
ARMED WITH SALVATION AND SCRIPTURE

(Ephesians 6:17)

No matter how fierce and intense Satan's opposition is, no matter how life threatening our trials are, our salvation in Christ as declared in the Word of God provides us with confidence and assurance that our present struggle with Satan will not last forever. Satan will not have the final victory. Suffering will not have the last word. Even death itself will not be our ultimate destiny. Eternal glory with Christ is our guaranteed future! As we consider the final two pieces of our spiritual armor in Ephesians 6:17, we will learn this central truth: **Since we are armed and equipped with the glory of our salvation and the Word of God, we can stand firm against the devil and live in the triumph of Christ.**

1. Stand firm against the devil equipped with the _____.

As the soldier's helmet protects his head against the enemy's crushing blows, so the helmet of salvation spiritually protects our minds against Satan's evil aggression (Ephesians 6:17). The mind is a major battlefield in our war with Satan (2 Corinthians 4:4; 11:3; 10:5). If Satan could tamper with our minds and deceive us into doubting the reality and certainty of our salvation, that will weaken us in our spiritual warfare. That's why we must grasp the truth of our salvation in its three dimensions. The past dimension of our salvation is called *justification* whereby God has delivered us from the penalty of sin and declared us righteous in His sight (Romans 5:9; 4:8-9; Ephesians 1:7). The present dimension of our salvation is known as *sanctification* whereby God is delivering us continually from the power of sin and is conforming us progressively to the image of Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4; 5:23-24; 2 Corinthians 3:18). The future dimension of our salvation is termed as *glorification* whereby God will finally deliver us from the presence of sin and bring us to eternal glory (Romans 8:23,29-30; 1 Thessalonians 5:8-10). As the wondrous truth of our salvation in Christ saturates our thinking, we will be strengthened, sustained and victorious in our spiritual battle.

2. Stand firm against the devil equipped with the _____.

God has armed us with the Word of God as a spiritual weapon which wields the power of the Holy Spirit Himself in our battle against Satan (Ephesians 6:17; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Corinthians 2:11-16). If we are to stand firm against the devil, we must apply God's Word in four practical ways: (a) Use God's Word to fight against sin and temptation (Matthew 4:1-11; 6:31-33; Ephesians 4:31-32); (b) Share God's Word to encourage fellow believers (1 Thessalonians 5:11); (c) Proclaim God's Word to lead lost people to Christ (Acts 26:18); (d) Sing God's Word in worship (Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16; 2 Chronicles 20:21-22).
