

## Knowing Who You Are In Christ Using Your Spiritual Authority

### 1. You Have the Authority to Put On the Armor of God and Resist Satan —

•**Ephesians 6:10-18** "Finally, my brethren, be **STRONG** in the **LORD**, and in the power of His **MIGHT**. **Put on the whole ARMOR of God**, that you may be able to **STAND AGAINST** the **wiles (tricks) of the DEVIL**. For we do **NOT** wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (demonic forces in the atmosphere). Therefore **take up the whole armor of God**, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and **having DONE ALL**, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your waist with **TRUTH**, having put on the **BREASTPLATE of RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Above all, taking the **SHIELD of faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the **WORD of the Spirit**, which is the **WORD of God**."

Basically, the **ARMOR is the KNOWLEDGE of WHO you are IN CHRIST**. You must **ARM YOURSELF with that knowledge** (see I Peter 3:22-4:2) - knowledge of your **POSITION IN CHRIST** and the **KNOWLEDGE** that you are a **NEW CREATION** in Christ Jesus. In Col. 3:10 & Eph.4:23-24 is it called **PUTTING ON** the new man (the "new creation" that you are in Christ). The individual pieces of the armor are specific areas where you **NEED TO KNOW** who you are and what resources you have available to you in Jesus Christ. If you do not know **WHO YOU ARE** as a believer in Jesus Christ, or maybe you're just shaky on some points, you **MUST** get into the word of God and renew your mind! There is no substitute, there is no short cut to renewing our minds with the word of God.

•**Colossians 3:10** "And have **put on the NEW MAN** who is **RENEWED in KNOWLEDGE** according to the image of Him who created him."

•**Ephesians 4:23-24** "And **be RENEWED in the spirit of your MIND**; and that **YOU put on the NEW MAN**, which was **CREATED** according to God, in righteousness and true **HOLINESS**."

a.) **"BELT of TRUTH"** — This was a **WIDE BELT** on which hung **ALL** the weapons of the Roman soldier. You must **SPEND TIME studying GOD'S WORD**, because if you do not **SOLIDLY KNOW God's TRUTH**, the weapons will not work — everything will fall to pieces.

b.) **"BREASTPLATE of RIGHTEOUSNESS"** — The breastplate was the part of the armor that **protected the HEART**. In the Bible, the heart usually represents our **EMOTIONS**. If you are **CONFIDENT of the FACT** that **YOU ARE RIGHTEOUS** because of what **JESUS DID on the cross**, it will **PROTECT your EMOTIONS - PROTECT YOU from FEELINGS of being inadequate or worthless in God's eyes**.

•**II Corinthians 5:21** "For He (God the Father) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for US, that **WE** might **be MADE the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God** in Him."

c.) **"SHIELD of FAITH"** — You must **USE** your **FAITH** to ward off the **"FIERY DARTS of the WICKED ONE"** (doubts, anxious or fearful **THOUGHTS**, or sinful **SUGGESTIONS**) that Satan will throw at you like "fiery arrows." Be careful — Satan will **NOT** announce that these doubts and sinful thoughts are from him, but will **make them seem like YOUR OWN thoughts**.

d.) **"HELMET of SALVATION"** — The helmet **PROTECTS the HEAD - your MIND**, your **thought life**. Our salvation brings with it a **RENEWING** of our **MINDS**, conforming us to the **MIND of Christ**. When you really **KNOW** who you are in Christ, and have **ASSURANCE of**

**your salvation**, Satan can't mess with your mind. The wiles or tricks of the DEVIL that he attacks you with are primarily "head games" - attacks in your thought life. He will dangle some thought or suggestion in front of you - DON'T TAKE the BAIT!

## 2. If You Belong to Jesus Christ, You Are Qualified to do Spiritual Warfare -

Can even a new baby Christian do spiritual warfare? Yes, Jesus gave AUTHORITY to ALL believers, but of course, the more **grounded you are in the word of God**, the more **ASSURANCE** you will have in **using your authority**. If a new Christian immediately gets immersed in God's word, they may grow and mature sooner than others that have been saved for years. It's not how LONG you've known the Lord that counts, it's HOW MUCH of His **WORD is in you!**

**John 15:7** "If you abide in Me, and **MY WORDS abide in YOU**, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you."

• **Colossians 1:12-13** "Giving thanks to **the Father who has QUALIFIED US** to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has **DELIVERED us from the POWER of DARKNESS** and translated us into the kingdom of His beloved Son."

a.) Any born-again child of God **who has FAITH is QUALIFIED**. Our authority is based on our position: **WE are SEATED with Christ far ABOVE Satan** and his demons, and He has given us AUTHORITY over ALL of Satan's power. Those who doubt and don't have FAITH see themselves as weak and helpless, and see Satan as having authority over them (I Peter 5:8, II Cor. 11:1-4, Matt. 17:19-20, Num. 13:33).

• **John 5:4** "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and **this is the VICTORY** that has overcome the world — **OUR FAITH**."

• **Ephesians 1:20-21 & 2:4-6** ".....Christ when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, FAR ABOVE all principality, and power (Satan & demons), and might, and dominion, and every name that is named....." "But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, has made us alive together with Christ (by grace are you saved); and has **raised US up together, and has made US to sit together** in heavenly places **with Christ Jesus**."

b.) Any born-again child of God **who is ALLOWING the Holy Spirit to EMPOWER them is QUALIFIED**. If you go out and try to battle the enemy in the power of YOUR OWN FLESH, you will suffer miserable defeat (compare Peter in Matt. 26:69-75 to Peter in Acts 4:8-13, 29-31).

• **John 4:4** "You are of God, little children, and have OVERCOME them; because **GREATER is He that is IN YOU** (the Holy Spirit), than he that is in the world (Satan)."

• **Acts 1:8** "And you shall receive **POWER** after the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you....."

• **Zech. 4:6** ".....not by might, nor by [your] power, but **by MY SPIRIT**, says the Lord of hosts."

• **Eph. 3:16** ".....that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be **STRENGTHENED with MIGHT by HIS SPIRIT** in the inner man."

c.) Any born-again child of God who will **TAKE UP the AUTHORITY** that Jesus has given us and will **USE IT is QUALIFIED!** Jesus said He is sending us to go out in the same power and **anointing of the Holy Spirit** that He had, and the **AUTHORITY** that was given to Him by the Father, **He GIVES TO US!**

• **Luke 10:19** "Behold, I give **YOU the AUTHORITY** to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over ALL the power of the enemy, and NOTHING shall by any means hurt you."

• **Acts 10:38** "How God **anointed** Jesus of Nazareth **with the HOLY SPIRIT and POWER**, who went about doing good, and healing all who were **OPPRESSED of the DEVIL.....**"

• **John 20:21** "Then Jesus said to them again, 'Peace to you! **AS the FATHER has SENT Me, I also SEND YOU.**'"

•**Mark 16:17-18** "And these signs will follow **THOSE who BELIEVE**; in My name **THEY will cast out DEMONS.....THEY** will lay hands on the sick and they will recover."

•**I John 5:18** ".....whoever is born of God does not sin (habitually); but he who has been born of God **keeps himself** (guards himself), and **the wicked one does not touch him.**"

**3. What are the Necessary Preparations? —** Any Christian has the right and authority to use the name of Jesus and resist the devil, but not all Christians are **PREPARED** for battle. **The first condition is to SUBMIT yourselves to God**, before you can **RESIST** the **DEVIL**, and have him flee from you (James 4:7). Paul also compared it to the athlete who strips down of **ALL** excess weight and entanglements in order to run the race. If you are not prepared for battle by being completely **SURRENDERED** (submitted) to God in every area of your life, you will be open to attack from Satan (see I Peter 5:7-8).

•**II Timothy 2:4** "No one **engaged in warfare** entangles himself with the affairs of this life...."

•**Hebrews 12:1-2** "Let us **lay aside every WEIGHT**, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us **RUN** with endurance the **RACE** that is set before us, looking unto Jesus..."

•**I Peter 5:7-8** "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary **the devil walks about** like a roaring lion, **seeking whom he MAY devour**. **RESIST him**, steadfast in the faith...."

**Preparation No. 1 - Get Rid of PRIDE —** You may not think you have a problem with pride. Pride can be thinking you are better than others, but it can also be just **holding onto YOUR OWN will - YOUR right to make YOUR OWN decisions**. You must **SUBMIT** yourself and **SURRENDER** yourself entirely to God, becoming a "living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1-2) by sacrificing and **turning your WILL over to God** completely.

•**James 4:6** "But He gives more grace. Therefore He says, '**God resists the PROUD**, but gives grace to the **HUMBLE.**'"

**Preparation No. 2 - Confess and REPENT of ALL SIN -** Confess your sins to God, and **REPENT**, which means to **turn around and go the opposite way**. If you aren't willing to repent and submit to God, you might as well forget about resisting the devil. Bitterness or unforgiveness is also a sin, so you must **FORGIVE those who have offended you or HURT YOU**.

•**I John 1:9** "If we confess our sins, **He is faithful and just to FORGIVE us our sins**, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

•**James 4:7-8** "Therefore **SUBMIT** to God. **RESIST the devil** and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. **CLEANSE your hands, you SINNERS**; and **PURIFY your HEARTS**, you double-minded."

**Preparation No. 3 - Renounce OUT LOUD any participation in Satan's activities.** You have already confessed these sins to God, but now **you are announcing to Satan** and his demons that you have turned away from them and they have no more right to your life. **COMMAND all demons to leave you in the NAME OF JESUS!** John 8:32 "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you **FREE**." Tell Satan and his demons that you belong to Jesus, and he has no more right to attack you or oppress you. Tell Satan he cannot deceive you any longer, because **you know the truth**, and the truth has made you free. He is no longer your master — Jesus is your Lord! You may need to **CLOSE any DOORS** that have been opened to allow demons into your life, and **CLAIM** the **PROTECTION** of the **BLOOD OF JESUS**. Say something like this, "**In the NAME of JESUS**, I close the door that may have been opened to allow Satan into my life through my participation in \_\_\_\_\_ (Name the sin) \_\_\_\_\_. **I ask You, Lord**, to keep the door closed with the precious blood of Jesus." Do this for each individual activity.

**4. Offensive Weapons and How to Use Them** — Putting on the armor is DEFENSE, but God has also given us OFFENSIVE weapons with which to ATTACK the enemy.

**Weapon No. 1 - The Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God** —

The sword is a **weapon of OFFENSE**. When we **SPEAK the WORD of God OUT LOUD**, it is a WEAPON against Satan. We follow Jesus' example when He was up against Satan in the wilderness, when **He quoted scripture out loud** to the devil (Matt. 4:1-11).

•**Hebrews 4:12** "For the **WORD of God is living and POWERFUL**, and sharper than any two-edged **SWORD**....."

•**Matthew 4:10-11** "Then Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! For **it is WRITTEN**, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' Then the **DEVIL** left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him."

**Weapon No. 2 - Praise & Worship** — This is sort of a COMBINATION

of TWO WEAPONS: speaking the word out loud (the sword of the Spirit) and the **PRAYER of praise and worship** (Eph. 6:18). The Psalms are an excellent source of scriptural ways to PRAISE and WORSHIP the Lord. Compare **Psalm 8:2 and Matthew 21:16** - Jesus Himself tells us here that praise is a weapon against the enemy. Satan **HATES** to hear you praise God, whether **you SING it or just SAY it**, so don't worry if you can't carry a tune. God's power is unleashed on our behalf as we praise Him, because He actually inhabits our praises! (see also II Chronicles 20:12-23)

•**Psalm 22:3** "But You are holy, **You who INHABIT the PRAISES** of Israel."

•**Ephesians 6:18** "Praying always with **all PRAYER** and supplication in the Spirit....."

**Weapon No. 3 - Your Free Will** — You've probably never thought of your

free will as a WEAPON, but it is a precious gift from God, and your most powerful weapon of all. Satan cannot take away your free will, but he will **try to DECEIVE you**, saying that you can't help yourself, or you have no control over a particular situation, so don't believe his lies! The battle begins in the mind, in your thought life. Faith is involved here, too, but sometimes the word "faith" scares people - they think it is some mysterious quality that God gives to some people, but they aren't sure if they have enough. **Faith is simply CHOOSING to BELIEVE God! With your FREE WILL, make a DECISION and CHOOSE to believe God's word** and obey His commands. **Decide ahead of time, BEFORE** you get in the middle of some crisis, **to BELIEVE GOD instead of believing your emotions** and going with your feelings. **God will BACK YOU UP with His power** if you make the right decisions, but He will also **ALLOW** you to make wrong choices (see Matt. 16:19 & Matt. 18:18). That's why it is called **FREE will** - God will not force you to believe Him, either.

**Mark 9:23** "Jesus said unto him, 'If **YOU CAN BELIEVE**, all things are possible to **HIM WHO BELIEVES**.'"

•**Matt. 16:19** "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

•**Matt. 18:18** "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

•**II Corinthians 10:3-5** ".....the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (merely human), but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; **casting down imaginations**, and **every high thing (thoughts, lies from Satan)** that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity EVERY THOUGHT** to the **OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST**."

**You MUST learn to CONTROL your THOUGHTS** and NOT accept or believe Satan's lies. "**Don't Listen to the Wrong Voices**" - this could be advice from other people, actual demonic voices, or just "old tapes" from the past that you allow to run in your head. Some Christians even **ACCEPT demonic voices and suggestions** as if they were their own thoughts, or else they seem to feel they are helpless against them. Many Christians are **MENTALLY LAZY** and **PASSIVE**, and they **ALLOW** these wrong thoughts to control them, and **ALLOW** Satan to

build strongholds in their lives. They are saved, but they are miserable by their own CHOICE. They ask for OTHER PEOPLE to PRAY for THEM, but they remain in the same condition, because God has told THEM to do something about it, and they REFUSE to do it. Hold up that "shield of faith" and REJECT any wrong thoughts or VOICES **in the name of Jesus**. Then fill your mind with the word of God! HOW will you know what are wrong thoughts from the evil one? It's very simple, if they don't line up with what God's word says, you need to "cast them out" and not accept them. When it says "**casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God**" it means ANY thoughts, suggestions or teachings from ANYONE that are contrary to what God's word says.

**Weapon No. 4 - Fasting & Prayer** — After you have done everything in the steps above, if you need a breakthrough, if old habits are still not conquered, or if old problems keep clinging to you, you may need to fast. **Prayer together with fasting** is especially effective for breaking down strongholds that have been in your life for a long time. Some kinds of demonic oppression can only be overcome by prayer and FASTING.

•**Mark 9:28-29** "..... 'Why could we not cast him (the demon) out?' So He said to them, '**This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and FASTING.**'"

## Warning!!

If you have been involved in any of the activities controlled by Satan and have NOT been willing to give them up and really repent of them, you will not be able to do spiritual warfare. **You are still in the enemy's territory!** Don't think you can call the psychic hotline one minute, and then resist the devil or do any kind of warfare the next. Don't think you can be involved in adultery or fornication (that's old fashioned language for ANY kind of sex outside of marriage) and be successful in spiritual warfare. If you have truly repented and left all this behind you, and these things are all in your PAST, that's okay. I'm talking about Christians who want to straddle the fence - who are double-minded! James says "**PURIFY your HEARTS, you DOUBLE-MINDED.**" Being DOUBLE-MINDED means you are still entertaining some of the devil's thoughts or just your own SELFISH thoughts, and **your mind and heart** are not completely the Lord's. Also, don't keep things around "just in case" you might want to go back to them. **CLEAN HOUSE! Get rid of all OBJECTS** associated with sinful or idolatrous practices: religious or superstitious charms (rosaries, New Age crystals, etc.), incense, religious statues, drug paraphernalia, that bottle of booze hidden away somewhere, pictures, magazines, books, tapes, etc. (See Acts 19:13-20; Romans 13:14)

•**Deut. 7:25-26** "The graven images of their gods you are to BURN WITH FIRE, you shall not covet (desire to keep) the gold or the silver that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be SNARED BY IT (contaminated by it), for it is an abomination to the Lord your God. And you shall NOT bring an abomination into your house and become a CURSED THING like it; you shall utterly abhor it, for it is a CURSED (contaminated) thing." (See I Cor. 10:14-21; Psalm 106:37-38)

•**Deut. 18:9-14** ".....you shall NOT learn to imitate the **detestable** things of those nations. There shall NOT be found among you anyone who makes his son or daughter pass through the fire (human sacrifice), or one who uses divination (FORTUNE TELLING), or one who practices WITCHCRAFT, or one who interprets omens (ASTROLOGER), or a sorcerer, or one who casts a spell, or one who CONSULTS with FAMILIAR SPIRITS (PSYCHICS, New Age channelers), or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead (SEANCES). For whoever does these things is **DETESTABLE to the Lord**.....but as for you, the Lord your God has NOT ALLOWED you to do so."

•**Acts 19:18-19** "Many also of those who had believed (in Jesus) kept coming, **confessing and disclosing their practices**. And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began BURNING THEM in the sight of all, and they counted up the price of them and found it to be 50,000 pieces of silver."