

## **“Bulletproof”**

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Bulletproof vests offer protection to our policemen and soldiers as they serve the country. As soldiers of Christ, we also need protection as we engage in a battle every day. Ephesians 6:10-17 enumerates the various parts of the full armor of God. It includes the breastplate that protects the enemy’s favorite target – our hearts.

### **I. How can We Stand in the Strength of the Lord?**

#### **A. Wear the Armor of God and the Breastplate of Righteousness**

1. The breastplate protects most of the vital organs of soldiers, especially the heart, which we need to guard above everything else (Prov. 4:23). The devil always targets our hearts because it is the center of our emotions and our devotion to God.

2. Righteousness means no gap separates us from God. We will never be righteous enough to enter heaven (Rom. 3:10, 23). Yet Jesus came to fill the void that sin has created between humanity and God (Rom. 6:23).

3. Jesus came to make us righteous, and the best protection against the schemes of the devil is to live what Christ has made us (1 Pet. 1:16).

#### **B. Guard our Inner Sacred Space; our Holy of Holies – our Heart.**

1. There are three types of heart:

a. Degenerated Heart is a heart beyond remedy (Jer. 17:9).

b. Divided Heart is a heart pulled apart by the ways of the world and the guidance of God. Our Lord is a jealous God because He does not want us to have other gods apart from him (Jm. 4:4).

c. Delivered Heart is a renewed heart that prays and obeys.

#### **C. Invite the Holy Spirit upon Us.**

1. Jesus knew that we could not keep our hearts clean by ourselves, which is why He asked His Father to send us a Helper (Jn. 14:16-17).

#### **D. Do not let our Hearts be Troubled (Jn. 14:1).**

#### **E. Place All our Trust in Jesus.**

1. Amidst everything that is going on around us, the cure of a troubled heart is putting complete trust in God (Prov. 3:5-6).

2. Sometimes, God is already telling us something, but we use our reasoning instead of trusting Him (Lk. 5:1-11; Rom. 12:2).

3. Faith is something that you do not see, yet you still believe, trust, and expect in God (Mk. 11:24).

4. When we know who God is, we will not shake in fear and stay unwavering (Ps. 23).

5. Seek His guidance through prayers and His Words (Ps. 119:105).

#### **F. Dismiss all your anxiety (Phil. 4:4-6).**

#### **G. Forget the Past and look beyond the Present.**

1. Some people allow their hearts to be troubled by living in the past. Others are consumed by present trials. No matter what you have done in the past and what you are going through now, you have a bright future Jesus is preparing you (Phil. 3:13).

#### **H. Do not Go to War without Wearing the Armor of God (Eph. 6:10-17).**

### **II. How do we become soldiers of Christ?**

As soldiers of Christ, we should step out of the church into the world with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We should proclaim about what Jesus has done and what he is doing.

**A. Seek the Lord.** It is important that we walk in step and in-tune with the God.

**B. See.** We the need to walk with our eyes open and ears listening to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

**C. Seize every opportunity.**

**D. Speak the truth (Acts 4:18-20).**

**E. Stand on your ground (Romans 1:16).**

### **III. Conclusion**

The enemy will do everything in its power to destroy our relationship with God, and thus will keep on targeting our heart. Yet God gave us all that we need to fight back, so let us never back down.

#### **Reflection:**

1. What practical ways can you start doing now to guard your hearts from the enemy?

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