

# VICTORIOUS PEOPLE

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The Belt of Truth  
The Shield of Faith  
The Helmet of Salvation  
The Sword of The Spirit  
The Plate of Righteousness  
The Gospel of Peace

**Ephesians 6 : 10 - 18**

**ARMOR OF GOD**

## VICTORIOUS PEOPLE

Truthfully, when we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior, at the same time we become victorious people, people who have been set free from the power of sin and the power of death through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, *Ro 8:2 "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death ."*

If so, why do we still need to discuss this theme, "Victorious People"?

Indeed we still need to discuss it, because it is very important to be victorious people. However, **to remain firm and unshakeable** as victorious people, which means to keep a **steadfast faith** in Christ until **the end of our lives** is even more important as is conveyed by the Apostle Paul in 2 Ti 4:7, *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."*

When the Lord Jesus explained about the end of the age, He firmly said that God's children would enter the tribulation period and only those who remained faithful or keep their faith in Christ would be saved and enter into

the Kingdom of Heaven, Mt 24:13, *"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."*

From both the explanations above it is clear to us that following Christ is not finished yet when we accept Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, but should be continued persistently and faithfully, keeping a steadfast faith in Him till the end of our lives.

As children of God we would meet with challenges and temptations, since from the moment we received Jesus Christ we belong to God, and no longer belong to the world; so the world would hate us. The Lord Jesus said in John 15:19, *"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."*

Hence, we would experience many distractions and trials as long as we live in this world, because we do not belong here. The Lord Jesus added in Matthew 10:16, *"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."* (KJV)

Or *“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.”* (NIV)

The Lord Jesus sends us out as sheep among wolves, and the Devil diligently dispatches his wolves to harm, to kill, and most likely to devour us, the sheep. As followers of Christ we should fervently strive to remain firm and unshakable as victorious people in the midst of many distractions and trials, false teachings, even persecutions. And this verse teaches us to be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. But how to apply this precept?

### **Wise as Serpents**

The Bible records that the serpent is a most ingenious animal, Ge 3:1a *“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.”*

Or *“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made.”* (NIV)

And we know that the ingenuity of the serpent was instrumental for Satan to cause man to fall, which means that ingenuity can be

used for a positive cause, yet also for a negative cause. The LORD Jesus certainly wants us to use our ingenuity for a positive cause. Now, the definition of *ingenious* is "quick/clever to detect a problem and its solution, and crafty (resourceful)".

### **Harmless as Doves**

Doves depict an innocent character, harmless, and does not like to harm others. According to *Vines Dictionary* this kind of character does not mix with the other kinds. It is pure, innocent (not tainted with sin), and faultless (guiltless). As disciples of Christ, this means that we must keep our actions and motives pure, Php 4:8, *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things."*

Given the explanation above, Matthew 10:16 could be translated freely like this, *"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of*

wolves, therefore be quick (clever) to detect a problem and its solution, be crafty (resourceful) and maintain pure motivations in your actions."

### **The Roaring Lion**

Our enemies are not people from different beliefs or religions, but the Devil himself. He is our worst enemy, because in 1 Peter 5:8 we read, *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."* (KJV)

Or *"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."* (NIV)

The impostor works more often in the dark. As a skilled and experienced hunter, he is patiently on the prowl ready to catch his prey, unseen for being able to camouflage, while his sight functions well at night and his senses are sharper than ours. He is able to see us whereas we do not even realize that he is behind us!

The animal world teaches us that predators such as lions usually hunt and attack the weak preys. So the Devil hunts the people of God whose faith is weak, who are without understanding and not sincere. When he attacks, he can paralyze and causes severe injury.

The phrase "*seeking whom he may devour*" means that the Devil is able not only to injure but even to kill - in the sense that we can be injured or die spiritually. Therefore, we must strive to remain unshakable as victorious people. And how to bring this about is discussed in Ephesians 6:10-18,

*10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*

*11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil;*

*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.*

*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.*

### **Strong in the Power of the LORD's Might**

*Eph 6:10 "Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.**"*

So the foundation or the source for us to stand firm or unshakable as victorious people is written in verse 10, *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might."* We would be strong in the Lord and remain as overcomers or conquerors when we **lean on the power of His might**. What is meant by the power of His might? This is discussed among others in Ephesians 1:19-20,



19 *“And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us - ward who believe, according to the working of **his mighty power**, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he **raised him** from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.”* (KJV)

Or *“And his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of **his mighty strength**, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.”* (NIV)

So the power of His might contains 2 conceptions, namely:

**First**, we must believe that the foundation or the source of our strength is God. Which God? The only God who (had) raised Christ from the dead.

**Second**, the conviction (belief) that we as God's people would be raised from the dead, and this was mentioned by Paul, for example in 1 Corinthians 15:12, *“Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection from the dead?”*

Philippians 3:10-11, 10 *“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death. 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.”* (KJV)

Or 10 *“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”* (NIV)

Therefore we must believe that Christ was resurrected from the dead, then we too would be resurrected to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, and that is the ultimate base of our strength.

### **The Whole Armor of GOD**

*Eph 6:11 “Put on the whole **armour of God**, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”*

*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.’*

Hence God has already provided the armor or defensive equipments, as well as ways for us to be able to stand firm as victorious people. Let us learn the varieties of the armor of God, how to apply them, and how we can become faithful believers.

Verse 13 says, *“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**.*” This verse explains that to be able to remain firm and unshakable as victorious people, ***"to stand"*** and do not fall away, we must take **the whole armor** that God has provided, not just some parts!

### **Four Types of Enemies**

What do our enemies look like?

Ephesians 6:12 says, *“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**.”* (KJV)

Or *“For our struggle is not against **flesh and blood**, but against **the rulers**, against **the authorities**, against **the powers of this dark world** and against **spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm**.”* (NIV)

We are facing 4 types of enemies and our struggle *“is not against flesh and blood,”* which means that our enemies are not human beings, but policies, doctrines, concepts of thought or principles from Satan, taught or enforced by man and certain institutions.

**The first** are the principalities. This implies the strategy of Satan in the form of policies detrimental or disadvantageous to the children of God, imposed by the principalities, either domestic or foreign.

**The second** are the powers or authorities. This means the strategy of Satan in the form of policies detrimental or disadvantageous to the children of God, enforced by the local powers or authorities.

**The third** are the rulers of the darkness of this world. This is Satan's deception in the form of false teachings (heresies) taught by the world-famed prominent figures.

**The fourth** is spiritual wickedness, or spiritual forces of evil in high places. Those are the wiles of the Devil in the form of false teachings that we do not really know whence they come, such as LGBT which suddenly pops up recently. In fact, it has been in existence since long time ago and continues to develop.

## Active to Act

*Ephesians 6:11 “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”*

*6:13 “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.”*

Verse 11 says, *“Put on your...”* then further in verse 13 we read, *“Take unto you ...”*. Those are imperative instructions which mean that we should be active and act. The term *“put on”* here indicates that we ourselves have to do it, to put on something available to simply be used. Then *“take unto you”* also concerns something available. We do not need to look for it. It is already prepared. God has provided for all of us, His children, and we only need to act, to take and put on the armor of God and make good use of it.

Then verse 13 also says, *“the whole”*, thus not only some parts, whether to stand firm or to be able to fight back.

To stand firm refers to a safe condition, but *“that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day”* refers to the condition in the end times as is written

in Daniel 11:32, *"And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, **and do exploits.**"* (KJV)

Or *"With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him."* (NIV)

## **The Seven Weapons of GOD**

Here are 7 weapons of God provided by the LORD,

*14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth (1), and having on the breastplate of righteousness (2)*

*15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace (3);*

*16 Above all, taking the shield of faith (4), wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

*17 And take the helmet of salvation (5), and the sword of the Spirit (6), which is the word of God.*

*18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication (7) in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.*

## ***First Weapon***

### ***"The belt of truth"***

**6:14** *"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness."* (KJV)

Or *"Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place."* (NIV)

The above verse explains that before we put on the armor or weapons of God, we must first stand upright, which means that we have to be ready, prepared to fight. Then we put on the first weapon of God, **"the belt of truth"** as we **"girt our loins about with truth"**.

We know the function of a belt is to tie the pants so as not to sag or we would be found naked. Now here it depicts to tie **the truth** which is **the word of God**, as written in John 17:17, *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth (Aletheia)"*.

Either in Ephesians 6:14 or in John 17:17, the word use for truth is **Aletheia**.

We know the connection between nakedness and sin, as written in Genesis 3:7, *"And the eyes of*

*both of them were opened and they knew that they were **naked**; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."* When Adam and Eve sinned, they suddenly realized that they were naked.

We also read in Revelation 3:17, *"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and **naked**:"* Then further in verse 18, *"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and **white raiment**, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear, and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."*

"Raiment" here means **our behavior**, also "garment" or "clothing" in Jude 1:23b, *"And others saved with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. (KJV)*

Or *"Snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear – hating even the clothing stained with corrupted flesh."* (NIV)

This means that we ought to have a standard of behavior which should be in accordance with God's truth so as not to sin and be seen naked.



The author himself had experienced an embarrassing situation unforgettable unto this day. It happened early in the year 2000. At that time the author was given the privilege by a professor of theology to convey a subject to some post-graduate students at a theological school in Bandung. The author delivered the subject all right, yet the language used was perhaps somewhat obscure. Later on at the session of question and answer, a student raised this question, "Excuse me, Sir, you surely do pay your taxes properly too, don't you?" Well, the author was truly very embarrassed, since at that time he had not paid his taxes properly. And frankly to say, the author felt like being stripped and became very uncomfortable.

If we live a life according to God's Word, we would not experience such a condition. Yet possibly something more dangerous could happen when we are found naked or sinful. As we are disgraced and feel embarrassed, this could become a breach or gap for us to commit an even greater sin; we become hurt that turns into resentment, then hate. We might retaliate

by vilifying, slandering, beating, torturing, and even killing the person. Truthfully this is a far greater danger, because the effect could be broadened when we sin. Sin would give birth to another sin as it happened to David when he had committed adultery with Bathsheba. Therefore, we must guard our behavior and actions so as not to fall into sin, by living in accordance with God's Word, and that is our first weapon.

### ***Second Weapon***

#### ***"The breastplate of righteousness"***

***6:14 "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness"***

We know that the breastplate (harness) is an equipment to protect the chest, so that the chest and its vital organs would not be easily attacked and wounded by the enemy. The breastplate is fastened at the upper body, the chest, to protect the heart and the liver. Actually "righteousness" here means "justice", to guard the heart, namely the life and the

inner of the heart, which is our conscience. Regarding the heart or the life we find some explanation in Deuteronomy 16:20, ***“That which is altogether just shalt thou follow, that thou mayest live, and inherit the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.”*** (KJV)

Or ***“Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land that the LORD your God is giving you.”*** (NIV)

But righteousness or justice here is also related to our hearts. If Christ is in our hearts, then as children of light we are required to do what is righteous or just. Ephesians 5:8-9 says, ***“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth.”***

As children of God, we must strive earnestly to do what is righteous and just in our lives as is also mentioned by Paul in 1 Timothy 6:11, ***“But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.”***

We know that after King Solomon finished building the Temple, God appeared to him in a dream. God told Solomon to ask whatever he wanted from Him. Then Solomon made his request

in 1 Kings 3:9, *“Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?”*

God fulfilled Solomon's request for wisdom, *“Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.”* (1 Ki 3:12)

That is why King Solomon was famous because of his righteous and just deeds.

1 Kings 3:28 records, *“And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw **that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.**”*

Is wisdom a monopoly of King Solomon alone, personally? Can we as God's children invoke God's wisdom too? James 1:5 affirmed us, *“If any of you lack **wisdom**, let him **ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.**”*

God gives wisdom to every human being alike. So wisdom is not granted only to Solomon, but to every child of God if we ask for it. Why is it so important to ask for wisdom? Because by having wisdom we can act

righteously and justly and to act as such is very important according to 1 Corinthians 6:9a, *“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?”*

So in fact, if we are unrighteous or unjust, we would not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven! Why? If we read the verse above thoroughly, we will see that people who are unrighteous or unjust belong to the same category with adulterers, idolaters and the like, 9 *“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind. 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”*

As such it becomes clear that to do what is righteous or just is something very important. That is why we must strive earnestly to do so and ask God for wisdom and understanding.

### ***Third Weapon***

***"Your feet shod with the preparation of  
the GOSPEL of peace"***

*Eph.6:15 “And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.” (KJV)*

Or *“And with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.” (NIV)*

Every step of our lives is focused on spreading the gospel. As a matter of fact, the spreading of the gospel has two dimensions: we can evangelize, or can also become the light and the salt. But in the latter, there is the emphasize that we have to base it on or fits it with readiness.

Readiness can be in the form of providing for the time, giving our energy, our funds, possibly including the willingness to let go of our pleasures. Matters concerning habits, pleasures or enjoyments, are discussed among others in 1 Corinthians 8:13, *“Wherefore, if **meat** make my brother to offend, I will eat no **flesh** while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.”*

The context of the verse above is concerned with food offered to idols. Paul said that idols were basically non-existent, so the food offered to idols was naturally kosher food. However, if eating food sacrificed to idols

becomes a stumbling block, it is better never to eat such food again.

People living in the East, particularly in regions inhabited mostly by Moslems, usually conceive a negative or at least less positive opinion towards those who drink beer or wine. Differently so in the West, where people do drink beer; there is no problem. They consume it every day; beer has become like plain water. Westerners used to drink wine either at daytime or at night, and they think it normal. Drinking beer or wine is not prohibited in Christianity, as long as it is properly done and the drinker does not become drunk or intoxicated with it.

Drinking wine is also allowed for health, and actually even at the very first Holy Communion wine and bread were offered. However, if we drink wine or beer, and it becomes a stumbling block to others, perhaps it is better for us not to drink the stuff. This describes more or less the meaning of readiness/willingness to let go of our pleasures or enjoyments for the sake of spreading the gospel.

## **Fourth Weapon**

### **"Shield of faith"**

*Eph 6:16 "Above all, taking **the shield of faith**, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."*

The shield is a protective device or a defensive armor to be used in a battle (fight), to extinguish the flaming arrows of the Evil one. **Our shield is faith**, which means we believe and trust that all God's plans for our lives are the best for us. That God has the best plans for our lives is found in many verses of the Bible. The author would quote only a few of them:

Psalm 37:23, *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD".*

Jeremiah 29:11, *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."*

Romans 8:28, *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*



So when we are facing difficult times and Satan attacks us, we can still stand firm, because we believe that God's plans are definitely the best for us. Yet we must remember that as children of God, there is no promise that our lives would be smooth and easy, well-off, without interference nor troubles. On the contrary, the opposite could be the case, because Matthew 16:24 says, *"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, 'if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.'"* Then in 2 Timothy 3:12 we read, *"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."*

And again in Matthew 24:9, *"Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake."*

So there is no guarantee that our lives would run smoothly, but we have this conviction as we read among others in 1 Corinthians 10:13, *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."* (KJV)

Or *“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”* (NIV)

And also in Philippians 4:13, *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”*

When we meet with temptations, sickness, poverty, hunger, persecutions, and Satan tries to shake our faith by sending his fiery arrows, then our faith would be able to extinguish those arrows, because we have the conviction that God's plan is the best and He would give us a way out.

If we observe closer, a shield is different from a breastplate (harness). A breastplate is attached to the body and can not be moved, whereas the shield can be moved and by training and practice can be used to resist the enemy's attack. Therefore, faith also needs to be trained and practiced to grow. We can start, for example, by giving our tithes and we'll see whether or not God's written promises in the book of Malachi would be realized in our lives, Mal 3:10 *“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove*

*me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."*

For more details, please read these books, **"Be Converted and Become as Little Children"** and **"Jesus Versus Mammon"**.

Our faith needs to be trained and practiced, that is why 1 Timothy 6:12 says, ***"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good proffesion before many witnesses."***

This verse actually tells about the good fight of faith. What does it mean? We have to train or exercise our faith, to be doers of the Word, to practice Bible principles, to do so diligently and fervently, because with a lot of exercises and practices we would be better prepared whenever a more powerful battle is to occur. As we read in James 2:17, ***"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."*** If there is no action as an expression of our faith, then our faith is dead.

## ***Fifth Weapon***

### ***"Helmet of salvation"***

***Eph 6:17*** *"And take **the helmet of salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."*

The helmet is a kind of protective device to cover the head, and the head is a very important part of the body since it comprises the brain and the five senses: the ears, eyes, nose, and mouth. What is meant by **the helmet of salvation** is our genuine perception about salvation. If we have the pure and true understanding of salvation, then this understanding would serve as a protection of our mindset, even our lifestyle.

The growth of a person's faith is strongly influenced by his understanding of what salvation is all about. Salvation here is related among others to the gift of salvation by grace and the value of salvation. You are encouraged to read the books entitled, **"The Value of Salvation"** and **"Fruit of the Spirit"**. If we have a right or true understanding of the gift of salvation by grace and the value

of salvation, then we would be more capable to stand firm in our faith. Secondly, we would be more capable to purify our mind and our five senses. What we think, what we see, or do not want to see, what we want to hear or to feel, could become purer.

Romans 8:29 says, *“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”* (KJV)

Or *“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”* (NIV)

This verse explains that as children of God, we are preordained or predetermined to have the nature and character of Christ. To be able to own the character of Christ, we must have the helmet of salvation, the right or true understanding about salvation. Hence Ephesians 4:1 says, *“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.”* And Phillippians 1:27, *“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.”* (KJV)

Or *"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit contending as one man for the faith of the gospel"* (NIV)

In Jesus Christ we become not only God's children, while Jesus Himself become as the firstborn, yet we also should become like Him, Christlike. Essentially, to be Christlike we must have a true understanding about salvation.

### ***Sixth Weapon***

***"Sword of the Spirit, which is  
the Word of God"***

*Eph 6:17 "And take the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**"*

We know the utility of the sword is to fend off the enemy's attacks, and to attack or strike the enemy. Here it is said that our sword is the word of God. What does it mean? Whenever we have the right perception of the Word or the ability to apply it properly, then many attacks of the Evil one in the form of heresies can be rejected. We would be capable

to say, "O, this teaching is wrong." In fact, we might even be capable to confront and unfold the falsehood of those teachings presumed to be "true". Only, alike the shield, a sword also needs to be sharpened and exercised or practiced. Consequently, we need to study and explore the word of God.

Actually there are very clear examples about this in the Bible, one of those is when the Lord Jesus was tempted by Satan. The Lord Jesus was not persecuted, nor imprisoned. To Him was given only quotations of God's word that had been manipulated, and the truth twisted. So here we need to know that Satan would not tempt the Lord Jesus with a "humbug" temptation. He would certainly employed the most powerful one, and it seemed that those temptations were not in the form of persecution (torture) nor imprisonment, but a ruse using the doctrines that sounds true. However, the Lord Jesus defeated Satan with the sword of the Spirit. When Satan the tempter said, *"If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread"*, Jesus refused to do so and said, *"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every*

*word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”* Also the other offer and allurement of Satan were again rejected, because the Lord Jesus fully understood the word of God. What does it mean? The most severe temptation in the form of heresy can only be defeated if we understand the word of God. Understanding the word of God is the most powerful weapon to resist the wiles of the Evil one.

*Matthew 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.*

*4:2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.*

*4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*

*4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

*4:5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,*

*4:6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.*

*4:7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*



*4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them,*

*4:9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*

*4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

*4:11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.*

Likewise, in the last days, people who would stand firm in their faith are not those who are active or have a high ecclesiastical office or are long-suffering, but who know the Word well, Daniel 11:32, *“And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but **the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits**”.*

In Revelation 13:11 we read that in the last days a false prophet would appear, *“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns **like a lamb**, and he **spake as a dragon**.”*

The appearance of the false prophet would be like a lamb, whose look seems so gentle but speaks like a dragon, presenting lies. We would be easily misled, when we do not understand the Word, the sword of the Spirit.

That is why 2 Peter 1:5 recommends, *“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge.”*

As children of God, it is not enough for us to simply come to worship, to praise God, and to give offerings. We must make efforts to add understanding to our faith, to study God's word zealously, so that when there are attacks of fiery arrows from the Evil one, we can deflect them, and would even be capable to strike back, and eventually gain the victory.

### ***Seventh Weapon***

#### ***"Prayer"***

*Eph 6:18 "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."*

The above verse tells us that we must **pray in the Spirit** at all times. **The Spirit** with capital **S** means **the Spirit of God**. Hence praying in **the Spirit** here means to pray **by the leading of the Spirit of God**, different with to pray in **an unknown tongue**. Unknown tongue is the language of **our (human) spirits**

as described by the Apostle Paul in 1 Co 14:14, *“For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.”*

Either LAI (Lembaga Alkitab Indonesia, The Indonesian Bible Association) or KJV (The King James Version of the Bible) differentiate between the Spirit of God and the spirit of man (human spirit): the Spirit of God uses capital S, and the human spirit uses small s, whereas in LAI (Indonesien Bible) “Roh Allah” uses capital R and “roh kita (manusia)” uses small r.

Back to Ephesians 6:18 above, it is clear that praying in the Spirit here means to pray by the leading of the Spirit of God or the Holy Spirit, as is written in Romans 8:26,

*“Likewise **the Spirit** also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but **the Spirit** itself maketh intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered.”*

Thus two things we need to do. The first is to pray for our own flaws, and the second is we must pray for each other (intercede for another). But it is emphasized that every time we must pray by the leading of the Spirit. And of course, this does not mean only once a week when attending church, but every time whenever each of us can pray, we should

pray. Therefore, every day we need to have a special time to pray to God and pray any time we get the chance.

The author prays regularly, three times a day: early in the morning before doing any activity, prays with his wife, then in the evening when holding the family devotion, and at midnight. But the above verse reminds the author of the need to intensify his praying time with incessant pleadings at any opportunities possible.

## **Conclusion**

For us to remain firm as victorious people we have to always be prepared and ready to apply the whole armor of God.

**The first,** wearing the belt of truth, which means that we have to live in accordance with the Word of God so as not to be found bare or naked.

**The second,** in our daily lives, we should put on the breastplate of righteousness. Thus we must be righteous, act justly or fairly,

and to be able to do so we need to ask for God's wisdom.

**The third,** our feet fitted with the readiness to preach the gospel of peace. Our lives should focus on evangelism, by being the light and the salt, and ready to sacrifice.

**The fourth,** to exercise and practice our faith, by laying hold on the promises of God as our shield against the fiery darts/arrows of the Evil one.

**The fifth,** to have a right or true understanding about the gift of salvation by grace and the value of salvation, and live Christlike.

**The sixth,** take the sword of the Spirit, that is the word of God, which we have to study and explore diligently so that we can defend our faith or even attack (confront) the heresies (false teachings) of Satan.

**The seventh,** we have to always pray and pray for each other by the leading of the Spirit of God or the Holy Spirit.

Following the Lord Jesus is a momentary choice but to remain faithful in following the Lord until the end of our lives is a lifelong struggle. That's why the Apostle Paul gave this advice to the Church in Philippi to keep working out their own salvation with fear and trembling.

*Php 2:12 “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**”*

Why should we keep **working out our own salvation**? Because there are a lot of things we must do, so that we can remain faithful and not be deceived by the Devil. Why we should **fear** is because we might fail, and when we fail, we would lapse or turn away from our faith. We could be cheated and misled by the Devil, then we would lose our salvation. Therefore, if we could understand how tough the task we have to do, then surely we would **tremble**.

*Mt 22:14 “For many are called, **but few are chosen**”.*