

PASTOR'S PEN
Overcoming Adversities of Life

The most rewarding of all practical lessons that can be experienced, is the exercising of ones faith in embracing the spiritual provisions of armor afforded to God's children, for the purpose of overcoming the many adversities of life. There are many testimonies recorded in the word of God documenting the many triumphs and victories proclaimed by those who have trusted in His spiritual armament to conquer the evil forces of nature.

In the Ephesians epistle, the Apostle Paul states (from the Greek Text) "Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness" (Eph. 6:14). Here the need for the believer to stand firm is emphasized. Observe the usage of the imperative mood, commanding God's people to stand firm and unmovable. Note the Greek participle "oon", translated "therefore"; it implies that with God's provision of adequate armor, believers are ordered to stand. The inference is that regardless of how fierce the enemy may be, there are no alternatives, God's elect are to unflinchingly stand (II Corth. 1: 24).

In this verse (Eph. 6:14), Paul begins to describe the various parts of spiritual armor and the figurative positioning of them on the believer's body. The first piece of spiritual armor identified is "ahl-eeth-ee-ah", rendered "truth". The thought is that as we have our loins girded with truth or in the sphere of truth, we can undoubtedly stand in the midst of trouble. Here Paul's usage of the Greek word "ahl-eeth-ee-ah", (truth), refers to the truth revealed to him for the Church (Gal. 1:12; Eph. 3:2-9). This message or volume of truth is what we are be girded with as indicated by the locative case of the Greek phrase "ehn ahl-eeth-ee-ah" (the truth). The essence of this information is that God's people are enabled to stand as we are endowed, encircled or supported in the sphere of God's word.

The second piece of spiritual armor which believers are to put on is "theek-eh-os-een-ees", rendered "righteousness". This aorist participle indicates that believers are to be those who "have put on the breastplate of righteousness". This term "righteousness" refers to that which is

“apart from the Law or works” (Rom. 3:21; 4:6), thus that which is out of faith and God (Rom 9:30; Phil. 3:9). This is a righteousness which God freely gives to His elect on the basis of faith in Christ (II Corth. 5:21; Eph. 2:8). Hence we are to be clothed in the perfect righteousness of Christ as the figurative expression “breastplate” indicates. In Thess. 5:8, the substance of the breastplate is “faith and love”.

The Grace Gospel Church Ministry believes and teaches that God’s people have more than significant provisions, to not only survive but triumph over all the contentious forces of spiritual evil. As we are properly “armed” or “clothed” and “endowed” with the spiritual armament of God, i.e., truth and righteousness, we are empowered with spiritual weapons far superior to that of our adversaries (II Corth. 10:4).