



Armor of God Week of Prayer
Ephesians 6:10-18

Sisters, we are so excited that you have decided to join us for a week of prayer for the Women's Walk With Christ board meeting and retreat! We will be praying according to the armor of God and also have reflection questions for you to consider regarding your walk with the Lord. In order to win the battle, we must stand firm in our God-given authority and pray according to His word and His will. We must keep these truths in mind as we pray, according to Priscilla Shirer in *The Armor of God*:

1. There is an invisible battle taking place.
2. The enemy is invisible but not fictional.
3. Satan is not God's peer or counterpart.
 - a. Only our God is omnipresent
 - b. Only our God is omniscient
 - c. Only our God can work miracles
 - d. Only our God is eternal

Before we start our prayer journey, I want you to understand the Armor of God. The imagery of the armor is of an armed Roman or Israelite soldier, prepared for battle. When Paul compares the armor of God with military gear, each piece represents a part of God's strength that He extends to us when we become His children. Because we have a relationship with Jesus Christ, we are seated with Him in heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:

10 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. 14 Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. 15 For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. 16 In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. 17 Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Each of the six pieces Paul discusses is divided into one of two categories: The 1st includes the first three pieces: Belt of truth; breastplate of righteousness and shoes of peace. These begin with the word taken from the word "to be" This means the first three pieces are pieces you should wear all the time. You should never take them off. Like a uniform a baseball player would wear on a field



The last three: Shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of spirit; are to be picked up when needed, as the situation demands. We are told to “take” them up such as when a baseball player grabs his mit or bat depending on what’s going on during a game.

According to Priscilla Shirer, although there are six pieces listed, there is a seventh piece that activates them all—Prayer! Without prayer they aren’t put into motion.

We will start the week of prayer on Wednesday September 27, 2023. We have a day of prayer according to each piece of the armor. At the end of the week, there is an opportunity to come together and process our week; how it impacted you; any revelations the Holy Spirit provides; and/or to pray TOGETHER for the ministry.

Here is the zoom information for TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023 7:00PM

Topic: WWWC Armor of God Week of Prayer

Time: Oct 3, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Meeting ID: 978 316 7296

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Day 1 (9/27/23): Belt of Truth

The belt of a Roman soldier in Paul's day was not a simple leather strap such as we wear today. It was a thick, heavy leather and metal band with a protective piece hanging down from the front of it. The belt held the soldier's sword and other weapons.

It is fitting that the belt of truth is the first piece of the whole armor of God. Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), and it is only through Him that we come to God. Therefore, truth is of the utmost importance in the life of a Christian. Without truth, the rest of the armor would be of no use to us because we would not have the Spirit of truth (John 15:26). Jesus said the Truth shall set us free.

John 8:31-32 Then Jesus turned to the Jews who had claimed to believe in him. "If you stick with this, living out what I tell you, you are my disciples for sure. Then you will experience for yourselves the truth, and the truth will free you."

The overarching principle present in all of Satan's attacks toward us is deception. Satan is the master illusionist. An illusion is something that is deceiving by producing a false or misleading impression of reality. Satan can craftily make you think that God does not mean exactly what He says. Remember Adam and Eve...did God really say??

Strapping on the Belt of Truth allows you to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. Satan's suggestions can never stand up against the light of God's Holy Word. God's truth is the light. Because Satan has no power or authority, he must first get you to "buy in" into his deception. Once he's got you believing his lie, he has kept you from standing in your power. We need to know what God says about a matter and act based on His perspective.



Belt of Truth scriptures

Eph 6:14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist,

Psa 25:5 Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.

Mark 5:33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth.

John 3:21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

Eph 4:15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

What is God saying to you through His Word? What does it mean to have the belt of truth around your waist?

What is He calling you to confess? Empty your cup of deceit and shame before the Lord. He knows your truth and invites you to acknowledge it before him and receive His cleansing touch.

What do you want to ask God for regarding truth as you heal from the wound of deceit?

Pray for the WWWC Board, that God will reveal His truth about finances, vision and policy so that the board will make decisions in unity with one another and God's will. Pray for restoration of the body, mind and soul of each board member: Jennifer Finnin, Sue Ham, Stacie Hazelton, Deni LaPoint, Sandra Sheih, Kim Turner and Christy Willard. Ask God to give them a spirit of gratitude.



Day 2 (9/28/23): Breastplate of Righteousness

A typical armed soldier wore a breastplate made of bronze or chain mail. It covered the vital organs, namely, the heart, and was fitted with loops or buckles that attached it to a thick belt. If the belt was loosened, the breastplate slipped right off. A breastplate is a piece of armor that would protect the heart of a soldier in battle. Your heart is the centerpiece of your soul.

The breastplate of righteousness refers to the righteousness purchased for us by Jesus at the cross (2 Corinthians 5:21). As we wear Christ's breastplate of righteousness, we begin to develop a purity of heart that translates into actions. The Holy Spirit takes up residence in us, allowing us to do what we cannot do in our own power. We go through the process of Sanctification by which we are molded by the Holy Spirit into the image of Christ Jesus. Wearing this breastplate creates a lifestyle of putting into practice what we believe in our hearts. As our lives become conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29), our choices become more righteous, and these godly choices also protect us from further temptation and deception (Proverbs 8:20; Psalm 23:3).

The Holy Spirit's job is to chip away at every thing that doesn't look like Jesus. He makes us aware of the condition of our heart to know whether our behaviors are aligned to God's truth. The enemy's goal is to derail the train of your behavior off of the tracks of God's truth.

In Ephesians 6:14, Paul says, "Your uniform is right living." Righteousness is upright living that aligns with the expectations of God. It is living according to the truth of God. We are instructed to "put on" this armor, which implies that we do not automatically wear it all the time. Putting on the armor of God requires a decision on our part. To put on the breastplate of righteousness, we must first have the belt of truth firmly in place. Without truth, our righteousness will be based upon our own attempts to impress God. This leads to legalism or self-condemnation (Romans 8:1). We choose instead to acknowledge that, apart from Him, we can do nothing (John 15:5). His righteousness has been credited to our account.



Breastplate of Righteousness Scriptures

Eph. 6:14b with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

Matt. 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Rom. 1:17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

Rom. 3:21-24 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Rom. 5:17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

What is God saying to you through His Word? What does it mean to have the breastplate of righteousness in place?

What is He calling you to confess? Acknowledge your sinfulness to Him and receive the gift of God’s abundant provision of grace and gift of Christ’s righteousness.

What do you want to ask God for so that righteousness might reign in your life through Christ?

Pray for the WWWC Board to live out of the gift of righteousness, being quick to repent and forgive one another. Ask God to reveal His righteous direction to the Board as they meet. Pray for the board members to experience sisterhood connection as they meet and for all WWWC sisters to grow in sisterhood. May a spirit of trust and truth permeate our relationships.



Day 3 (9/29/23): Shoes of Peace

A victorious soldier had to be prepared for battle. He had to have studied his enemy's strategy, be confident in his own strategy, and have his feet firmly planted so that he could hold his ground when the attacks came. A soldier's battle shoes were studded with nails or spikes, like cleats, to help him keep his balance in combat. He knew that, if he lost his footing and went down, it wouldn't matter how great the rest of his armor was; the enemy had him. When we are ready with the gospel of peace, we live with the understanding that we are continually under attack from Satan.

The "peace shoes" that God supplies His soldiers have two purposes: defensive and offensive. In order to defend ourselves against the "flaming arrows of the evil one" (Ephesians 6:16), we must have confidence of our position in Christ. We must stand firm in the truth of God's Word, regardless of how terrifying the circumstances may be (1 John 5:14).

When Satan attacks with a flaming missile of doubt, such as "If God really loved you, He wouldn't have let this happen," we dig our peace shoes into the turf of God's Word and reply according to God's word. We can have a firm grip in the unpredictable world. We have stability.

In addition to standing our ground, shoes are also for moving. God expects us to take the gospel of peace to others. First Peter 3:15 says, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." Sharing our faith is one of the best ways to maintain our own sure footing. God knows that, when we are active in speaking of Him to others, we not only charge into Satan's territory, but we dig our shoes more deeply into truth and will be much harder to dislodge.

Satan knows that where there is no peace there is also no victory. When we know God's truth and act/ behave according to His truth (in a righteous way) we can achieve peace. In Jesus Christ, we have peace with God.



Shoes of Peace Scriptures

Eph. 6:15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

2 Cor. 5:20,21 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Rom. 5:1, 2 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

Col 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

What is God saying to you through His Word? What does it mean to have feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the Gospel of peace?

What is He calling you to confess? Where in your life are you walking without the Gospel of peace? Bring your need before Him and receive the gift of Christ's peace.

What do you want to ask God for so that you might walk in peace and Gospel readiness?

Pray for the WWWC Board to walk together with the readiness that comes from the Gospel of peace. May they stand in the truth of the Gospel knowing that they are justified by faith and not their own good works. Pray that the peace of Christ would rule in their hearts as they work together. Ask God to give them wisdom and discernment to follow God's calling and plan for the ministry. Pray that they would walk in integrity and intentionality.



Day 4 (9/30/23): THE SHIELD OF FAITH

The Roman shield of the time was called a scutum.[SKYOO] + [TUHM] This type of shield was as large as a door and would cover the warrior entirely. Such a shield was not just defensive but could also be used to push opponents. When fighting as a group, a body of troops could position their shields so as to form an enclosure around themselves, called a testudo (“tortoise”). This was especially helpful to protect against arrows launched from the walls of cities they were attacking. The shields were often made of wood and then covered in hide, and when wet, they could extinguish flaming arrows. Clearly, a shield is vitally important to a soldier. It provides a blanket of protection. It is meant to be taken up in all circumstances. It is the first barrier against the enemy’s attack.

Hebrews 11:6 stresses the importance of faith: “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” Satan’s attacks can sometimes cause us to doubt God. Faith prompts us to believe God. Faith reminds us that, though fulfillment of God’s promise may not be readily visible to us, God is true to His Word. When Satan attempts to plague us with doubt or entice us with instant gratification, faith recognizes the deceptiveness of his tactics and quickly extinguishes the arrows. When Satan accuses us, faith chooses to believe that Jesus has redeemed us and that there is no more condemnation (Romans 8:1, 34; Revelation 12:10–12).

Faith reveals a reliance on God. Faith is what you say you believe in action. It’s been said, faith is when “you act like God is telling you the truth.” Faith says less about you and more about what you really believe to be true about God.

Because God is faithful, you and I can have active faith. What God has called us to, He will equip us for. The enemy sends fiery arrows into your life to distract you.



Shield of Faith Scriptures

Eph. 6:16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Rom. 10:10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Rom. 14:23b and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Eph. 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

Heb. 10:22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Heb. 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

What is God saying to you through His Word? What does it mean to take up the shield of faith?

What is He calling you to confess? How is unbelief or a lack of faith allowing the enemy's arrows to pierce you? Receive the faith that is a gift of God from the Son who loved you and gave himself for you.

What do you want to ask God for regarding faith?

Pray for the WWWC Board to live by faith as they seek God's vision for the ministry. May they recognize His plan together and trust Him as they take steps to enact it. May they draw near to God and one another with sincere hearts and the full assurance that faith brings. Ask God to help them live out their faith with resolve and resilience. Pray for God to shower WWWC with the resources to sustain the ministry.



Day 5 (10/1/23): THE HELMET OF SALVATION

When a soldier suited up for battle, the helmet was the last piece of armor to go on. It was the final act of readiness in preparation for combat. A helmet was vital for survival, protecting the brain, the command station for the rest of the body. If the head was badly damaged, the rest of the armor would be of little use.

According to Tony Evans, When the bible speaks of the Helmet of Salvation, it's talking about controlling our thoughts. The enemy is after your mind. We must be thinking thoughts that have been renewed by God's word. God wants us to dismantle every thought that goes against the rule of Christ in our lives. We must make sure that what God says about something holds more weight in our lives than any other influence. Strongholds are torn down through the Word of God.

Salvation is not just about redemption. Salvation was meant to implement an entire new way of thinking into your life. What the brain is to the body, the mind is to the soul. Salvation is about your identity. It's who you are in Christ.

The assurance of salvation is our impenetrable defense against anything the enemy throws at us. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28). The idea in this verse is that, as we prepare for Satan's attacks, we must grab that helmet and buckle it tightly. Salvation is not limited to a one-time act of the past or even a future hope. God's salvation is an ongoing, eternal state that His children enjoy in the present. It is daily protection and deliverance from our sin nature and Satan's schemes.

Because of the power of the cross, our enemy no longer has any hold on us (Romans 6:10; 8:2; 1 Corinthians 1:18). We must learn to keep our helmets buckled so that his fiery missiles do not lodge in our thoughts and set us on fire. Through this helmet of salvation, we can "destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5). Sometimes the greatest miracles God does are not in our circumstances, it's in our minds.



Helmet of Salvation Scriptures

Eph. 6:17a Take the helmet of salvation

Psa 27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

Isaiah 30:15 This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.

Isaiah 33:6 He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure.

2 Corinthians 7:10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

Eph. 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.

What is God saying to you through His Word? What does it mean to take the helmet of salvation?

Where is God calling you to repent? Are there other means of salvation, even your own good works, that you are trusting instead of resting in the salvation of Christ?

What do you want to ask God for regarding the treasure of salvation?

Pray for the WWWC Board to know God as their sure foundation for this time of ministry. May they depend on Christ as a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge. May they make decisions by the power of the promised Holy Spirit. Ask God to guide them in developing relationships, training and mentorship for the WWWC Europe Board. Pray for the Board members to act with tenacity and courage.



Day 6 (10/2/23): THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

The sword is both an offensive and defensive weapon used by soldiers or warriors. Swords were used to protect oneself from harm or to attack the enemy. In both cases it was necessary for a soldier to get rigid training on the proper use of the sword to get maximum protection. The sword that Paul refers to here is the Holy Scriptures. The sword of the Spirit is a weapon belonging to the Holy Spirit that He gives to us! We are called to PICK UP THE SWORD! It requires an action! A deliberate choice. Once you pick it up, it is in your hand to use, but it is His. Paul is telling us that to withstand the attacks from the enemy, we shouldn't always take a defensive posture. Be on the offense! Choose to pick it up!

When the Bible states "For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires." (Hebrews 4:12). It penetrates with power. We need the utterance of God, the Rhema word, to defeat the enemy.

When Satan tempted Jesus and threw suggestions at Him to prove Himself (Matt 4:1..Since you are the son of God, command stones to become bread) Jesus did not discuss or dialogue with the enemy. Jesus didn't respond with what He thought and He had perfect thinking! He responded with the written word which is what God himself has to say. Jesus is Called the Living Word. Think about it-

If the Living Word had to use the written word to deal with the enemy of the world, then how much do we need to use the same word against the enemy?



Sword of the Spirit Scriptures

Eph. 6:17b Take ... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Psalm 119: 10, 11 I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Psalm 119:132, 133 Turn to me and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love your name. Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.

Matt. 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

2 Timothy 3: 16, 17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

What is God saying to You about His Word? What does it mean to take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God?

What do you need to admit to the Lord about your failure to live according to His Word? Come to Him and pour out Your shame and experience His mercy.

What do you want to ask God for so that His Word directs Your walk with Christ?

Pray for the WWWC Board to seek God with all their hearts and love His name above all others. Ask God to direct their footsteps according to His Word that they may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. Pray for wisdom from God to consider where, when and how to possibly expand the ministry of WWWC. Ask God to restore and refine Board members to walk in mission and reliance on His Word.



Day 7 (10/3/23): PRAY

Prayer

Eph. 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

1 Thess. 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Timothy 2:1,2 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Phil. 4:6,7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

What is God saying to you through His Word? What does it mean to pray in the Spirit on all occasions?

How do you need to humble yourself before the Lord? Acknowledge your need for Him and His grace and receive His peace.

What do you want to ask God for regarding a prayerful life? How can you be a woman walking with Christ in prayer, rejoicing and giving thanks in all circumstances?

Pray for the WWWC Board to be prayerful in every discussion and decision, relying on the Spirit. Ask God to give them hearts to rejoice and offer thanksgiving for all the ways He has met them this week. Pray for God to reveal new ministry positions for WWWC and raise up sisters to fill them. May God's grace fall upon each of us as we entrust everything to Christ.