

Get Dressed

One of the first things we think about after getting out of bed each morning is what to wear. Several factors determine what we put on for our day. We consider what the temperature will be. The weather elements add to our wardrobe decision, as does where we are going and what we will be doing. For example, we wouldn't wear our swimsuit in sub-zero weather. And, even on a hot day, we probably wouldn't wear that swimsuit to church. We wouldn't wear our long underwear with a flannel shirt and winter coat to watch a Christian Center baseball game in the middle of July. We dress warm in the winter and cool in the summer. We dress appropriately for school, work, and church. We wear uniforms for sports events, and we wear pajamas to bed. Before we decide how to dress our bodies, we give careful consideration to what we will be doing and where we are going throughout the day. We are in physical danger if we get cold, frostbite, or over-heated. We dress for our protection.

Even more important than protecting our physical bodies, is the protection of our spiritual bodies. In Ephesians 6:10-17, the Lord is very clear and very descriptive as to what our spiritual wardrobe should be. First, He reminds us that we are in a spiritual battle with the forces of evil in the heavenly realms. We are told to put on the full armor of God - not just one or two pieces - but all of them. God provides protection for us against our enemies. First, is the belt of truth around our waist. God's Word is truth - John 17:17. The belt was on the soldier's tunic. It was the foundation of his armor. It held his sword and his breastplate. God is truth and He is the foundation of our lives. Next, is the breastplate of righteousness. The breastplate was secured by the soldier's belt and protected his vital organs. Our enemy attacks our most vital and vulnerable areas. Only God is righteous - holy and perfect, without sin. That righteousness is offered to us through Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection. Then, comes the feet which are fitted with the readiness that comes from the Gospel of peace. A soldier is always ready. His feet are firmly planted so that he can stand and hold his ground when the attacks come. We stand on the Word of God. God's Word is true. Satan is a liar and an accuser. When the enemy attacks come, we can defeat him using God's Word. Next, comes the shield of faith. The soldier's shield was large and would cover him entirely. It was made of layers and when wet it could extinguish flaming arrows. Faith reminds us that God is true to His Word and His promise to protect us. Then, there's the helmet of salvation, which protects the soldier's head, his mind, his thoughts, his memory. The devil plagues us with worries, doubts and fears. We need to take and put on the helmet of salvation - the reminder that Christ died for us and remember the promise of ultimate victory in the end. Take also the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. When a sword was sharpened, it could pierce through just about anything, making it a very dangerous weapon. God's Word is living and active and sharper than any double-edged sword, according to Hebrews 4:12. We need to know God's Word. Read it, memorize it, and take it with us wherever we go. It will save our lives.

So, as you get up each morning and look at your wardrobe to determine what clothes to put on your physical body for the day ahead, remember to put on your spiritual clothing - your armor - as well. Your spiritual armor works well in any temperature. It adapts to all kinds of weather. It's one size fits all. It fits under swimwear and pajamas. It's appropriate for work, church, school, and baseball games. Your shirt or blouse will fit right over the breastplate of righteousness - which is protecting your heart. And your pants, shorts or skirt will be secured by your belt of truth. Your heels or tennis shoes, and even flip-flops, will slip right on those feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the Gospel of peace. Your helmet of salvation won't mess up your hair, but it will guard your mind and thoughts throughout the day. Keep your shield up all day, it's your protection against the enemy attack, and he comes at us when our guard is down. And, especially, do not forget, the sword of the Spirit. You can use it to fight off the enemy. And always - accessorize with prayer.

Get up. Get dressed. Stand strong. Be blessed.