

## THE ARMOR OF GOD "The Enemies: Internal"

*Moses was dead. The man who had been a prince in Egypt, the man who had been a shepherd in Median, the man who had been a prophet, the man who had led the children of Israel for forty years, the man who had delivered the commandments, the man who spoke to God face to face, the man was dead. For a full thirty days, the children of Israel mourned him in the plains of Moab. And then God spoke to Joshua.*

Josh 1:2-3

- 2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.
- 3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. (KJV)

*The land is yours for the taking, Joshua. Walk in, tread around, for I have given the land unto you. Being an obedient man, Joshua did just that. He led the people of Israel across the River Jordan over dry land. **What did they discover on the other side? Jericho.***

Josh 6:1-2

- 1 Now Jericho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.
- 2 Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. (NIV)

*Once again, the Lord says, "Look it, it's yours!" This huge fortress, shut up and locked tight. No problem, Joshua, I've given it to you already. All you have to do is walk around the city during the week, have a big parade on the seventh day with a ram's horn band and, whalah, the walls will come down.*

*Think about it for a minute. Joshua is a serious fighting man. A general of serious fighting men. They've heard the stories. This is Joshua, you know of Joshua and Caleb fame. This is Joshua, he's been to the mountain top. Joshua, he was one of the elite infiltration team that ran that covert operation forty years ago; a spy in the land of giants. Forty years we've been walking around burying our parents, waiting for this day. And now, he wants us to do what? Walk around the city? That's the plan?*

Josh 6:15-16, 20

- 15 On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times.
- 16 The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city!
- 20 When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so every man charged straight in, and they took the city. (NIV)

*The Lord is faithful. The walls came down. The truth was that the land had already been given*

*to them. All that remained was a walk of faith to claim the promised inheritance. In like manner, we have been saved.*

Eph 2:8-10

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--

9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (NIV)

*And yet, having been saved by grace, the walk of faith to possess the land yet remains.*

Phil 2:12-13

12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. (KJV)

*Let's quickly review where our Christian soldier was prior to his enlistment.*

### **Review-**

We were sold to sin, we were captives.

We were children of wrath and disobedience.

We walked in the former conversation of unrighteousness.

The old man knew not God and was at enmity with him.

Experientially, generationally and genetically we have received the habits of the old man.

These habits had their power in the spirit of man (unregenerate and unenlightened) and thus were alive.

By accepting Jesus (Rom. 10:9,10; John 3:16), the old man is crucified and dead (Rom. 6). This is the answer to the prayer of the Psalmist, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." (Ps. 51:10)

The spirit of God now dwells in our spirit to teach us all things (John 16) and convict and reprove us that we might judge the enemy.

It's now "Christ in us, the hope of glory." (Col. 1:27)

*This is all by the grace of God and to his glory. But while we were in Egyptland, the "ites" were busy in the land. How many of us have had parents that sinned, can I see a show of hands? Everybody.*

Exod 20:5

You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, (NIV)

*When we take into account parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and great-great-grandparents, we are looking at 30 people's worth of sins that we inherit. Adam is much farther*

*removed than they are, and yet we still carry his death sentence in our flesh. One can easily see how the sins of the fathers can impact us.*

*How many of us have ever held ungodly beliefs? Everybody.*

*Ever had our feelings hurt or our hearts broken? Everybody.*

*How many of us have ever suffered under demonic oppression?*

*Look at Eph. 4:27, "Neither give place to the devil." We are not to give him any place. The problem is that while we were in his kingdom and before, the areas of Sins of the Fathers (Curses), Ungodly Beliefs, Soul/Spirit Hurts, and Demonic Oppression were taking land and building fortresses just like the Cannanite tribes did in the promised land.*

2 Pet 1:19

And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. (NIV)

*That "dark place" was his domain. The light of the son of God has shined in our hearts, because we have believed the word of the prophets. But we were born in iniquity. Even after our new birth, we were left with the damage done in the soul and body of man by the dead old man.*

*Perhaps your parents or forefathers were involved in the sin of abandonment or **drunkenness**. This sin, learned from your fathers, manifests itself in the flesh. Maybe their sin of abandonment and drunkenness bred in you the ungodly belief that you were unloved and did not fit in anywhere, so you fell to the sin of **envying** those who did. Perhaps the rejection you experienced hurt your heart, and you hide your sin and fears in **shame**. This shame holds you captive, leaving you open to demonic oppression manifesting itself in **depression**.<sup>1</sup>*

*This process can even be observed in mature believers. The Apostle Peter was Jewish. A sin common to the nation and his ancestors was the sin of prejudice. The Gentiles were called dogs, unworthy to approach the election of Israel. His upbringing caused him spiritual conflicts on more than one occasion. The Lord commanded him to "kill and eat", but he wouldn't. Even after experiencing the new birth, he believed that he had to live like a Jew. (Acts 10-11). He was exposed to the temptation of taking up an offence (soul/spirit hurts) when questioned by the elders about his having eaten with the "uncircumcised" (Acts 11:3). Perhaps it was preparing for that eventuality that prompted him to take 6 brethren with him. And while he was ministering in Antioch, certain men came from James and Peter was so intimidated that he separated himself from the gentile believers, falling to the sin of hypocrisy under the demonic oppression of witchcraft (of James) (Gal. 2:11-14; 3:1).*

*There is no doubt about it, there is a war on.*

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<sup>1</sup>based on "Rebuilding the Foundations" by the Kylstra's.

Rom 7:14-21

14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. (KJV)

James 4:1

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? (NIV)

Gal 5:17

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. (KJV)

1 Pet 2:11

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; (KJV)

1 Cor 9:26-27

26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.

27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. (NIV)

*The flesh lusts against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh; fleshly lusts war against the soul; I beat my body to make it my slave. The internal war is plain: spirit vs. flesh. The main battle ground this war is fought over is the soul.*

*What is sin and how is it manifested?*

1 Jn 2:16

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (KJV)

Gal 5:18-21

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;

20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions

21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. (NIV)

1Thes 5:23

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (NIV)

*Fourteen sin categories are listed in Galatians 5. It is not a total list of all sins, but of the sins listed, fully 50% fall into the category of the soul, the lust of the eyes (see Prov. 27:20; Ecc. 1:8, Job 31:1, 7-8). The sins listed in the "lust of the flesh" category number five and represent nearly 36%, while the sins in the "pride of life" arena number two, representing 14%. The greater majority shown is clearly in the soul realm.*

*God's desire is that when our Lord Jesus Christ returns, we would be blameless in spirit, soul, and body. Though sealed by the spirit for salvation and inheritance in the new heavens and the new earth, defilements can still occur. This is why 2 Cor. 7:1 enjoins us to:*

2 Cor 7:1

Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. (NIV)

*Titus 3:3 shows us our past, total depravity.*

Titus 3:3

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. (NIV)

*The good news is found in the subsequent verses.*

Titus 3:4-7 (NIV)

4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,  
5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,  
6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,  
7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

*He can cleanse us and he leads us to take possession of the land. But it is a life-walk process.*

### **The taking of the land principle-**

Exod 23:29-30

29 But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you.

30 Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land. (NIV)

2 Cor 10:3-5

3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.

- 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.
- 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (NIV)

Eph 4:21-32

- 21 Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.
- 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;
- 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds;
- 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.
- 25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.
- 26 "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,
- 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.
- 28 He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.
- 29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.
- 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.
- 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (NIV)

*We are headed to Ephesians 6 and the armor God has for his people. But before we get there, we must walk through Ephesians 4. We are at war, a war of two fronts and one major battle ground. In both wars, the Lord has already won the victory. To the extent that we are victorious in the internal war of the spirit vs. the flesh, we will be effective in the battle of the kingdom of light vs. the kingdom of darkness. Both these battles are simultaneous and occur generally on the ground of the soul. In practical terms, putting on the armor of God is the winning of the internal battle. Standing in the armor of God and using the weapons of righteousness is withstanding in the evil day.*