

# KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH (Lesson #11)

## Spiritual Warfare: The Church's Armor (Eph. 6: 11-20)

*Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.*

Ephesians 6: 11-13

### FOUR OBSERVATIONS:

- Life is WAR.
- The war is against supernatural EVIL POWERS.
- There is the danger of DEFEAT.
- God has made the provision for VICTORY.

### 1. THE BELT OF TRUTH

*Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth....* Ephesians 6: 14a

**APPLICATION:** Being prepared and ready to follow Christ into BATTLE regardless the sacrifice and cost.

*Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.* 2 Timothy 2: 3-4

### 2. THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

*...and having put on the breastplate of righteousness...* Ephesians 6: 14b

**APPLICATION:** Maintaining clear THINKING and stable EMOTIONS in the heat of the battle by practicing righteousness.

*Awake to righteousness and do not sin...* 1 Corinthians 15: 34

*So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.* Romans 13: 12b-14

### 3. GOSPEL BOOTS

*...and having shod your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of peace...*

Ephesians 6: 15

**APPLICATION:** Being prepared to move with the Gospel, to advance the Gospel, to share the Gospel with the lost in taking the OFFENSIVE against the devil.

*How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation, and says to Zion, "Your God reigns."*

Isaiah 52: 7

### 4. SHIELD OF FAITH

*...in addition to all taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one.*

Ephesians 6: 16

**APPLICATION:** I extinguish the fiery temptations of the devil by TRUSTING God, His Word, and my comrades in arms.

*As for God, His way is perfect, the word of the Lord is proved; He is a shield to all those who take refuge in Him.*

Psalms 18: 30

*...this is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.*

1 John 5: 4b

### 5. HELMET OF SALVATION

*And take the helmet of salvation...*

Ephesians 6: 17a

**APPLICATION:** Unshakeable confidence that the battle will one day be over and Christ's forces will be victorious, which overcomes all discouragement and doubt and is the ultimate remedy for all BATTLE FATIGUE.

*...having put on...as a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Thessalonians 5: 8-9

### 6. SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

*...and the sword of the spirit which is the Word of God.*

Ephesians 6: 17b

**APPLICATION:** Just like a sword's power is not realized until you pick it up and use in battle, the Bible's power is not realized until you pick it up and use it, obey it, and SHARE IT WITH THE LOST.

*For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword...*

Hebrews 4: 12

**7. PRAYER:** The Christian's link to the COMAND & CONTROL CENTER in heaven (Ephesians 6: 18-20)