

6 9 20

Fit for battle – Pt 4 NT armour– TAKE the shield, helmet & sword

This is our fourth study on the topic – fit for battle. In our previous teaching we established – (1) to be fit for battle we should put on the whole armour of God, and (2) to be fit for battle – we are to STAND therefore, having our loins girt with truth, having on the breastplate of righteousness and our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. In this study we establish – (1) For soldiers to be fit for battle we need to purposefully TAKE – (i) the shield of faith, (ii) the helmet of salvation, & (iii) the sword of the Spirit, and (2) to be fit for battle we need to pray and watch.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. To be fit for battle we need to purposefully TAKE –

i) the shield of faith

“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked” (Eph.6: 16).

ii) the helmet of salvation

“And take the helmet of salvation...” (Eph.6: 17).

iii) the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God

“take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (verse 17).

2. To be fit for battle we need to pray and watch for all saints

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (Eph.6: 18).

Illustration to help apply the teaching to our life.

When Karen and I were at BCNZ, now Laidlaw College there were young believers that come in our second year and left because the lectures taught about the scholars understanding of scripture rather than teaching what scripture says. Students entered college with a faith in God’s word (albeit) in a corrupt copy and left with the skills to critique the text.

Question to think about.

What are the fruits of a sword (which is the word of God) that is a combination of books, texts and versions that say different things?

Our answer from the scriptures.

When a Christian soldier stands he does so and TAKES –

i) The shield of faith – There is a link between the word of God and faith – “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom.10: 17). So, if the “word of God we use is corrupt, or a multitude of various books which remove the need for believers to live **by the faith of** the Son of God, as the GNB does, which reads “I live by **faith in** the Son of God”, then the faith of the believer will always be on shaky ground. Their shield will be weak or non-existent!

ii) The sword of the Spirit is the “word of God” – so if the “word of God” we use is a corrupt counterfeit copy, or is a multitude of various books then the soldier is unable to say as Christ did – “It is written” (Lk.4: 1). Therefore, their sword will be either flimsy or non-existent.

Let us remember – to be fit for battle we need to stand and TAKE the word of God with one hand, and the helmet of salvation in the other and once our head is protected by the helmet our second hand is free to TAKE the shield of faith to protect our heart from the fiery darts of the wicked.