

Chanukah Exhortation

Resisting the Antiochus “spirit” in our Times

Equipping *Ourselves* with God’s “Spiritual” Armor

Finally, be **strong in the Lord** and in the strength of **His might**.

Put on the **full armor of God**,
so that you will be able to **stand firm** against the **schemes** of the **devil**.

For our struggle is **not** against **flesh and blood**,
but against the **rulers**, against the **powers**,
against the **world forces** of this **darkness**,
against the **spiritual forces** of **wickedness** in the **heavenly places**.

Therefore, take up the **full armor of God**,
so that you will be able to **resist** in the **evil day**,
and having done everything, **to stand firm**.

Stand firm therefore,
HAVING **GIRDED YOUR LOINS** WITH **TRUTH**,

and HAVING **PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**,

and having **shod YOUR FEET** WITH THE PREPARATION
OF THE **GOSPEL OF PEACE**;

in addition to all, taking up the **shield of faith** with which you will be **able**
to **extinguish** all the **flaming arrows** of the **evil one**.

And take THE **HELMET OF SALVATION**,

and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the **word of God**.

With all **prayer and petition pray** at all times in the **Spirit**,
and with this in view,
be on the **alert** with all **perseverance** and **petition** for all the **saints**,
(Ephesians 6:10-18)

Personal Application Spiritual Armor “Checklist”

1. Have I “*girded*” my loins with **truth**”? Is my life characterized by **truthfulness** and **sincerity** so as not to “*hinder*” my walk and witness to the world. Do I reflect the **truth of God** in my life and teaching, and make every effort to “*protect myself*” from accusations of **dishonesty** or **deceit**?

Do not let **kindness** and **truth** leave you;
Bind them around your neck,
Write them on the **tablet** of your heart.

So you will find **favor** and **good repute**
In the sight of **God** and **man**. (Proverbs 3:3-4)

He stores up sound **wisdom** for the **upright**:
He is a **shield** to those who walk in **integrity** (Proverbs 2:7)

2. Have I *put on* the “**breastplate of righteousness**”? Do I have a life and walk that is characterized by **integrity**, and doing what is **upright** and **just**? Do I walk according to the **truths** and **principles** of the word of God?

The **righteousness** of the **upright** will **deliver them**,
But the **treacherous** will be **caught** by *their own greed*. (Proverbs 13:6)

Every **word of God** is tested;
He is a **shield** to those who **take refuge** in Him. (Proverbs 30:5)

The **integrity** of the **upright** will **guide them**,
But the **crookedness** of the **treacherous** will **destroy them**. (Proverbs 11:3)

3. Do I have my **feet** “*shod*” and prepared with the **promises** of the **gospel**? Do I stand sure-footed and **ready** for battle, **confident** and at “*peace*,” **standing** upon the **promises** of the **gospel message**?

“The **steadfast of mind** You will keep in **perfect peace**,
Because he **trusts (stands)** in You. (Isaiah 26:3)

,.. but **sanctify Messiah as Lord** in your hearts,
always *being* ready to make a **defense** to **everyone** who asks you
to give an account for the **hope (gospel)** that is in you,
yet with **gentleness** and **reverence**; (1 Peter 3:15)

4. Am I *taking up* the “**shield of faith**”? When the **flaming arrows** of the **adversary**; the “*arrows*” of **doubt**, **distress**, **discouragement**, and **disappointment** are **fired** at me, do I **confront** them with **faith in God** to help me **overcome** them?

I will say to **the LORD**,
“**My refuge** and my **fortress**, **My God**, in whom **I will trust!**”...

His faithfulness is a **shield** and **bulwark**. (Psalm 91:2, 4c)

Be of **sober spirit**, be on the **alert**. Your **adversary**, the **devil**, prowls around like a **roaring lion**, seeking someone to **devour**.

But **resist him**, **firm** in **your faith**, knowing that the **same experiences** of **suffering** are being accomplished by your **brethren** who are in the world. (I Peter 5:8-9)

5. Am I wearing the “**helmet** of **salvation**”? It is vital for a **soldier** to have his **head protected** from potential harm, and so it was needful to wear a **helmet**. As we engage in **spiritual warfare**, it is important for us to continually **protect** our **hearts** and **minds** with the **hope** of our **salvation** and **victory**. Also, important is to be **assured** of our **blessed position** as **saved believers**, and that **nothing** will ever “**separate us**” from the **love of God in Messiah**” (Romans 8:35).

Then **Hannah** (Samuel’s mother) **prayed** and said,
“My heart **exults in the LORD**; my horn is **exalted in the LORD**,
my mouth speaks **boldly** against **my enemies**,
because I rejoice in Your salvation.
(I Samuel 2:1)

But since we are of *the* day, let us be **sober**,
having put on the **breastplate** of **faith** and **love**,
and as a **helmet**, the **hope** of **salvation**. (I Thessalonians 5:8)

6. The only **offensive weapon** in **God’s spiritual armor** is the “**sword** of the **Spirit**.” The **sword** of the **Spirit** is the **word of God**, and it is **vital** that we learn to **skillfully** declare **God’s will**, and **His word of truth** as we face the **adversary** of our souls. With this **spiritual weapon**, and the **grace** and **power of God**, we are able to engage and destroy “**speculations**,” and “**every lofty thing** raised up **against the knowledge of God**...(II Corinthians 10:5).

For the **word of God** is **living** and **active** and **sharper**
than any two-edged **sword**...(Hebrews 2:12a)

7. Am I **actively** and **consistently** engaged in “**prayer and petition** in the **Spirit**” for all **believers**? Do I fully **believe** and **understand** that **prayer** is the “**warrior’s resource**,” and how essential it is to **persevere in prayer** for **all the saints**?

“...and **pray** on my behalf,
that **utterance** may be **given to me** in the opening of **my mouth**,
to **make known** with **boldness** the **mystery** of the **gospel**..

that in **proclaiming** it I may **speak boldly**, as I ought to speak.”
(Ephesians 6:19, 20b)