

106 J. armor of God.

We're all human, we're physically weak & frail, but we do not have to be weak in the spirit. The spiritual weapons we use in warfare have divine power to destroy strongholds. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God, to cast down strongholds, imaginations & every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God & bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ & having ready the vengeance against all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

We cannot expect to use carnal weapons e.g. coping mechanisms such as drugs, sex & alcohol, TV over the Bible, complaining, judging, self pity etc. to win the wars taking place in our minds. But, we can find victory over our struggles, when we ditch carnal weapons & pick up spiritual ones that Ephesians 6 tells us, such as the whole armor of God, which helps us to stand against the schemes of the devil, as we do not fight against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places, Ephesians 6:12.

We're not fighting against ourselves, or our neighbors, or our coworkers, or our frenemies, or our siblings, or our parents; we are fighting against our only enemy, satan, we do not put on our armor to go to war against other people, but to go to war for ourselves & people against the enemy. 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 firm, now Satan will try to place obstacles in our path, but in Jesus' strength we can walk forward, following our Lord, obeying Him, advancing the gospel.

Prayer brings you into communion and fellowship with God so that His armor can protect you. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, Romans 13:14. When you give yourself to Jesus & put on His righteousness, you are clothed in the whole armor of God, where even the weakest of His children is more than a match for Satan. In Jesus, clothed in God's invincible armor, you will be strong in the Lord & in the power of His might. You will be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, Ephesians 6:10, 11.

Choosing wisely on what armor to wear will truly change & save your life. The full armor of God is not just an analogy, or extended metaphor, it is truly a God adorned spiritual armor of life, light & righteousness, that all truly need, to protect self against the principalities & powers & evil worldly governors & the spiritual wickedness, that the prince of darkness brings to this world & who came to steal, kill & destroy all, but God offers believers, life in abundance John 10:10.

The full armor of God in Ephesians 6:11, will guide believers in truth & safety, as the unprotected, unsaved will never, regardless of who they think they are, will never! have a chance & will not be able to stand against the evil powers of satans demonic team of fallen angels, without the armor that the enemy is trying to hide, but which is readily available 2 all believers, 2 survive not just what's coming but what's already here.

We all need to spiritually polish/pray upon this armor every day & night, which starts with placement of the spiritual helmet of salvation, to protect our mind & spirit & all the wisdom & other important things that God has placed within our brain, for when needed. Polish up on what a

spiritual helmet & mindset stands 4, as having the mind of Christ & the will of God, which you need operating all day long, will block anything satan throws at you, to affect your mindset, as this protective spiritual armor cannot be penetrated by the evil thoughts that want to tear your life, family & faith apart.

As you continue preparing you must attach the breastplate of righteousness, the righteousness of Christ, that piece of armor that when you get up & satan fires that first dart at your heart, it will bounce off that armor that protects, your lifeline & allows you to be used by God, 4 good things.

U will also need to wear the belt of truth, knowing that it is not just your truth, that it is displaying, it is the truth of God that you need, to remind you, that before you speak, stop & think, are you being led by your beliefs, or by the truth of God. Don't speak gossip, opinions, judgments, or things that you believe, or were taught without proving & may not be 100% fact proven truths of God, walk & talk by the truth of God alone. Now you also need, your inner spiritual feet, shod with the sandals & gospel of peace, for once you have this spiritual protection & understanding, you need to be able to take it to others, you need motivation, wisdom & peace to be moving forward & taking you out into the world & taking the gospel & truths of Christ to the world, while teaching others on the importance of this armor. Now you will also need the spiritual shield of faith, as that shield will block all fiery darts that the evil ones fire at you, that faith comes from the true faith that Christ has in His Father & Gifted to us, so we need to accept Christ's faith, to discover what true faith in God can actually accomplish, including maturely & peacefully bypassing, all these darts of, Gossip, lies, anger, attitudes, cursing, temptations & all other negative things that try to

steal your joy, daily & now along with the armor, we must carry the all important, all powerful, sword of the spirit, (the Bible & word of God) as God's word is quick, powerful & mightier than any 2 edged sword Hebr. 4:12 & U truly need to be able to use it, fully & truthfully, as the sword of the spirit & the belt of truth work together in harmony & nowadays you can grab your phone & Google, what does God truthfully say about such & such & can use that, to use your Sword in an honorable way, through truth, while being reminded that we are not fighting against flesh & blood, but against the Spiritual powers & darkness, from the one, who in hebrews 6:12, came to steal, kill & destroy every single person & soul that He can, as satan hates God with a passion & we were created in the image of God, so every single one of us that satan looks at, believers & non believers & good & evil alike, he wants to destroy, as he sees the image of the one who will imprison him, in the fiery pit, for ever. Which is a big warning to the satan worshippers, as no matter how much you do for him, while thinking your following him, he still will fulfill his mission & one day will turn on you & steal your joy, destroy your life & will kill U, so it may be a good time to come over to the winning, saved side & think about that armor that God is holding for U.

So once again I say thank you & I do pray that you seek & find all God's blessings & protection for your life & I pray it in Jesus name. Amen & invite U 2 watch for many great upcoming messages & U can find us @ youarenotaloneyouareamazing.com

he Bible tells us to take every thought captive, 2 Corinthians 10:5. That means that I have a chance to do something about all thoughts that are not well-pleasing to God, before they enter my heart and become a part of me, as a man thinks, so is he, Proverbs 23:7. We're not fighting for victory, we're fighting from victory.

Spiritual strongholds in our minds fortified “castles” that the enemy occupies & controls us from. Strongholds are built by negative thoughts & belief systems. This is why we need to take our thoughts captive – to break down strongholds & to prevent new ones from being built.

take our thoughts captive?

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, 2 Corinth 10:5.

Thoughts build strongholds in our minds that the enemy uses to oppress us. So, we take our thoughts captive so that he has no foothold in our lives.

We know that ideologies can be used as weapons, so it’s no surprise that the enemy has been using them to wage war against us. Our entire Christian walk is based on faith & belief. If the enemy can get us to believe a lie, he can shake the foundations of our faith. The thing is, he doesn’t often come with one gigantic blow. He comes little by little & builds his lies in our hearts, crippling us before we ever knew what happened. The sum of those lies become spiritual strongholds in our minds, or a safe place for the enemy to hang out and control us from.

Taking thoughts captive means that we refuse to let any lie to build a spiritual stronghold in our mind.

Watch your thoughts, for they become words. Watch your words, for they become actions. Watch your actions, for they become habits. Watch your habits, for they become character.

Thoughts spark emotions & drive decisions to take action, or no action. Whether we realize it or not, our thoughts are very much linked to our reality.

Every thought we have causes neurochemical changes in our brain. There's no such thing as a random thought. Even the smallest thought is a big deal.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Philipp 4:8, Paul told us to think of true, honorable, pure & lovely things. We fight back in the Spirit by allowing our minds to be transformed by Christ, Romans 12:2, We think of Christ, his word, and his truth to war against the enemy.

Spiritual warfare begins in our minds, Get Out of Your Head & stop the toxic thinking as the greatest spiritual battle of is being fought between our ears.

We often think that spiritual warfare is somewhere out there waiting to be fought. But, we fight the enemy & can pull down his tactics by allowing our minds to be renewed daily.

We're showing up to the wrong battlefield for a fight that's taking place in our minds.

Instead of addressing what is going on within us, we try to control everything around us. The truth is, we can only control ourselves.

We would be so much more victorious if we used God's spiritual weapons to fight the enemy attacking our minds.

Spiritual warfare requires spiritual weapons. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

Paul says even though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh, 2 Corinthians 10:3. We're human, but we do not have to be weak as the spiritual weapons we use in warfare have divine power to destroy strongholds.

We're often guilty of trying to use carnal weapons to fight the war that's taking place in our minds. We may not be using manipulative & deceitful methods but maybe we're using coping mechanisms such as drugs, sex, and alcohol. Maybe we're numbing our struggle by binge-watching TV, instead of picking up our Bibles, maybe we fight by complaining endlessly to our circle of friends. But, if we want victory over our struggles, we have to renounce our carnal weapons & pick up spiritual ones.

What are the spiritual weapons we should be using? Ephesians 6 tells us about, the whole armor of God, which helps us to stand against the schemes of the devil. Here Paul reiterates that we do not fight against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places, Ephes 6:12.

We're not fighting against ourselves, or our neighbors, or our coworkers, or our frenemies, or our siblings, or our parents, we are fighting against the devil. He is our only enemy. We're not putting on our armor to go to war against ourselves or other people. We put on our armor to go to war for ourselves & our people against the enemy.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day & having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth & breastplate of righteousness & shoes of sharing peace on your feet & in all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one & put on the helmet of salvation, & the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with prayer & supplication.

How do we take our thoughts captive and destroy spiritual strongholds
The enemy fights us by speaking lies, we need truth as our foundation, if we want to win the battle against him. If we don't have truth, no other weapon in the armor will be able to help us in our fight. Hebrews 4:12, The word of God is powerful enough to break down the most fortified strongholds. We take our thoughts captive and destroy strongholds by having the right foundation of truth, walking in faith, and standing on the word.

We simply repeat this process for every negative thought we experience. The thing is, strongholds take time to come down. A well-fortified wall doesn't just come down in a day. But we remain persistent in believing God, consuming his word, and submitting our thoughts in prayer.

I pray that it was helpful for you. I hope that you feel motivated to fight. You are a victor through Christ. Believing that will change everything for

you. Learn how to use the spiritual weapons God has given you. Go to war on behalf of yourself, your family, and your friends. This battle is not an easy one, but remember, you already have victory. Believe the word of the Lord & reject the lies of the enemy.

The sword of the spirit is the only weapon of offense listed in the armor of God. All the other parts are defensive in nature. God's Word—the Bible—is described as “living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword” (Hebrews 4:12). Jesus used this weapon when Satan tempted Him in the wilderness. To each of Satan's efforts to lead Him into sin, Jesus replied, “it is written. . . .” and proceeded to quote Scripture to destroy Satan's temptations. God's Word is truth (John 17:17). That is why it is so powerful. That is why it is so important that we study the Bible and become familiar with its truths and its power. David wrote, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105). The sword of God's Word both protects us and destroys our enemy—the devil and his temptations