

DRESSED FOR BATTLE - PART 2

EPHESIANS 6:14-17

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) *Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,*

1. We find this important command: Stand firm, be immovable. Once again the apostle Paul is going to greater length about being ready and waiting in anticipation of an attack, so that you will be ready when it comes. The belt of truth is an important weapon against our enemy. Truth is such a significant piece in the arsenal of a victorious Christian. The breastplate of righteousness has only been offered to us through the finish work on the cross that Jesus accomplished.

Ephesians 6:15 (NKJV) *and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

2. When we look at the term “Readiness” it points to the firm foundation we have in the gospel of peace, through which all believers have been reconciled to God and allows us to have a strong footing when we undergo attack in this spiritual warfare.

Ephesians 6:16 (NKJV) *above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.*

3. This shield of faith, a living faith where we fully believe in the power and promises of our God. Faith is a defensive weapon that protects us from the fiery darts of the devil. The enemy shoots fiery darts at our hearts and minds; lies, blasphemous thoughts, hateful thoughts about others. If we do not walk by faith and use this shield, we will fall down by the impact of every fiery dart.

Ephesians 6:17 (NKJV) *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

4. The helmet is very important, since the enemy takes aim at our minds, we must keep the helmet on. When we allow God to have control of our mind, Satan will not be able to lead you astray. It is important to keep our minds in the right place by continuing to grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
5. The sword of the spirit is the offensive weapon God equips us with. God’s word is compared with a sword in the book of Hebrews. The word of God pierces the heart, and the more we use the sword of the spirit, the sharper it becomes.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ways to Give: Online at vcctracy.org or text message at 209-900-8368.

Prayer Every Sunday Morning: 9:15 - 9:45am - in the Sanctuary.

Dining With The Community

Feeding the Hungry: 2nd Wednesday of every month.

Travel Size Toiletries: We are collecting these for distribution to the homeless.

Scoop Ministries: The Overflow Conference: 08/26/17 - 10am - 3pm at St. Paul's Church. Featuring Guest Speaker Rhonda Stoppe. Register online or at VCC - \$20 prior to August 20th, \$25 after August 20th.

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