

Put On The Whole Armour Of God

'So be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God so that you may stand against the deceits of the devil; for we are not wrestling against flesh and blood but against evil spirits of wickedness in the heavenly realm. Therefore, put on the whole armour of God so that you may be able to resist on the evil day, and having done all to stand; stand therefore, having tightened the belt of truth around your loins, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet in the preparation of the Gospel of peace, lift up the shield of faith, upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked one; and take the helmet of salvation and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God' (Ephesians 6:10 to 17).

'For though we walk (live) in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh, but the weapons of our (spiritual) warfare are not physical (not flesh and blood), but they are mighty before God for the destruction of strongholds' (2 Corinthians 10:3 & 4).

'Give them a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, so that they may be trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord so that He may be glorified. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord and my soul will exult in my God, for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation. He has covered me with the robe of righteousness' (Isaiah 61:3 & 10).

The devil is the father of lies (John 8:44) and deceives all people and all nations on the earth (Revelation 12:9; 20:2). As Christians, we are going to be engaged in a spiritual conflict at some time in our lives, against the devil. We are warned that the devil is a very sly and cunning enemy (Ephesians 6:11) and we are not to give him any foothold or place in our lives (Ephesians 4:27; 1 Timothy 3:7). If we submit ourselves to God, we can resist the devil and he has to flee (James 4:7). If we study these scriptures, we can see that we are not wrestling against human beings. People are not the source of most of our problems. We often become angry with people when the problem may well be spiritual. We can find a solution to most problems, because they go deeper than the human personality. If we always view a problem as dealing solely with people, we will never understand the true nature of spiritual problems. In a human wrestling match, the whole person is involved; the mind, body, will, skill and all the human strength. The same applies to the spiritual. We are totally involved in this wrestling match against the evil rulers of darkness; against spiritual hosts and forces of wickedness, which we cannot see. These are authority figures in the heavenly sphere, but are intensely evil. Every ruler has an assigned area of authority in which his rulership is effective. We are dealing with evil, invisible rulers in the heavenly realm. We need to understand that these rulers, rule over their own designated area, city, state, nation, or empire.

Before people become Christians, they live under the sway of the prince of the power of the air and are called sons of disobedience (Ephesians 2:2). Jesus said the devil is their father (John 8:44). Jesus said Judas Iscariot was himself a devil (John 6:70). The devil is the one that resists God's purposes and God's people. He is the slanderer and the accuser of God's people; accusing them before God day and night (Revelation 12:10). He uses the mouths of unsaved people to blaspheme Jesus' holy name. We only have to listen to non-Christian people use the name of Jesus as an expletive to know that, but who is putting Jesus' name into their mouths to use as a curse? The devil sways them to do that and he can, because they are sons (and daughters) of disobedience. He is their father and they are obeying their father, the devil.

The devil is the prince of the power of the air; the ruler of the area defined as the air; the area in which we live and breathe; the earth's surface, plus the higher area where the clouds form. By inference, he is the ruler of the surface of this globe – our earth. He does not rule over everybody on the earth but he does work in the children of disobedience. As long as people are disobedient towards God, they are under the authority of the devil. But if they repent and turn away from the devil they are delivered from his authority. Though still physically on the surface of the earth, spiritually we are not in the devil's realm and we are not under his power, unless we give him a foothold through our own sin (Ephesians 4:27; 1 Timothy 3:7). He does roam around the earth seeking whom he can attack (1 Peter 5:8) but that certainly does not mean he can attack everyone. All those who walk in disobedience; all those who are unsaved; all those who reject God; all those who live unclean lives; all those who refuse to believe in Jesus and reject the salvation provided in Christ; all those who refuse to accept God, are still under the devil's authority. That is a frightening thought for the non-believers. The transaction that takes place the moment we believe and accept Jesus as our Saviour is this: God the Father qualifies us to be fit to share in the inheritance given to all believers, and we are delivered out of the control and the dominion of darkness, and we are transferred into the Kingdom of the Son of His love! (Colossians 1:12 & 13). That Kingdom is the Kingdom of God.

We cannot partake of the inheritance of the believers in Light unless God makes us capable. We cannot make ourselves capable, we need God to do that for us. This power is the same word as in Ephesians – it means authority. Darkness, that is evil, has authority. The devil is the ruler of darkness and it has authority over the disobedient. As long as we walk in pride, self-will and stubbornness, the devil is our king. Conversion does not leave us without a ruler; we are transformed from the kingdom of darkness, into the Kingdom of God by the Son of His love, once we submit to God. We were ruled by the devil – now we are ruled by Jesus. If we are not prepared to be ruled by Jesus, then we will be ruled by darkness. We humans have no option; there are only two kingdoms. There is only heaven or hell and we need to choose which ruler we will walk with. Jesus is the supreme King, Ruler and Lord.

Read again Ephesians 6:16. There is a system of darkness which desires to dominate the whole human race. The devil likes to dominate, control and manipulate and whenever we encounter these evil forces, we will know they are not from God because God never does that. We need to learn to distinguish between the rule of our Lord by voluntary submission by our free cooperation, and the dominating rule by stealth by the devil. The rule of the devil as we have seen is from the heavenly realm. That surprises most people because they think he was cast out of heaven. Well he was, but he was tossed out of the highest heaven, the highest of places where the angels and the Lord live.

The fallen angels are in hell awaiting judgement because they left their place of power and abandoned their proper dwelling place (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6) but the devil is not with them. After the final judgement he will be tossed into the eternal lake of fire along with all non-believers (Revelation 19:20; 20:10, 14, 15; 21:8). In the meantime, the devil's place of habitat is the heavenly realm because that is the natural place of angels. The devil lives amongst the angels and presents himself to God (Job 1:6 to 12; 2:1 to 7). Evil spirits can also present themselves to God (Judges 9:23; 1 Samuel 16:14 to 16 & 23; 1 Kings 22:22; 2 Chronicles 18:21). We are called to wage war on the unseen forces, dominated by the devil. The war is not in the natural, visible or physical realm, but in the spiritual. Because of that, God has given us the invisible weapons we need to fight that enemy. It is our responsibility to pull down the devil's strongholds because we Christians have the God-given appropriate weapons needed for this battle against wicked beings. It is a major battle

to dispel the ignorance of God's people. It is our duty to deal with these evil forces and as long as we are not doing what God requires, the devil is safe.

Our spiritual warfare is not in the realm of the body, it is in the realm of the mind and emotions. We only have to look at the assaults on the minds of people worldwide, and we can see there is a battle. Discouragement, depression, delusions, schizophrenia, uncontrollable anger, violence, children affected by ADHD and other behavioural problems, suicide, involvement in strange cults, drugs, psychotic episodes, the occult and many other areas that affect the mind. The devil needs to be cast out of the minds of people suffering from these things, so they can have a sound mind and live without the torment (Mark 5:2 to 19; Luke 8:27 to 39). We are to bring every thought into captivity into the obedience of Jesus (2 Corinthians 10:5). The devil has taken those poor souls captive and it is up to us to liberate them and to do so, we need to prepare ourselves for a conflict. Remember this important point: Evil is not something – it is someone.

Because we are in this spiritual conflict, we had better see that we, ourselves are protected. Paul was correct in warning us to protect ourselves first. Before we get involved in spiritual warfare, we need first to be aware of the whole armour of God and we need to know how to use it. The armour does not grow on us, we have to consciously put it on by accepting Jesus. Every one of us will at some time, face incredible testing. It is through much tribulation, we enter the Kingdom of God (Acts 14:22). There is no easy way into the Kingdom of God, and life as a Christian is never easy. Jesus said, "When the floods came" (Luke 6:48). He did not say 'if' the floods come. Each 'house' was subjected to the same type of 'floods'. When you come to the 'evil day' in your life (Ephesians 6:13), don't assume you are out of the will of God. The 'floods' may be evidence you are fully in the will of God, but you need to be prepared.

Looking at these defensive weapons one by one, we can see that as we utilise what the Lord has given us to use against the enemy, God will be glorified and we will have peace. When we stand in the face of adversity, it shows someone who is not prepared to allow themselves to be pushed around by evil. Ultimately, it is the Lord who clothes us with salvation; the armour and the garments. Many Christians are ignorant about the truth of the whole armour of God. Some people actually believe they have to literally attempt to 'pull on' invisible armour as though they were pulling on clothing. It is impossible to 'pull on' spiritual armour. The armour is given through spiritual conversion when we repent, are born-again, baptised in water, filled with the Holy Spirit, and habitually walk with the Lord in holiness and obedience, renewing our minds to connect with God's will for our lives. None of this is physical – it is all spiritual, as is the armour.

This study will start with the girdle or belt of truth. This is simply basic truth. It is being honest; not telling lies. We are told not to lie to one another (Colossians 3:9). It is being real by not being false; not putting on 'airs and graces' to try to impress. It is speaking 'straight from the shoulder', and not in frothy language. It is putting away insincerity and hypocrisy as Jesus commanded the religious people of His day, several times. Many Christians are Christians on Sunday only, and during the week their behaviour is so carnal, it is hard to see where the Lord is in their lives. That is hypocrisy. Some people have a 'preaching voice', some people have their 'praying voice'. Most people change their demeanour as they enter church as though they are wearing a mask, almost as though they are acting out a role. Paul is saying – take the mask off – be a real person – tell it like it is – call a spade a spade and not an agricultural tool. Call a lie a lie – call lust, lust – call hatred, hatred and do not refine those and other words until the meaning is watered down. Speak the truth like John the Baptist did, and like Jesus did. They didn't use frothy

language. John the Baptist: "You brood of vipers!" (Matthew 3:7); Jesus: "You hypocrites! You spawn of vipers!" (Matthew 23:13 & 33). We can't call that 'politically correct' speech. If we don't have our girdle of truth on, we will stumble and fall into our own trap, or web of deceit. We need to strip off those 'masks' and become one body, in Jesus. Most people do not show their real 'selves' once outside the home. Most people back off when honest confrontation comes their way. They don't want to deal with the truth. If we consistently live in an air of deceit and falsity, we are behaving like our father the devil, and Jesus said we must not do that (John 8:44). 'Put away from you false and dishonest speech, and wilful talk put far from you' (Proverbs 4:24). As we can see here, being honest with people is not putting on an invisible belt.

The Breastplate of Righteousness deals with the heart, which is located inside the chest. 'My son, attend to My words; listen to My sayings. Let them not depart from your sight; keep them in the centre of your heart. Guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life' (Proverbs 4:20, 21 & 23). Every emotion we experience in life, comes from the heart. What we have in our hearts determines the course of our lives. If our hearts are filled with bitterness, unbelief and fear, our lives will go the wrong way. If our hearts are filled with faith, peace and love, our lives will go the right way. Righteousness is a condition of the heart not of the head. 'But we belong to the day (Light); therefore let us be sober (sensible) and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet, the hope of salvation' (1 Thessalonians 5:8). 'Faith which works through love' (Galatians 5:6) and it is a condition of the heart. 'If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord, and in your heart, believe that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart a person believes and so is justified, and with the mouth he confesses and confirms his salvation' (Romans 10:9 & 10). There is a difference in believing with the head and believing with the heart. Believing with the head leaves us unchanged. Almost every person on earth believes there is a God up there somewhere, but their lives are not changed by that. Believing with the heart, changes everything; it changes the way we live unto righteousness in God. We need to serve God with love from the heart. We see that the breastplate is not an invisible item that we can 'pull on'. It is an attitude of love and obedience towards God our Father.

We are to have our Feet shod in the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace. Strong boots are indicated here. The word preparation tells us this has to be done in advance. If we are to communicate the Gospel, we need advance preparation, through Bible study and prayer. We need to know the basic facts of salvation as written in the Gospel. For example, Jesus said we all must be born-again (John 3:1 to 17), and we are told we all must repent and be baptised to receive forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38). Many people do not know how to explain to others, how to be saved; what steps they need to take. If we are going to share the about peace of God, we need to have His peace. We can't speak about the peace that passes all understanding, if we don't have it. We are to transmit peace as Jesus did many times, when He frequently said, "Peace be to you." Jesus said, "As you go into the house, give your greetings. Then if the house is deserving, let come upon it your peace, but if it is not deserving, let your peace return to you." In other words, Jesus meant, don't be troubled if people reject the Gospel, just go to the next house, or the next person. The mental preparation is, we are to know the Gospel. The Spiritual preparation is: We need to experience His peace for ourselves. We impart what we are, rather than what we say. We have to live the life before we can impart it to others. 'Consider well the path of your feet, and let all your ways be ordered aright. Turn not aside to the right nor to the left; remove your foot from evil' (Proverbs 4:26 & 27). 'How beautiful are the feet of him who brings good news (the Gospel); who publishes peace; who brings good tidings of good; who

publishes salvation; who says to Zion, "Your God reigns" (Isaiah 52:7). We can see that this act of imparting peace and sharing the Gospel is not trying to put on invisible 'boots'.

The Shield of Faith quenches the fiery darts (flaming missiles) of the wicked one. The shield mentioned here, is akin to the old Roman shield that was oval, and covered the front of the soldiers from head to foot. It is the kind of faith that totally protects us. We need a strong shield of faith that covers ourselves, our families, our businesses, our vehicles, and anything else that is ours. 'Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God' (Romans 10:17). We need to take time in the Word of God to find God's provision for us. There is a complete protection provided by God, but many of us do not have a complete shield. There may be areas of sin in our lives that removes part of that protection. Once we have repented, confessed that sin to God and been forgiven, the shield is complete once again. We can't try to 'pull on' the shield of faith. Faith is in our hearts.

The Helmet of Salvation protects the head, or the mind and the thoughts we have. 'And for a helmet, (put on) the hope of salvation' (1 Thessalonians 5:8). The devil will try to put within our minds things like mistrust, suspicion, fear, doubt or depression. Many Christians suffer from recurring bouts of doubt and depression. Depression can come down over sufferers like a kind of cloud, shutting people off from family and communication with others. The depression often follows people wherever they go, affecting the sufferer and their family. Winston Churchill called it his 'Black dog'. There is only one way to deal with depression. First we need to realise it is a spirit that follows us everywhere we go. The scriptures call it a 'spirit of heaviness'. It is not the person's fault, it is not psychological, it is not a mental problem, it is a spirit. It is an evil being that is after the susceptible sufferer, following them around, studying their weaknesses and attacking when they can. Remember, evil is not something, it is someone. Once we can see that, we can have the victory over that evil thing. 'Whoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered' (Joel 2:32). We can ask the Lord to deliver us from the spirit of heaviness. It is not a disgrace for anyone, including church leaders, to be delivered from evil spirits. Most Christians need deliverance, especially if the evil influence comes down through the family. It is God Who does the delivering, but it is our responsibility to re-educate our minds. Before deliverance, we can't re-educate our minds and cultivate different thought patterns to stand against depression. After deliverance, God won't do that for us. We have to stand and fight against depression using the armour of God and self-discipline. We have to renew our minds (Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:23). We are to put on the helmet of hope, that is the helmet of salvation (1 Thessalonians 5:8). Our salvation gives us hope. We have to consciously cultivate hope. 'So faith, hope and love abide' (1 Corinthians 13:13); have unwavering hope in our Lord Jesus, our Messiah (1 Thessalonians 1:3). The helmet of hope should bring peace. Some people become worried if they have nothing to worry about, but we are told not to be anxious or fret about anything (Philippians 4:6), so stop worrying, and cultivate hope. To continue to be pessimistic, denies the hope that is in faith. The Christian life is a 'hard-hat' area just as in a building site, except we are building up the Kingdom of God. More scriptures on hope can be found in Romans 8:24; 'For in this hope, we were saved'.

Ephesians 2:12; 'Remember ... that you once had no hope. You were in the world without God'.

Colossians 1:27; 'To whom God was pleased to make known how great for the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Jesus within us, the Hope of glory' (that is the hope of salvation and our eventual entrance into glory, or heaven).

Hebrews 6:17 to 19; '... this was so that ... we can grasp the hope appointed for us and now we have this hope as an anchor of the soul ...' This figure of hope is as an anchor. A ship needs an anchor to stop it drifting away, just as we need the anchor of hope to stop

us drifting away from God. An anchor fastens itself to a rock, just as we are to fasten ourselves to the Rock (Jesus). We can see that we can't 'pull on' the helmet of salvation and hope. The hope of salvation comes at conversion.

Take the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. All the other pieces of armour are defensive, but the sword is used aggressively. This word here is the spoken word. We read the Words of the Bible which feeds us spiritually, but when we speak out the Word of God, it has a powerful effect. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, each time He deflected the temptation by saying, "It is written." Jesus, Who is the Word of God, spoke the Word of God audibly. He did not mutter under His breath, He spoke out scriptures from the book of Deuteronomy. The Lord never doubted the authenticity of Deuteronomy, and if we don't doubt the Word of God, neither will the devil because he knows the scriptures are true, and he has to back off. We need to do the same as Jesus did, and speak the Word of God into difficult situations. We need to have the Word of God in our hearts, and we need to speak the Word of God like a two-edged sword, out of our mouths (Hebrews 4:12; Revelation 1:16). 'My son, attend to My Words; listen to My sayings' (Proverbs 4:20). The only way we can 'pick up' the Sword of the Spirit, is to pick up our Bibles and study them.

All of these weapons cover the whole body except the back. We need to know how to cover our backs, and for this we need to study Isaiah 61:1 to 3 then 10. Isaiah wrote down what he was inspired to say by the prompting of the Spirit of our Messiah (1 Peter 1:11). Jesus read this passage of scripture out loud when He was on earth (Luke 4:18). Jesus was sent to give us the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, He clothes us in garments of salvation and He covers us with the robe of righteousness. If we look carefully at these scriptures, we can see that Jesus Himself covers our backs. He sent the Holy Spirit to comfort us (the oil of joy); he gave us a garment of praise to combat the spirit of heaviness, which is discouragement and depression; He clothes us with salvation and covers us with the robe of righteousness. What part of the body does a robe cover? The whole back, arms and legs. As long as we are living with praise on our lips, the spirit of heaviness has to flee. That is how to deal with that evil spirit – by praising and worshiping God and being thankful. When we put on the whole armour of God, which we receive through accepting Jesus as our Saviour, then our Saviour does the rest by covering our backs – leaving no part of us exposed to attack from the enemy.

Prayer, fasting and watching are also a great weapons of warfare and there are more than 20 scriptures that tell us to pray and fast. By praying, fasting and watching, we are denying the two great needs we have; food and sleep. 'Watching' in this context, is to mean for us to stay awake when others are sleeping. We are to pray day and night (Nehemiah 4:9; 1 Timothy 5:5). Jesus prayed all night (Luke 6:12), and said He would defend and protect His people who cry to Him day and night (Luke 18:7). On several occasions, Jesus warned the disciples to keep watch. The Lord said He has put watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem, who never hold their peace day and night (Isaiah 62:6). In the Old Testament we are told to deny ourselves (Leviticus 23:32), and in the New Testament, Jesus said we are to deny ourselves (Matthew 16:24).

Praise and worship are other weapons in our warfare. Real Holy Spirit worship in the church for extended periods, or absolute worship alone at home while lying prostrate before God, are two more ways to really get a job done. God listens to our prayers when we humble ourselves, and lying face down before Him is very humbling. 'If My people, who are called by My name (Christians), shall humble themselves, pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I (Jesus) hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal

their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer offered in this place (2 Chronicles 7:14). What opened the Lord's eyes and ears? Humility and prayer. Jesus said, "Have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of babes and infants You have perfected praise?'" (Matthew 21:16). Jesus was referring to: 'Out of the mouths of babes and infants You have established strength because of Your foes, that You might silence the enemy and the avenger' (Psalm 8:2). Jesus said perfected praise; David said established strength. That means the strength given to God's people comes from perfected praise. If we can perfectly praise God out of our mouths, the result will be divine strength to silence the devil. That is why the devil hates people to praise and worship God. It gives the Christians power and authority over the devil and he hates to be defeated. That is why it is so important to worship the Lord in the church service. Many pastors dislike worship and quench it, and that makes us wonder what spirit is behind those pastors who cut worship off or disallow it altogether. That is something to think about. When Paul and Silas were imprisoned, they praised the Lord and everyone heard them. Praise released the spiritual power needed for a miraculous event to occur. The prison door swung open and everyone's chains fell off (Acts 16:25 & 26). If we look at this event in spiritual terms, we can claim victory over anything which keeps people bound in 'chains'. Praise can set them free, so we see that praise is a powerful spiritual weapon.

Another weapon of warfare is aggressive prayer which can be launched anywhere in the world, and answers can be received thousands of kilometres away. The devil was defeated on the cross and we need to pray through the defeat and pray as though the prayer has already been answered. 'God brought to life together with Jesus, having freely forgiven us all our transgressions. God disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us, and made a bold display and public example of them, in triumphing over them on the cross' (Colossians 2:13 & 15). God the Father has done it through Jesus our Messiah. Through the cross, all our sins and trespasses have been forgiven. That means all have been forgiven; not some, but all. If we do not 'feel' forgiven, then we will feel guilt; but if we can see that all our sins are forgiven, then we should not feel any guilt whatsoever (Romans 8:1).

When Jesus died on the cross, He blotted out the law as a means to righteousness. He did not blot out the law, because the law still stands as an example, but He blotted it out as the means to righteousness. The sacrificial law is no longer the standard for us to follow as a means of showing righteousness. Jesus is now our example and we need to look to Him. 'For Jesus is the end of the Law, as the means of righteousness' (Romans 10:4). 'He has broken down the dividing wall between us (Jews and Gentiles) by abolishing in His own flesh, the enmity caused by the Law with its decrees' (Ephesians 2:14 & 15). We are no longer required to observe the law in order to be found righteous. The law was given merely to show people God's standard of righteousness, so we would be made aware of sin (Romans 3:20).

The final hurdle to grace is the law. If we read all of Romans to the end of chapter 7, we will learn how to live under grace. As long as we feel any guilt, we are not free to live in Romans chapter 8. One of the weapons the devil uses against us, is to make us feel guilty, but God has spoiled evil and defeated them and stripped them of all their weapons. The only weapon the devil has is bluff and he is a master of using it. The devil is the accuser and tries to make us feel guilty but the scriptures tell us otherwise. We do not ever need to feel guilty of anything. Feeling guilty, is vastly different to feeling the 'check' in our spirit if we sin. We all know the feeling of guilt and how it gnaws at us, but when the Holy Spirit convicts us, there is no feeling of guilt. Sometimes we feel ashamed because He is touching on something, but as soon as we confess the sin, the feeling of shame is

immediately replaced with a feeling of being loved and corrected. That is God's grace, in action with us.

The Word of God, the name of Jesus, and the blood of Jesus, all work together through prayer. All spiritual weapons come through the mouth, through our confession of faith, prayer, praise, worship and quoting the Word of God. God has given us a way to silence our accuser just as Jesus did when He quoted, "It is written." Through our words, we can shut the devil up, rebuke him, order him out and we can take absolute authority over him. Jesus gave us authority over all the authority the devil once had (Matthew 10:1; Mark 3:15; Mark 6:7; Luke 9:1; Luke 10:19). 'Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has delivered from the hand of the adversary' (Psalm 107:2). We have been redeemed and delivered, and the devil does not have any authority over Christians, because of Jesus' sacrifice. The only authority the devil has is over his own children, the children of disobedience. Christians need to take that God-given authority and use it by speaking with authority. The weapons of righteousness come out of the mouths of God's people, and the weapons of wickedness come from the mouths of the wicked. Not only does the words of wickedness come from the mouths of non-believers, the unclean and evil spirits come out of their mouths too (Revelation 16:13).

Another very powerful weapon to use against our enemy, is invoking the blood of Jesus when we pray. 'We are now justified by Jesus' blood' (Romans 5:9). 'In Him we have redemption through the blood' (Ephesians 1:7). 'Therefore, Jesus suffered and died outside the city's gate in order that He might sanctify the people through His own blood and set them apart as holy for God' (Hebrews 13:12). 'The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin and guilt (1 John 1:7). 'To Him Who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His own blood' (Revelation 1:5). 'For they have overcome by means of the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony' (Revelation 12:11). We were far away from God, but we can draw near, through the blood of Jesus (Ephesians 2:13). We can enter into the holy place with God, through the blood of Jesus (Hebrews 10:19). Jesus is the Mediator of a new covenant through the blood – an eternal covenant (Hebrews 12:24; 13:20). 'We were chosen by God the Father and consecrated by the Holy Spirit to be obedient to Jesus our Messiah and to be sprinkled with His blood' (1 Peter 1:2). 'He came with water and the blood' (1 John 5:6).

For a wonderful scripture that gives us a picture of absolute protection from the Lord to those who walk with Him, can be found in Psalm 91. He covers us, protects us, no evil can befall us, He will deliver us, we will not be afraid and we can trust Him. We don't have to defeat the devil, he is already defeated, we only have to administer the defeat.

Amen and God bless you.

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