understanding helps us to keep our priorities in order and helps us to keep those things in their proper perspective.

The sixth piece of armour is the first of our offensive weapons. This piece is the sword of the Spirit. The sword of the Spirit is the word of God. With the word of God we can go forth with the truth in offense against our enemies and as a witness towards the children of God. We are told that if we resist the devil he will flee from us. It is with the word of God that we resist the devil and his angels.

The seventh piece of armour is prayer. Prayer is both an offensive and defensive weapon. Through prayer we receive strength from God to stand against the onslaught of the devil and we also receive strength whereby we are given wisdom and understand on how we can carry forth with the word of God not only in our own lives, but also as a witness to the truth of God's word. We are to pray not only for ourselves but also for all the saints of God and for the gospel ministry.

We give thanks to God that he has given us a complete armour whereby we may stand against the wiles of the devil.