

## Fear Is A Fantasy

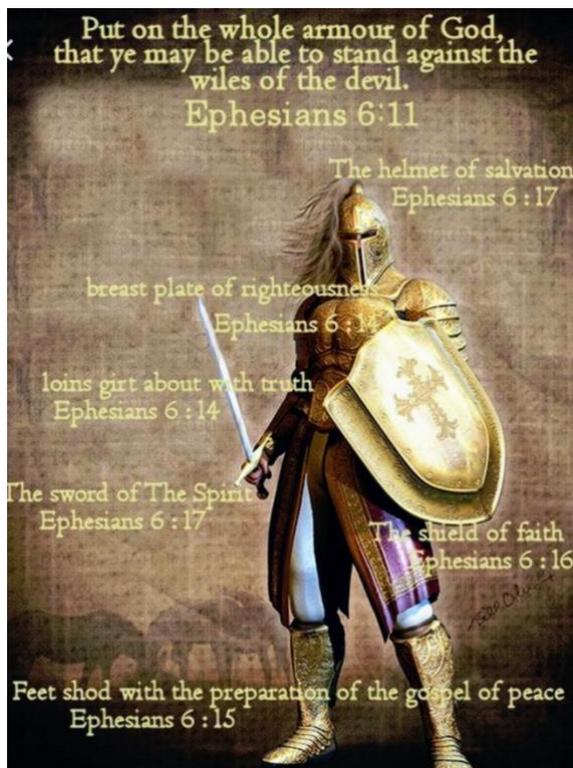
Fear is not a thing, [it's] a fantasy, but a fantasy empowered by your own divine creative ability. How interesting that you can take a fantasy, fear is a fantasy, has no power. Fantasies are as fairy tales. Fairy tales may inspire or amuse. Fantasies of the nature of fear may be taken by some as amusement, entertainment, a thrill. What can it harm you? Only to the extent that you use your divine creative power to empower the fantasy, to change literally, physiologically the very cell structure of your body, the chemical content, the chemical combinations of your body.

Fear has no power to destroy you, but you have the power to destroy yourself using fear as the tool for destroying your body, your vehicle for carrying the light.

Then set aside your fear. Be not afraid. Be not afraid but stand in love knowing that you speak from love, knowing that your love is for Love itself. That you must love is Living Love in yourself. Love yourself that you may know the power of Living Love. Love yourself and love Love, and use the power thereof to, as the Apostle has described the use of the Whole Armor of God, use it to quench the fiery darts of the evil. ....

Fear not that, but if you stand aside and watch the darts be thrown and do not, with feet shod with the preparation - this is crucial - then with the shield of faith, ... faith! Faith is knowing that with your shield you are invulnerable to the fiery darts. And would it be in your best interest, standing beside those who are attacked, to lend your shield and to stand with them so that you become one light?- Reading 9596

## The Whole Armor of God - Ephesians 6: 11 20



*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the lord, and in the power of His might.*

*Put on the Whole Armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against the wiles of the devil.*

*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.*

*Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;*

*And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

*Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

*And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

*And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,*

*For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

## **The Whole Armor of God Is a Protective Device**

The "Whole Armor of God" is not an armor that has been cast of steel and other strong metals, made malleable by the intense heat of the blacksmith's fires, and pounded by man's hands into a shape that will hopefully protect its bearer from the weapons of the enemy.

The whole armor of God is a protective device composed of the qualities of truth, righteousness and purpose. It is cast in the fires that burn in the hearts of men the fires of desire to know God. It is cast by the hands of God, from love, that man might steel himself against that which is not love.

He [Apostle Paul] said to them, "I want you to pray and pray constantly. Keep the prayer going in your mind night and day." He told them that although they could not all travel the world spreading the gospel as he was doing, they could still be a part of that mission. "I am going to travel everywhere in the known world," Paul said, "and I am going to speak for you. But I need for you to be my battery. I need for you to keep praying. Pray that every time I open my mouth, I will say what Christ intends for me to say." And he told them to put on the Whole Armor of God, as protection against the "rulers of the darkness on this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

## **Just As Effective Today**

The Armor of God does not need to be relegated to a time period two thousand years ago. The Armor of God will work just as effectively in today's fast paced, technological and seemingly insecure world, to protect you and to provide you personal empowerment and security. Let's look now at how to design an Armor of God for ourselves.

## **Gird Your Loins With the Truth**

You might expect to begin at the bottom and move upward in building an armor, but Paul starts with the loins. "Gird your loins with truth." The reason for starting with the loins is the vulnerability of that area. For many people, that area is the most vulnerable. In truth, this is the center of the power of life, the dynamic power of life, of reproduction, of healing, of everything that lives and grows. This is the power point. Wrap that with truth. Do not be ashamed of the power that resides there. It is the power and the energy of the Red Terrace. Gird that with truth. Be direct, straight and honest. You have nothing to hide; and if you do have something to hide, tell the truth about it before someone else tells it for you. It is usually more harmful for someone else to pass the word before you get around to opening up to it.

## **Feet, Shod**

Feet, shod with the preparation for sharing the gospel of peace. Preparation. Jesus said, "Think not what you will say, but boldly open your mouth, and I will speak." And sometimes that verse is interpreted to mean that preparation to speak on a certain topic is not necessary that all you have to do is open your mouth and something magical will happen. We have all witnessed the ramblings of unprepared speakers and people with vague ideas on a subject but no firm foundation of knowledge.

Your feet represent what is standing under you, giving you a place to stand on, a foundation. And Paul is speaking of the preparation that is necessary for sharing. Not only the preparation of the heart for dedication to the message of love, but also the preparation for being able, having a source of information, wisdom, and insights to open your mouth boldly and allow Christ to speak through you. This is the result of preparation.

## **Breastplate of Righteousness**

Next, let's look at the breastplate of righteousness. Righteousness refers to integrity. The breastplate is that which covers the heart, protects the heart. Integrity. Integrity is being one with yourself. Look at the word itself. Integrity. Integrated, all parts brought together, single minded, direct, single in purpose, moving in one direction.

As John, in the Gospel of John, says in the first chapter, "Make your path straight" That's integrity. Single mindedness. You have one place you are going, and nothing will or can stop you. Your purpose is impenetrable. In this way your goal has already been met. Your heart is safeguarded so the battle is already won.

## **Shield of Faith**

Next, let's look at the shield, the shield of faith. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Whatever I ask, believing that I have already received it, I have. That becomes more difficult when asking for something that you really need. It is hard to know that you have already received it because you do not have the evidence and you do not have the substance.

Faith is the substance and the evidence, and that is the act of knowing already, when I request it, when I invoke it, that it is a done deal, and I do not even have to repeat it twice. I just invoke it. And I know that it is on the way. Faith is evidence and substance. So, build the shield of faith knowing that there is no doubt. It is not hoping. It is not wishing. Those are negatives. Those are affirmations reaffirming what you do not have, and they will keep you from ever having it. So do not wish for it. It is not a matter of wishing. Invoking it is expectancy. It is expecting it, knowing that it is coming, that it is already yours because you have decided it, in your nature as Christ, a creator. That is your shield.

## **The Sword of the Spirit**

Let's look at the sword. The sword of the spirit is the nature of the Christ. It is a sword that cuts both ways. That means that if you misuse your power, it cuts against you. If you use it for the right purposes, which is always love, love is the right purpose; love is the way the sword works for you. Do not be tempted to use your personal power for any other application. Know that real power is not gained from building yourself up at somebody else's expense. It is not where we get our self-esteem or alrightness. We do not have to put anyone down in order to bring ourselves up. That is how the sword cuts both ways. Build yourself up. Empower yourself. Wield the sword of the spirit by invoking the spirit or the nature of Christ within you to guide you and live through.

## **Helmet of Salvation**

Then you have the helmet of salvation. What are you going to put on your head? You want to wear something called the crown of enlightenment.

The crown of enlightenment is an ancient concept. But in our terms, it is the act of brain integration and brain transcendence, going beyond the human, bicameral mind. Thinking with the mind of God. That is your helmet of enlightenment.

## **I Am an Endless and Eternal Source of Love**

The Whole Armor of God is a form of security built out of love. It was originated and designed two thousand years ago to provide security to a group of people who fought dragons no less terrifying than our own. It was designed to provide a security that will last, that will withstand the negative forces of daily life. Too often security is placed in the size of a savings account and an ability to invest wisely, or these days, maybe it is money in the mattress, higher education, the importance of a job and my own indispensability to that job, the number of locks on a door and the technology

of an alarm system, a personal knowledge of martial arts and a can of mace, a quick temper and a voice that will speak up. Can any of these really provide security in today's world? I think not.

Remember that the rest of the world is out there trying to find and maintain their alrightness, even if that is at your expense. Putting another down in order to build oneself up is a very common occurrence among people. Even the term is common. Everyone from salesclerks to waitresses to lawyers to traffic cops is out there trying to maintain alrightness. And often in that process, you get put down. It happens every day of your life. We do not want to empower those putdowns. We do not want to give them power over us. We want to notice them and disempower them. The one thing that can stand up against the daily putdowns of life is love. This is what Jesus meant when he said to turn the other cheek. Return love. One way to do that is through this Whole Armor of God. That means that when I notice that somebody even looked at me in a way that was a putdown, I give that person the understanding, the compassion and the love that they need to be healed. I do not catch their disease. I do not, in turn, need to make myself bigger, in order to make them smaller, so that I feel good about myself.

Remember, our society is riddled with people in those positions that instill putdowns. Even though an individual may not purposefully put me down, the very position they hold may do it. Society is set up that way. School teachers can become a major putdown as they work to control their class. Policemen are one of the biggest all we have to do is see the bubble light in the rear-view mirror, and the light does not even have to be turned on. Control is a big issue. So is having importance, being on top. We face it every day. The kinds of putdowns we are talking about are not as easily recognized as being called "stupid," or "jerk." But they are just as damaging, for they eat away at our self-esteem throughout our waking hours. Constant erosion, against which there is almost no protection. I lose confidence. I become fearful. I experience panic. I lose patience and become angry more easily. I feel bad about myself. No one told me I was a "jerk," but I feel like a jerk. I am losing power. I am giving my power away to those who are on top of the pile, those who have "made it" better than I have. It is called self-esteem erosion because it is gradual. What can we do about it? Paul wrote of the Whole Armor of God as an answer to our problem. The armor provides a means to security against putdowns.

Real security comes through personal empowerment, the feeling that whatever happens, I can handle it. The knowledge that whatever happens, I have abilities to make life continue to work for me. Security is based on confidence, belief, faith in oneself, and a genuine love that rises from within me. Any other form of security can be penetrated.

I am an endless and eternal source of love. That is my security.

Personal empowerment is the ability to do what you need to do at a given moment. The Whole Armor of God's love is a means to personal empowerment. It is a means to living an effective life that empowers myself, and others, that returns love for fear, and that demonstrates the presence of God. A security that cannot be penetrated is the purpose and the result of putting on the Whole Armor of God.