

Belt of truth ...

This is where we begin. All the rest hangs on the belt of truth. This is truth in general, not speaking specifically of biblical truth but this would of course align and agree with biblical truth.

The BIG QUESTION: Is my life true?

To dress for the spiritual battle we must be true to God and true to ourselves in all areas of our lives.

This is not a declaration of our belief in the authority and inspiration of Scripture.

This is a determination to live authentically before God and the people around us.

This true life is not a perfect life but it is a genuine life. We may stumble but God is always NORTH on our spiritual compass.

I am true to who I am in Jesus Christ.

Breastplate of righteousness ...

This means I do the right thing when called upon. We should never shrink from the terms righteous or righteousness. This is not something we grasp for but something God has given us in Jesus Christ.

This is a huge part of our “in Christ” identity. I am righteous. You are righteous if you are a believer in Jesus Christ. God says it. God did it.

The BIG QUESTION: Will I do the right thing when God calls upon me for service and allegiance?

It is very freeing and empowering to live a righteous life. If I do the right thing I will have a clear conscience, clean hands and a pure heart. This is powerful protection against the enemy as we bring light into our dark world.

I live in the righteousness that God has given me.

Boots of peace ...

The leather of my boots has been treated in pure, unadulterated gospel.

My feet are prepared to follow God wherever because they are supported and protected by the gospel of peace. Every workman needs the proper equipment for the job. The soldier needed boots that he could rely on; boots that fully supported his feet and allowed him to walk on whatever terrain was before him.

The BIG QUESTION: Will I travel my world in the peace of the gospel?

In the heat of battle will I trust my boots on any terrain and under any circumstance?

I am prepared to go in peace anywhere my God would call me.

Wherever God sends me I am fully assured in the peace of the gospel.

Shield of faith ...

“Above all” is not the best translation. It is better translated “in addition to” or “over all” to show the importance of faith in everything.

- (Romans 14:23b) For whatever is not from faith is sin.
- (2 Corinthians 5:7) For we walk by faith, not by sight.

We hold the shield of faith up to stop and disarm (quench) the fiery darts of the wicked one.

The BIG QUESTION: Who will I believe in the heat of battle?

Faith is belief is trust. Faith is believing God whether we understand what he is doing or where he is directing us or not. Faith is believing God over our hypotheses of doubt.

Satan is a deceiver (Revelation 12:9), a liar (John 8:44) and an accuser (Revelation 12:10). Our shield of faith reveals this.

I hold the shield of faith against the deceit, the lies and the accusations of the devil. I believe God and trust him always.

Helmet of salvation ...

This is not merely about what we believe although that is critical and essential to our spiritual lives. This is about trusting in what we believe and allowing the truth of our salvation to protect and strengthen our minds and hearts, our thinking and our will.

The BIG QUESTION: Will I allow the truth of God to protect my mind and heart?

Will I rely on the truth that God has written down and preserved for me in Scripture concerning my salvation as I follow Christ?

Will I accept the identity God has provided for me in Jesus Christ through redemption through his blood the forgiveness of sins.⁴

With the helmet of salvation I do not allow the enemy to undermine the truth of the gospel in my life.

With the helmet of salvation I will live my identity in Christ free and clear of the enemy’s attacks.

Sword of the Spirit ...

This is the word of God. The words given to us by God will defeat the enemy’s schemes. The words of God will direct our paths away from our foolishness and into his wisdom and knowledge. This weapon cannot be wielded apart from the Spirit of God. This synergy - person, word, Spirit - is how the power and protection of this weapon are activated.

We need not be well-versed in the philosophies, psychological and social trends and religions of the world. Our truth is the word of God.

The BIG QUESTION: Is my truth the word of God as given by the Spirit of God?

The person who wields the sword of the Spirit has received the word of God as the word of God.

My Bible becomes living and powerful in my life as I take it up by the Spirit of God.

- Dress ourselves for spiritual warfare and stand in Christ, 6:14-17.
- Pray always in the Spirit and use all available options to bring our cause before God, 6:18-20.
- Remember that Paul and the other first century Christians fought their battle on this same Earth that we live on today, 6:21-24.