

The ARMOR of GOD

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might” (Eph. 6:10).

(1) The Need for Strength

(2) The Source of Strength

The First Act of Faith:

**A Settled Persuasion that God is
Almighty In Power**

**“I remember your name in the night,
O LORD” (Ps. 119:55).**

The Second Act of Faith:

**A Settled Persuasion that God's Power
is Engaged on Our Behalf**

God is “on our side” (Ps. 124:1).

“There are no sins God’s people are more subject to than unbelief and impatience.”

Thomas Watson

(1) Present Circumstances

**“And we know that for those who love
God all things work together for good,
for those who are called according to his
purpose” (Rom. 8:28).**

(2) Final Salvation

**“By God’s power [we] are being guarded
through faith for a salvation ready to be
revealed in the last time”
(1 Peter 1:5).**



The Belt of Truth:
Overcoming Hypocrisy with Sincerity

The **ARMOR** of GOD



The Breastplate of Righteousness:
Overcoming Iniquity with Purity

The **ARMOR** of **GOD**



The Shield:
Overcoming Doubt with Faith

The **ARMOR** of **GOD**



The Helmet:
Overcoming Despair with Hope

The **ARMOR** of **GOD**

**“The flaming darts of the evil one”
(Eph. 6:16).**

Satan launches two main attacks,
aiming to replace ...

- *faith with doubt*

- *hope with despair*

... thereby destabilizing the believer.



See Matt. 4:1–11.

“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:1–3).

The Shield:
Overcoming Doubt with Faith

The **ARMOR** of **GOD**

**“What then shall we say to these things?”
(Rom. 8:31)**

Paul answers his question with four questions.

Question 1:

**“If God is for us, who can be against us?”
(Rom. 8:31).**

Lesson 1:

There's no opposition to God's power.

**“I know that you can do all things, and
that no purpose of yours can be thwarted”
(Job 42:2).**

“God’s dominion is total. He wills as He chooses and carries out all that He wills, and none can stay His hand or thwart His plans.”

J. I. Packer

Objection: “What about Satan?”

Answer:

(1) Satan's power is *derived*.

“He has power not in himself, but by permission from God.”

- William Gurnall

Satan is “the prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2). He can command storms and destroy cities.

But we must never forget that he is chained by God power. He’s a mere creature, and thus he has no power apart from what God grants him.

(2) Satan's power is *limited*.

**“He cannot do what he will, and he shall
not do what he can.”**

- William Gurnall

Satan's power is restricted to what God wants. E.g., he must seek God's permission to assail Job. It's God alone who declares, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand" (Job 1:12). Satan could go no further than God allowed him.

(3) Satan's power is *ministerial*.

“It is appointed by God for the service
and benefit of the saints.”

- William Gurnall

**Satan's power is always subservient to
God's perfect will for His people.**

“He who has given heaven for your inheritance has given you the world with all its afflictions, yea, its prince with all his wrath and power.”

- William Gurnall

Question 2:

“He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” (Rom. 8:32)

Lesson 2:

There's no limitation to God's grace.

The first fact:
God didn't spare His own Son

See Genesis 22.

“For Christ to complete His work of redemption, He had to be forsaken. He had to receive the curse of the Father in His own person. The Father had to cover His face and not let Jesus see the light of His countenance.”

R. C. Sproul

The second fact:
God gave Him up for us all

Christ bears God's wrath as He hangs on the cross (Rom. 3:24).

Penal: Christ paid a penalty.

Substitutionary: Christ paid a penalty on our behalf.

Sacrifice: Christ paid a penalty to God.

The Conclusion

**“In giving His Son, He gave everything.
The cross is the guarantee of the
continuing, unfailing generosity of God.”**

John Stott

Objection: “I must do my part!”

Answer:

Christ is an all-sufficient Savior.

**Because of the incomparable dignity of
Christ's person, His offering is of
inestimable value.**

**At His resurrection, Christ was justified,
acquitted, and cleared of all charges and
accusations. God can no longer require
anything from us.**

Question 3:

**“Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died — more than that, who was raised — who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us”
(Rom. 8:33–34).**

Lesson 3:

There's no alteration to God's justice.

Crucifixion: He's the one who died.

Resurrection: He's the one who was
raised.

Intercession: He's the one who is
interceding for us.

Objection: “My sin is too great!”

Answer:

See Joshua in Zech. 3.

Satan accuses: “You’ve succumbed to that sin again. You repented of it a few months ago. That makes your repentance meaningless. You’re a hypocrite.”

The presence of sin

vs.

The dominance of sin



Satan accuses: “Your affections are so cold. If you’re one with Christ, then why don’t you evidence greater delight in God. Your lack of these affections can only mean one thing: You’re a hypocrite.”

A moment in time

vs.

A period of time

Satan accuses: “You’ve been struggling to pray and study in private, yet you attend all the church meetings. If you were sincere, you’d be more consistent in your private pursuit of God. You’re a hypocrite.”

Struggle

vs.

Neglect

Question 4:

**“Who shall separate us from the love of
Christ?” (Rom. 8:35)**

Lesson 4:

There's no separation from God's love.

Objection: “My love is too weak!”

Answer

“God does not love us because we are lovely. He loves us because Christ is lovely. He loves us in Christ.”

R. C. Sproul



The Helmet:
Overcoming Despair with Hope

The **ARMOR** of **GOD**

Hope is the life-changing certainty that
someday we'll have all that God
has promised.

1. Hope is fueled by the conviction that God can do what He has promised (Rom. 4:18–21).

God gives Abraham a *promise*.

He believes *against hope*.

He believes *in hope*.



2. Hope is rooted in the assurance that we have peace with God through Christ (Rom. 5:1–11).

We have peace with God.

It's attained through Christ.

It's the foundation of hope.

3. Hope is fixed on the glory that will be revealed to us (Rom. 8:16–25).

Past Subjection (v. 20)
Future Liberation (v. 21)
Present Anticipation (v. 22)

We groan inwardly (v. 23)
We wait eagerly (v. 23)
We hope patiently (vv. 24–25)

4. Hope is cultivated through the encouragement of the Scriptures (Rom. 15:4).

Commands

Doctrines

Examples

Principles

Promises

5. Hope abounds by the power of the
Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:13).

Hope “is a sure and
steadfast anchor of
the soul” (Heb. 6:19).



**“Take hold of the eternal life to which
you were called” (1 Tim. 6:12).**

Fix your eyes on Christ's coming.

Fill your mind with God's promises.

**Shape your perspective according to
Christ's present reign.**

Let go of everything that loosens your
grip on eternal life.

**Guard your heart from all that dampens
hope.**

**Entrust your circumstances to God who
uses them according to His will.**

Find your ultimate joy in Christ.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope” (Rom. 15:13).