We need to always be fully protected and equipped with this armor. For we have an enemy who wants to steal, kill and destroy us, John 10:10 and without God's armor we are defenseless and at the will of our enemy. However, before the armor even comes into play, we need to value what the armor is to protect. For we only spend time and energy protecting what we value, and in this case it is our uncompromised belief in God's Word.

Putting on the armor of God protects that tiny <u>mustard seed</u> that is within every believer, allowing it to grow into that great tree. All of us need to protect our belief in God's Word, for the world, the flesh and the devil all wishes to compromise it. However, if we place little value on God's Word, likewise we will not see much value in the armor. For this armor is spiritual not physical thus, we can only apply and wear it as our faith allows us to.

Gird your loins with the truth:

God's Word, the Gospel, Jesus Christ is our foundational truth; this needs to become our core foundation. We are to worship in Spirit and in truth, and the truth that we know and understand shall make us free. We are sanctified and our souls are purified by the truth, for God's Spirit is truth.

John 1:17, 4:24, 8:32, 14:6, 14:17, 17:17, Galatians 2:5, 1st Peter 1:22.

The breastplate of righteousness:

Know that we are putting on the gift of Christ's righteousness, for our righteousness is as filthy rags. Righteousness is closely associated with believing from the heart that God raised Christ from the dead and the breastplate protects the heart, the very thing that allows us to believe unto righteousness. Discernment and judgment are elements of righteousness and that is why we first must gird our loins with the truth of God's Word. Acts 17:31, Romans 3:22, 5:17, 6:13, 10:9-10,

Shod your feet with the gospel of peace:

Being justified by faith we have peace with God, through Jesus Christ. Jesus gave us His Peace and that is the only reason why we can walk in peace. Peace is a fruit of the Spirit, and the kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy, and God is a God of peace. Therefore, let the peace of God rule in your heart and have peace one with another. Mark 9:50, John 14:27, Romans 5:1, 14:17, 15:33, Galatians 5:22, Colossians 3:15.

Take up the shield of faith:

This peace of armor is meant to stop ALL of the fiery darts of the wicked one. The other peaces of armor are meant more so to build you up with kingdom values. It is not wise to have fiery darts bouncing off your chest, your feet or your head. We know that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God, Romans 10:17. Therefore, in-order to make this piece of armor active, we need to nourish ourselves in the Words of faith and of good doctrine, 1st Timothy 4:6, while also building ourselves up on our most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Jude 1:20.

Put on the helmet of Salvation:

I believe this can do three things for us:

- 1. To assure us of our hope of salvation, 1st Thessalonians 5:8, It is essential that we be 100% sure of our salvation. Romans 10:9, is our litmus test to assure us of our salvation, it is all about what we BELIEVE. For we must be born-again, John 3:3.
- 2. To keep negative thoughts from bombarding our mind: This will happen within time as we learn to take every thought captive and cast down thoughts that exult themselves against the knowledge of God, 2nd Corinthians 10:5, through the renewing of our mind, Romans 12:2, for we have the mind of Christ, 1st Corinthian 2:16.
- 3. It can lead us into further revelation. That the Lord will grant you the Spirit of knowledge and revelation, Ephesians 1:17, making known unto you the mystery of the Gospel, Ephesians 3:3, Galatians 3:3.

And take up the Sword of the Spirit:

This is the only piece that can be used as an offensive weapon. When Jesus was tempted He replied to the devil using the Word of God, Matthew 4:4, 7, 10, Luke 4:4, 8, 12. God's Word may not seem to us to be the club or the weapon that we need to slay our enemies. As we use His Supernatural WORD, it can also become that double edged SWORD for us. For we are not dealing with physical armor, nor are we doing physical warfare. As we go into this spiritual battle we must first be well grounded in God's truth, having the other pieces of armor on so as to protect our belief, standing firm on our faith. Only then are we properly prepared to use God's Word, that is sharper than any two-edged sword, Hebrews 4:12. Know that: His Supernatural WORD is our SWORD of the Spirit.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit:

Know that the armor of God is not static it is dynamic. It is not as a physical piece of clothing that one puts on and gives no more thought of, it is dynamic dependent on our walk and relationship with Christ. Praying is a pretty broad term. It can mean praying / interceding for others, praying for ourself, building ourself up. We are told in scripture to pray without ceasing, 1st Thessalonians 5:17. Speaking and believing the Word is our ONLY spiritual defense, it is all about Him, Jesus Christ (the Word made flesh), John 1:14.

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PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand, Ephesians 6:12-13.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: ¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; Ephesians 6:14-18.