

WEEKEND WARRIORS: ARMOR UP

Main Scripture: Ephesians 6:16-18

Ephesians 6:16-18 ¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

1. Hold up the shield of faith

The shield was an ingenious device by which blows and arrows might be blocked, and the whole body defended. As long as the soldier had his shield, he felt secure; and as long as a Christian has faith, he is safe. It comes to his aid in every attack that is made on him, no matter from what angle. – Albert Barnes

Hebrews 11:1 ¹ Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.

Hebrews 11:2-3a ² Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. ^{3a} By faith...

Hebrews 11:35b-39 ³⁵ But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection. ³⁶ Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. ³⁷ Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. ³⁸ They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground. ³⁹ All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised.

2. Put on salvation as your helmet

The helmet defended the head, a vital part; and so the hope of salvation will defend the soul and mind, and keep it from the blows of the enemy. – Albert Barnes

Philippians 4:8 ⁸ And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

1 Thessalonians 5:8 ⁸ But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.

1 Peter 2:12 (NIV) ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

3. Take the sword of God's Word

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Hebrews 4:12 ¹² For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

2 Timothy 3:16 ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

Matthew 4:4a ^{4a} But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say,..."

Matthew 4:7a ^{7a} Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say,..."

Matthew 4:10a ^{10a} "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him, "For the Scriptures say,..."

A single text of Scripture is better to meet a temptation, than all the philosophy which the world contains. The tempter can reason, but he cannot resist a direct and positive command of the Almighty.
– Albert Barnes

Matthew 4:10 ¹⁰ "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.'"

4. Seek God in prayer through it all

No matter how complete the armor; no matter how skilled we may be in the science of war; no matter how courageous we may be, we may be certain that without prayer we shall be defeated. God alone can give the victory; and when the Christian soldier goes forth armed completely for the spiritual conflict, if he looks to God by prayer, he may be sure of a triumph. – Albert Barnes

Our prayers can go where we cannot...there are no borders, no prison walls, no doors that are closed to us when we pray. - Brother Andrew