
The Armor of God (2)

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20

We have seen that, in spiritual warfare, we must rely on God's power and not our own (Ephesians 6:10). When we have put on the full armor of God, we will be able to stand against Satan's attacks (v. 11). This is crucial since our fight is not against material things or natural beings, but "the spiritual forces of evil," which are the root cause for many of the problems and anti-Christian ideas we face (v. 12). We must, therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that we may stand our ground "when the day of evil comes" (v. 13).

And we begin by securing the belt of truth (v. 14), which is what holds other pieces of weapons together in the Christian armor. The Scripture, or the word of God, is truth. So, to have truth firmly in place in our lives, we must learn it from the Bible.

James 5:16 says, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." In other words, the prayer uttered by a righteous person has much power. Often, when Christians read this verse or others like it, they are driven to despair instead of faith and encouragement. They think that since they are not righteous, God will not answer their

prayers. And of course, they have committed many sins even after they have become Christians, and so it seems that they cannot be righteous.

This is one reason why you need the breastplate of righteousness to protect your heart. Satan will attempt to use condemnation to attack your conscience, and thereby immobilizing your spiritual progress and ministry. But an understanding of righteousness will protect you from his accusations and lies.

The apostle John writes, "Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him" (1 John 3:21-22).

What we need to know about righteousness is that we can never attain it through our own good works, but it must be imputed to us by God. Paul explains that righteousness is a gift (Romans 5:17) that God grants to his elect through faith: 2 Cor 5: 21 "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him".

The Gospel of Peace

After the breastplate of righteousness, Paul says that in putting on the armor of God, we should have our "feet fitted with the readiness that

comes from the gospel of peace" (Ephesians 6:15). It is our daily conduct.

Therefore, when Paul says that the "gospel of peace" (or "the readiness that comes from" it) is as foot gear for our Christian walk, it is telling us that the content of the gospel must not only be a topic of discussion limited to church activities, but that it must be an integral part of our daily conduct. Since it is referred to as part of our armor, we must also understand this to mean that the gospel is the means, or weapon, by which we will advance the kingdom of God.

Paul says that we are to have the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace, meaning that we are not just to know the content of the gospel for ourselves, but we must be prepared to articulate the same to others. The apostle Peter also instructs us to do this, saying, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15).

The helmet of Salvation

The Sword of the spirit

The final piece of armor Paul lists in our passage is the sword, which he takes to represent the word of God: "Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:17).

“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. (Deut 29:29)

The “Word of God” can refer to a number of different things. Namely, it can refer to Christ as a person ([John 1](#)) or God’s speech. God’s speech can refer to: God’s decrees (such as God’s speech in [Genesis 1](#)); God’s words of personal address (such as God’s speech to Adam in [Genesis 2](#)); God’s speech through human lips (such as that of the prophets); and God’s written word (the Bible). The focus of this paper is on God’s written word as the scripture.

“For many years, all kinds of people have held the Bible in high esteem, yet more recently, it has become popular to criticize and even ridicule the Bible.” It breaks my heart when I walk into a room where a group of Christians are gathered to study God’s word and see the Bible being placed on the floor. Such action reveals to me the value of the word of God to such individuals. If the church today truly believes that the bible is the infallible word of God, our lives would not be the way it is today.

The great majority of people use translations of the Bible from the original languages of Scripture. Most of the Old Testament was written in Hebrew. The only exceptions are found in the Book of Daniel -

chapters 2 through 7, and in the Book of Ezra - chapters 4 through 7. These chapters were written in a sister language to the Hebrew called Aramaic, which was the language spoken by most of the Jews at the time these books were written. All of the New Testament is written in Koine (common) Greek.

The Bible was written by more than forty authors whose lives spanned over 1,500 years, which means the Bible is not simply a common book. Most of these writers were not scholars. Moses and Paul almost certainly received the finest education available in their day. Others were raising cattle and sheep for a living when they wrote their part of the bible. At least four writers were accustomed to living in the royal household, while the others were that of fishing in the Sea of Galilee. Some were raised in morally upstanding homes and yet another tax collector, which was considered by the Jews of that day a disgraceful occupation. Taking all these facts, it is miracle that such a Book as the Bible, with a single purpose, was produced yet even survived.

Jesus Christ our Lord called it **“The Book” (Heb 10:7)**. Without it man cannot know the absolute standard of righteousness or the need for grace in his life. God chose to have His words written down so that His

standards would be clear. The written Word is accepted by faith and proven by history (events that have already happened).

God the Holy Spirit is the divine author of the Bible “**knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit**” (2 Peter 1:20-21). The Holy Spirit has inspired authors of Scripture by enabling them to write exactly the words which convey His truth to men and sealed their writings from error in the original manuscripts. Through (fallible) human authors, God manifested the infallible and errorless writings, which carry His messages.

It is the very Word of God (Heb 4:12), this means that God has uttered the words written in the Bible. "God," we are told, "spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets" (Heb 1:1), for this reason the Bible is God's revelation of who He is. “**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness**” (2 Tim 3:16).

What was Paul trying to express to Timothy, and what does the inspired word of God mean to us? What were God's intentions in revealing His

word to us? We do not know the mind of God completely, but we do have everything we need know by God.

First we need to understand the significance and the definition of the word “inspired” Inspired of God, or inspiration of God, literally means “God breathed”. Just as God breathed the “breath of life” into Adam (Gen 2:7), He breathed His word to the chosen writers of the Old and New Testaments. Since “spirit” in the original language can also mean “breath,” the process of “out-breathing” may rightly be the work of the Holy Spirit as he inspired the Scriptures. Can we fathom what that means? Second, “scripture” (graphe) means writing. So, theses writings breathed out by God are profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and instruction. Not writings originating with man. Based on the nature of God, the result makes them accurate and inerrant (authoritative), since God is incapable of error. Inspiration applies to every word of the Bible.

Although God is sovereign and can do anything by Himself, He chooses to have humans interact in His plan. This is one of the biggest differences between Christianity and other religions; with God reaching down to man, instead of man reaching up to Him. We have seen many examples in the Bible, which God chooses to have human interaction. The creation of the Written Word (Bible) is one of them.

If we look at ([Mark 13:11](#)) Jesus told them not to think about what they would say, but rather to "say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit" here Jesus explains what inspiration involves. When an inspired speaker or writer says something, it is not he who is speaking, but God, the inspired speaker or writer utters only words put directly into his mind by the Holy Spirit ([Acts 2:4](#)).

At the same time we recognize the dual authorship of God and the chosen writers, for God (The Holy Spirit) wrote the bible using human writers, ([2 Pet 1:21](#)) holy men of God where guided to speak and write as God intended by breathing on them his own words. By doing so God incorporated the personality and the given writing skills to materialize his words on paper. God did not dictate his words to man even though some places in the Bible God did dictate to the writer what to write word by word for example "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,...([Rev 2:1 – 3:22](#)) at other places God's word reveals the personality and the background of the writers like in the gospels.

When I read ([1 Pet 1:12](#)) I realize that some of the writers did not fully understand all that they have written, they had partial understanding but not fully especially when they spoke of the messianic prophecies.

The essential point to be grasped here is that when men wrote the Scriptures, their statements did not originate in their own thinking, but were put into their minds by the direct action of the Holy Spirit. They wrote the word of God in the sense that they wrote words that came directly from God.

When we consider Paul's writings to the Thessalonians in (1 Thess 2:13) they received it "not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God". Peter speaks of Paul's letters in (2 Pet 3:15-16) as Paul expresses his thoughts conveyed in sentences provided by Holy Spirit. We can look back in Old Testament in the Psalms of King David he says in (2 Samuel 23:1-2) "...The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue." King David testifies to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The apostle Peter speaks of King David in (Acts 1:16) "... this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas ..."

The proof that the Bible is the word of God is found in the Bible itself, "since every book communicates in part the nature of its author, the Bible and God share a common character in many respects. That the Bible is understandable in spite of the depth of its simplicity is another mark of the hand of God in this Book", the books of the bible speak of

God and his character but never contradict each other, all the books have influenced its readers by demonstrating God's work in their lives.

Since an author's personality is revealed in his writings, the character of God is revealed in the Book he wrote "the Bible". If we look closer to the scriptures it will exhibit the attributes of God which are true of the bible. In (2 Cor 3:15) "But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart." Paul referred to the Pentateuch the first five books of the Bible as Moses rather than the books of Moses so in the same way I can say "When God is read" as it was written by the Holy Spirit!.

It does no good to claim that the Bible is inspired unless we can offer adequate proof for its inspiration. Evidence to prove the Bible's claims of inspiration comes from two main sources. External evidence for inspiration includes such things as historical documentation of biblical people, places, and events, or archaeological artifacts that support the biblical documents. The second being the internal evidence is found within the actual text of the Bible itself as I have started to document above.

The Bible claims to be the inspired Word of God. For that reason, it should be accurate in whatever subject it discusses, since God all

knowing (1 John 3:20). The factual accuracy of the Bible confirms that it is inspired.