

Chapter



Part 2

(v10-24)

Would you believe me if I told you that
we are at war today and everyday?



It's hard to believe because most days
feel relatively peaceful and calm.



But the truth is, we are in the midst of a major, deadly, eternal battle and the war is raging all around us.



Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. 1 Pet 5:8

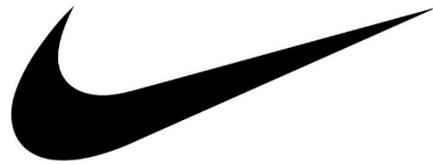


“...stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.” Eph 6:11b-12

We must realize that
Satan is **strategizing** on
how to **destroy** each and
every one of us.

He is *scheming* and trying to discover where you are the weakest & most vulnerable and he is planning to *devour* you.

However, many of us are too busy worrying about **life-luxury-comfort-entertainment** to take it seriously.



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There is an incredible, eternal,
spiritual battle going on all
around us each and every day.

But this is our daily battle face...



In fact, many Christians are
so sucked into this world that
they don't even realize there is
a battle going on...

...or that the things they are running around chasing, living for & worrying about are the very things Satan is using to defeat them.

Many Christians seem to be more concerned about squabbling with each other over personal **preferences** and theological **positions** than they are of defeating the devil and rallying together against him.

Likewise, many Christians don't have the spiritual understanding to know that Satan is using their little '*preferences*' and '*offenses*' as tools to help **defeat** another Christian!

In the final half of Ephesians 6,
Paul gives clear instruction on how
we should go about *defending*
ourselves in the midst of this war.

*A final word: Be strong in the Lord
and in his mighty power. Put on all
of God's armor so that you will be
able to stand firm against all
strategies of the devil. (v10-11)*

The first thing that Paul says is that believers should rely on God's **power** in this spiritual war against these unseen **principalities**.

For we are not fighting against flesh and blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. (v12)

Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. (v13)

The second thing Paul says is that God has **provided** certain armor to help **protect** the believer from the attacks of Satan.

Paul begins by laying out
6 pieces of Defense Armor
available to the believer.

Belt of Truth



*Stand your ground, putting on the
belt of truth and the body armor
of God's righteousness. (v14)*

*In modern military uniforms
the **belt** is used to
(1) hold up the soldier's
pants and (2) carry most of
the soldier's weapons.
In ancient times the **belt**
was just as important.*



*The **belt** would hold up the lower half of the soldier's tunic so that he could run/move freely.*



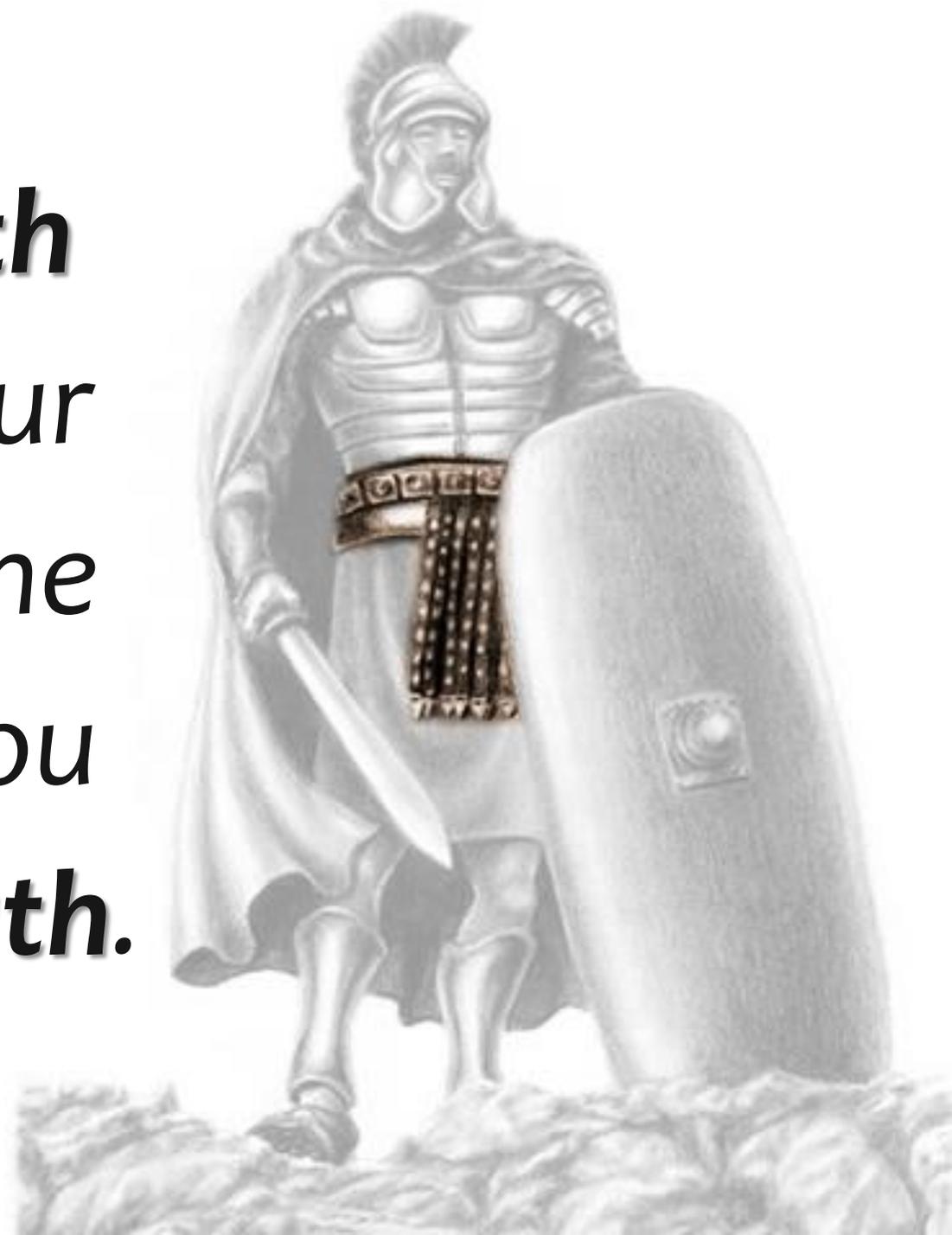
*The **belt** also served as the lower strap of the breastplate, which held it in place against the soldier's body. And like modern **belts**, the ancient **belt** was used to hold a sword or dagger.*



*Essentially Paul is saying
that the **truth** is what holds
everything together.
Every other weapon hinges
upon the **truth**.*



*That is; how much **truth** you are getting into your life, what you believe the **truth** to be, and how you live according to the **truth**.*

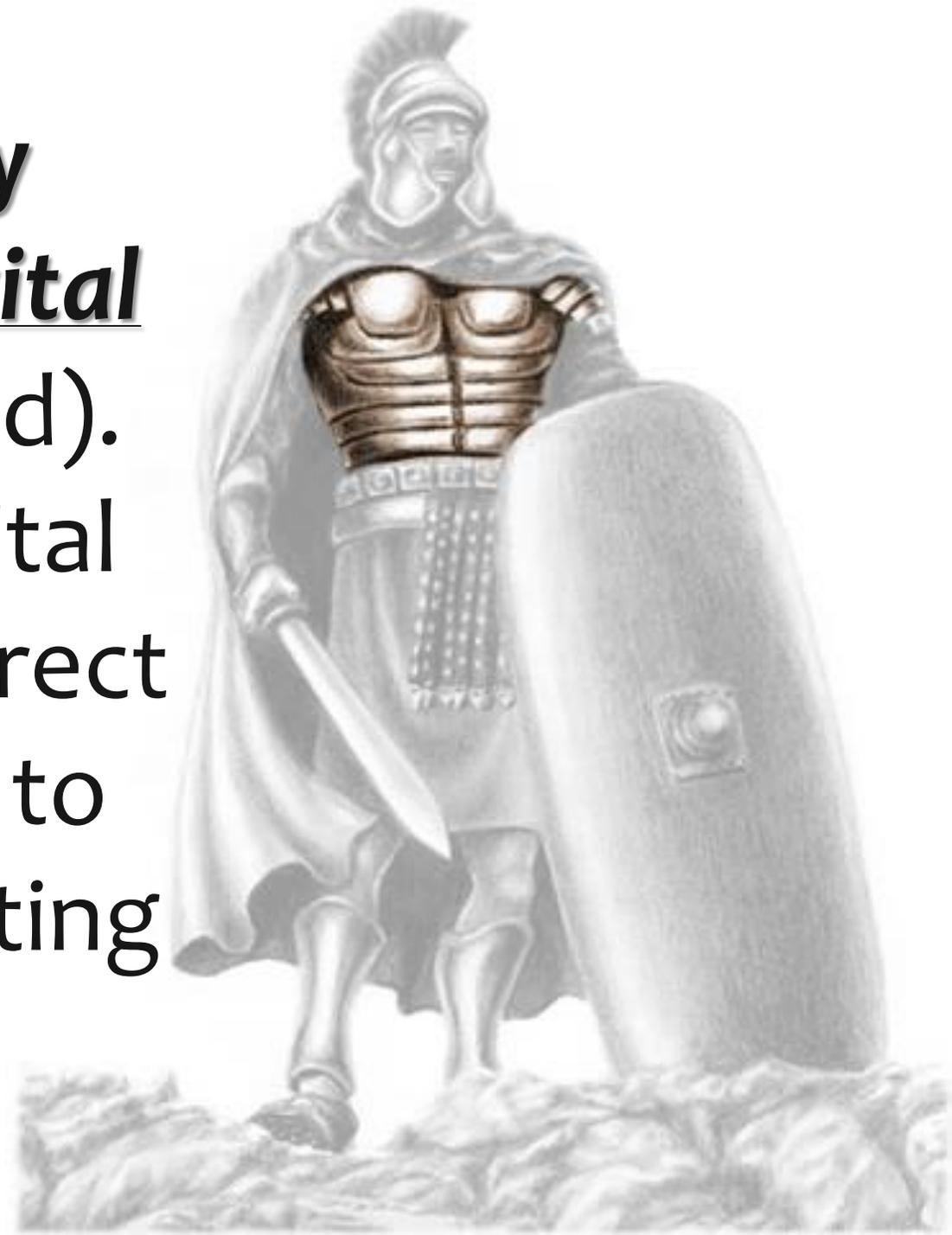


Body Armor of God's Righteousness



*Stand your ground, putting on the
belt of truth and **the body armor
of God's righteousness.** (v14)*

The **breast plate**, or **body armor**, protects the most **vital** parts of the body (non head). It protects the heart and vital organs. A soldier taking a direct hit with an arrow or bullet to that area would be devastating if not fatal.



What protects this highly
sensitive spiritual area
in the life of the believer?

God's own **righteousness** and
knowledge and **confidence**
in God's own **righteousness**.



This shows that Satan's strategies will be to cause us to;

1. Doubt our salvation

2. Doubt our eternal position

3. Strive to be right on our own



Shoes of Peace

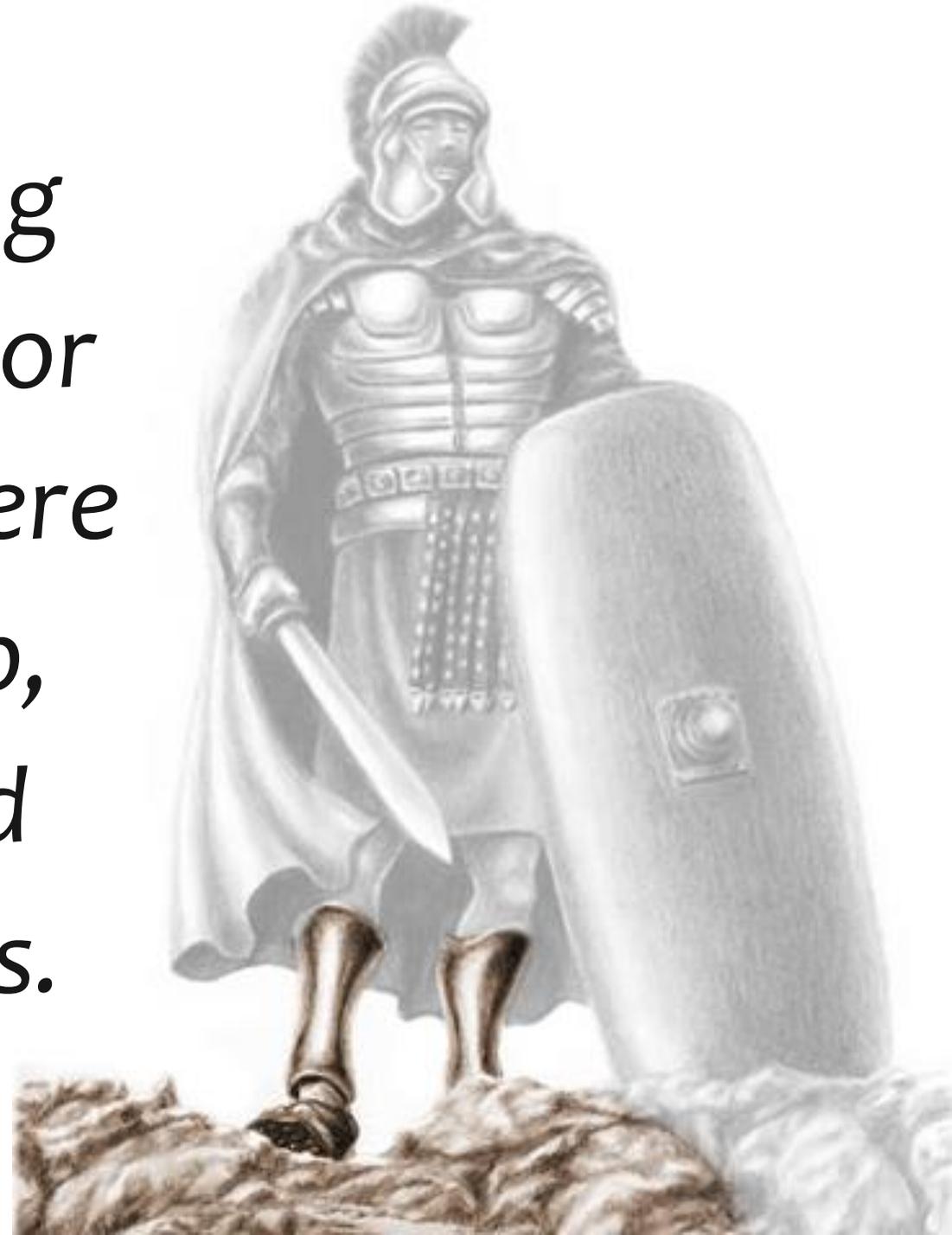


For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. (v15-16)

*In any era the soldier's shoes are very important.
But especially in ancient
Israel's day.*



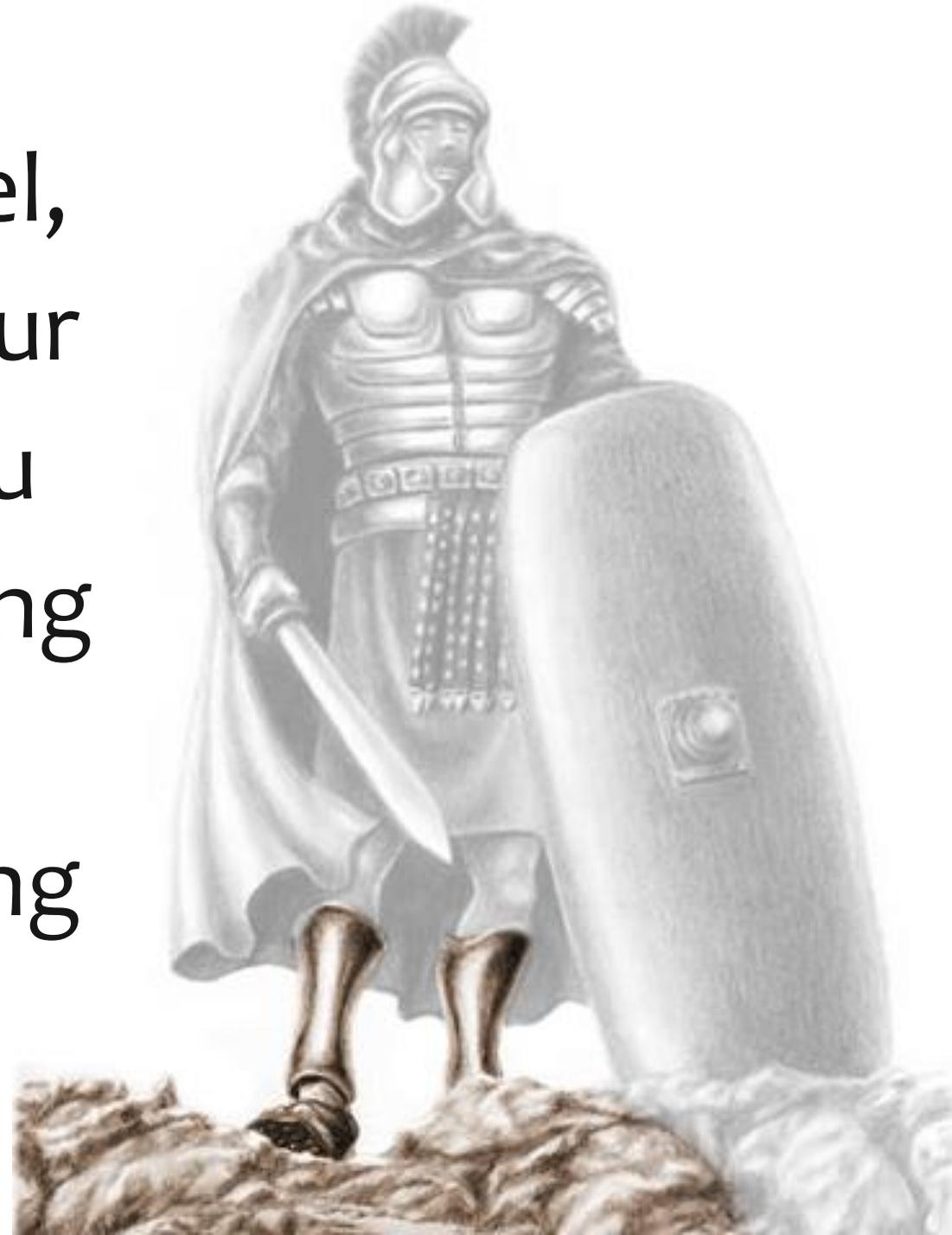
Soldiers were not marching over the hills of Tennessee or the plains of Texas. They were marching over hard, sharp, rocky mountains tops and burning hot dessert spaces.



What is the opposite of peace?
Agitation, distress, upset,
worry. Paul says this **peace**
comes from the Good News.



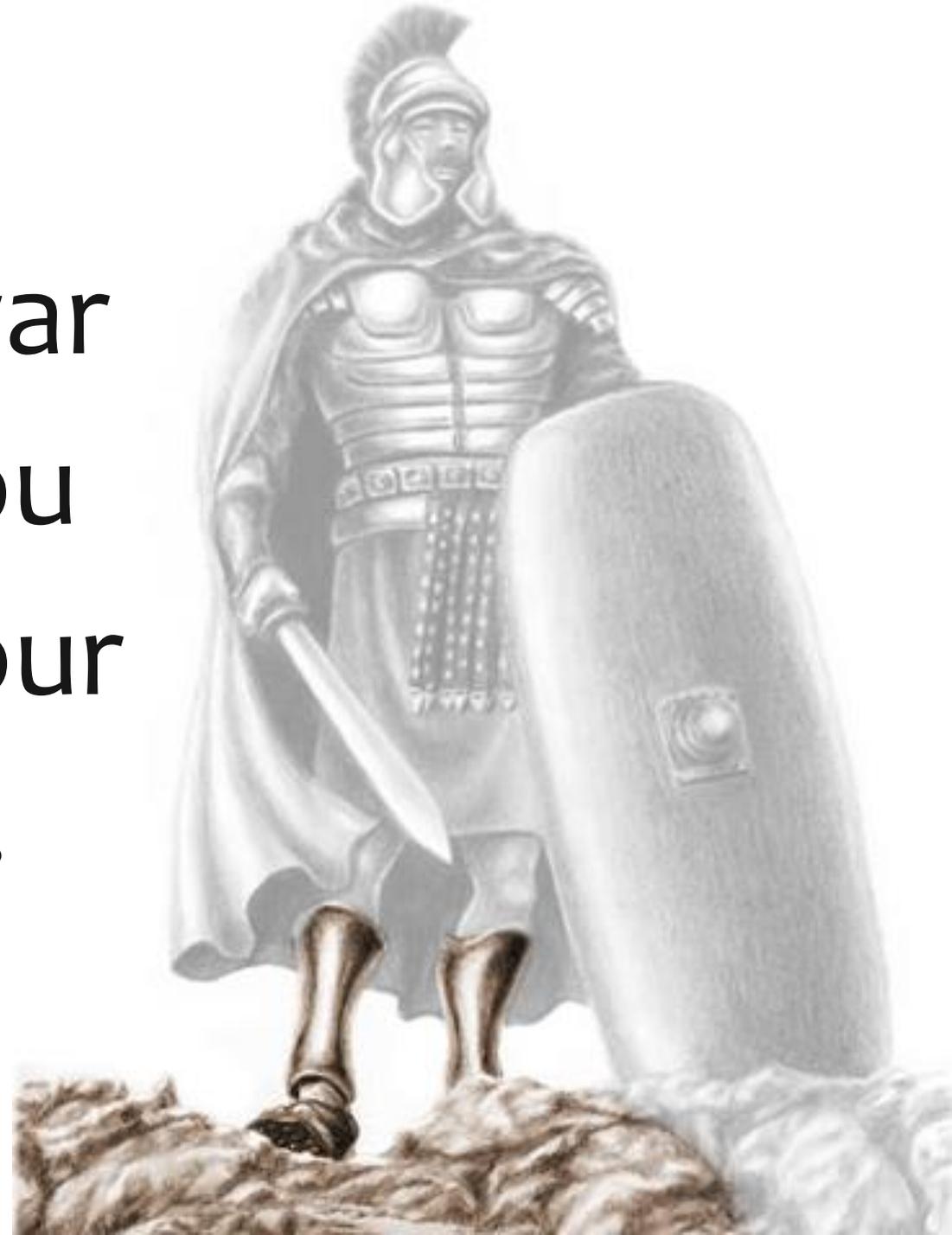
If you don't know the gospel,
& correct doctrine about your
salvation and the **peace** you
have with God... you are going
to be scrambling around
worried, distressed and trying
to earn **peace** with God.



Satan wants you doubting
your **peace** with God
and beating yourself up
and working hard to
gain **peace** with God
(which you already have).



You can only win the war
against Satan when you
have firm footing on your
own **peace** with God.



Shield of Faith



*For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, **hold up the shield of faith** to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. (v15-16)*

Every part of the soldier's armor is important, but the **shield** may be the most important. No matter how thick your helmet is, or how strong your breast plate is...



No one ever wants to
take an arrow or bullet to
the head or chest...

And the **shield** is a
“force field”
of protection from all
those hits.



Simply defined, **faith** is belief and trust. It is believing that what God says is true and it is trusting in the truthfulness and goodness of what God says. It is taking God at His Word. And have confidence in him and his **WORD**.



Therefore the shield that we are to hold out in front of us to stop Satan's assault is **faith**. **Faith** in the Word of God, **faith** in the things that God has said and promises to do.

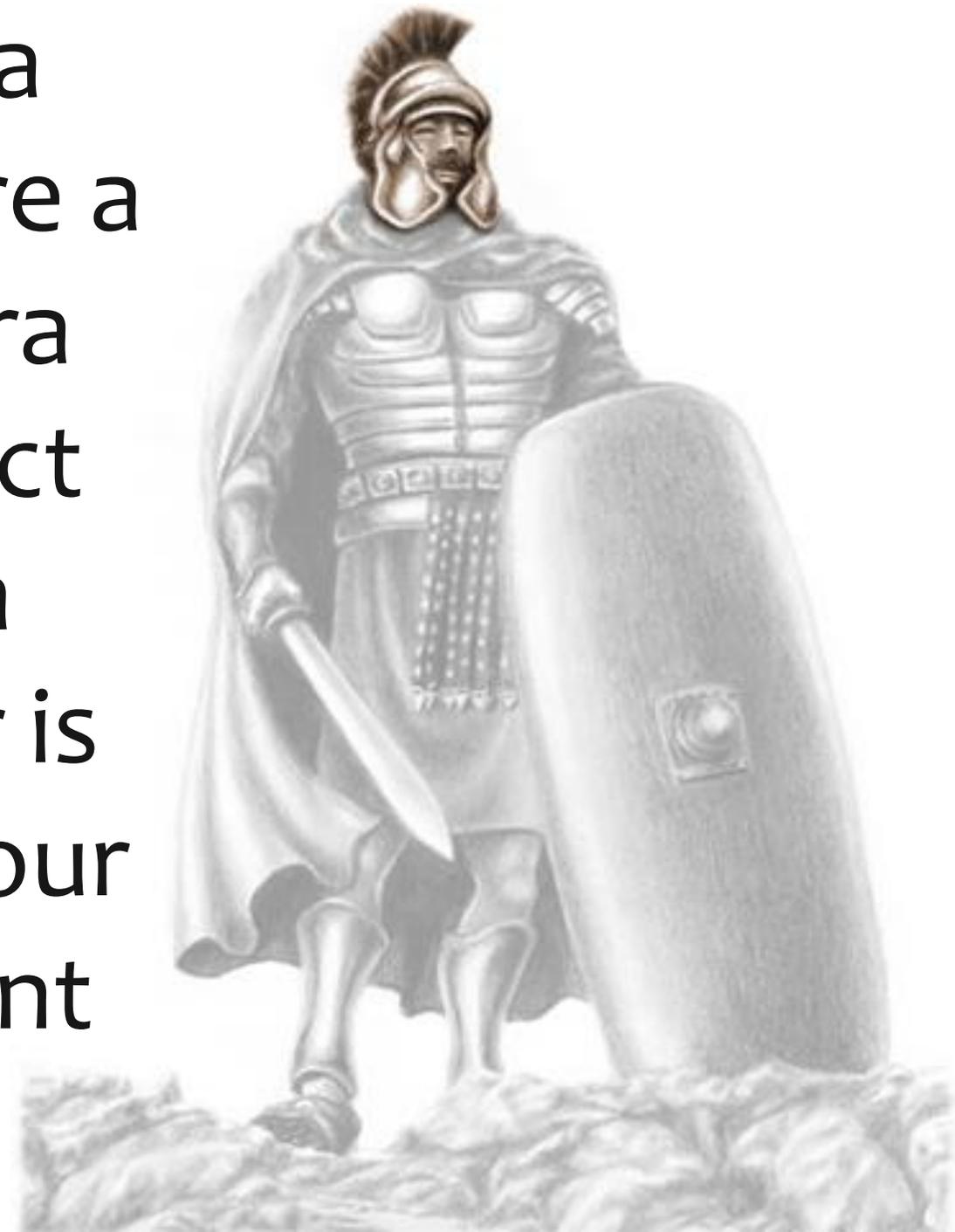


Helmet of Salvation



*Put on salvation as your helmet,
and take the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God. (v17)*

You can't last long with a blow to the head. If you are a soldier, no matter that era you are fighting in: a direct blow to the head with a bullet-sword-arrow-spear is fatal. The battle is over. Your head is the most important part of your body.



In order to obtain the **helmet** of salvation you must be saved. That is; that you have come to a full confidence in the finished work of Christ through his death & resurrection.



However, the **helmet** will
grow in its **strength**,
thickness and ability to take
a direct hit when your
understanding of and
confidence in the truths of
your **salvation** grow.



Satan wants to destroy your confidence in your salvation.

He wants to destroy your confidence in your holy standing before God.

Therefore he will lob all kinds of doubts towards you.



Sword of the Spirit



*Put on salvation as your helmet,
and take the **sword of the Spirit,**
which is **the word of God.** (v17)*

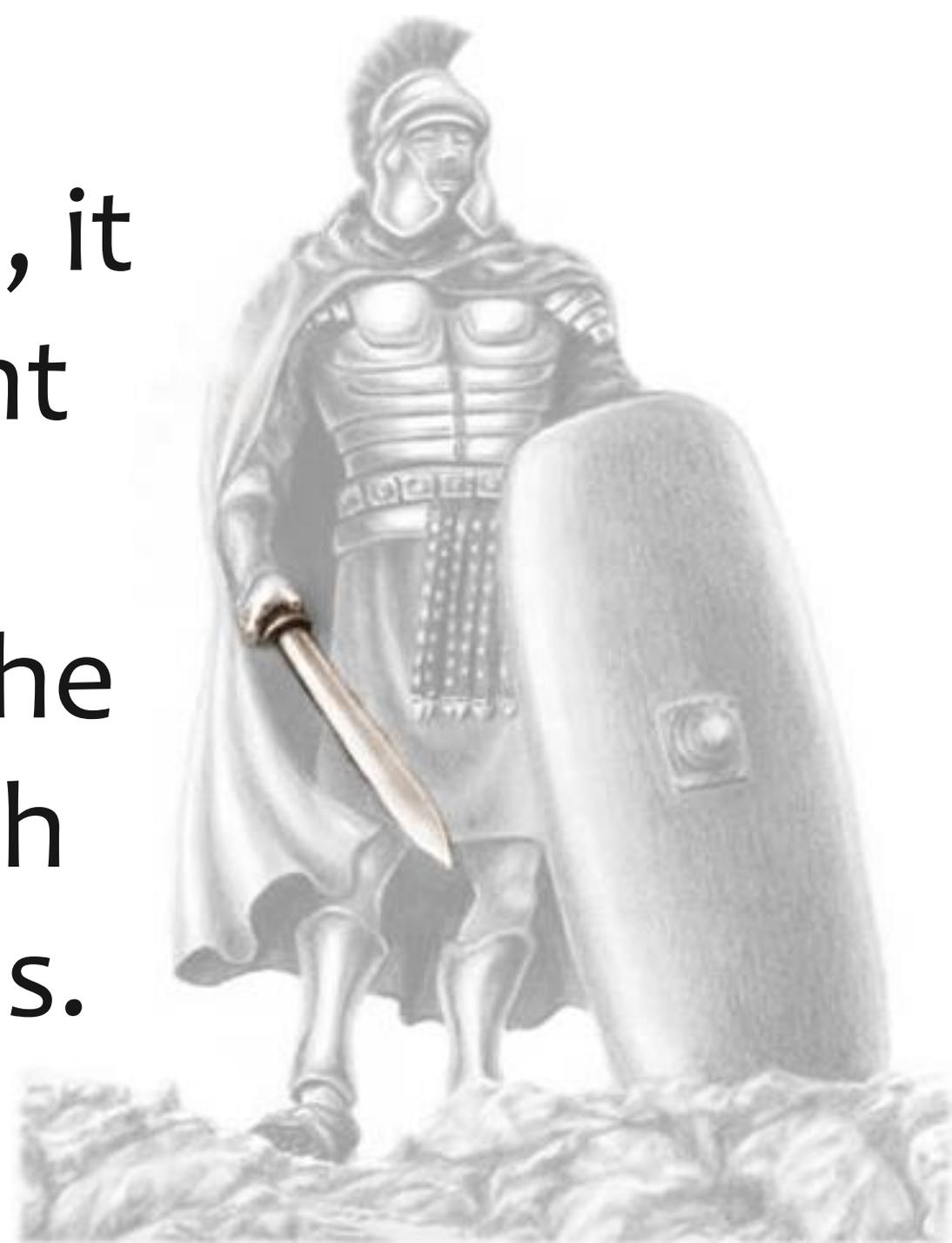
The **sword** can defend and it can attack. The **sword** is primarily an offensive weapon but it can also defend close range blows from other sharp objects.



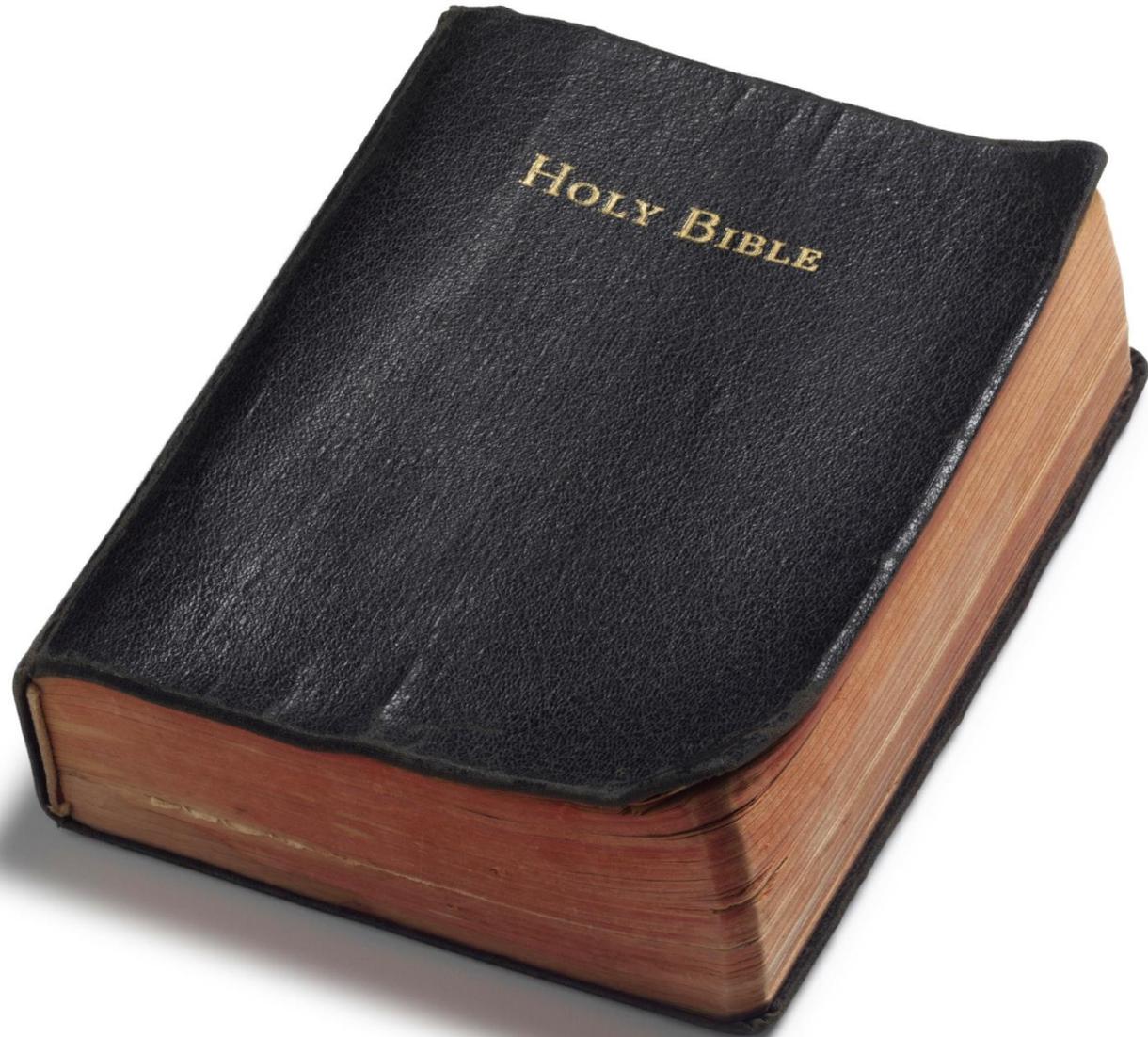
The **sword** is the **word**
of God. It shines a bright
light into darkness. It
cuts through lies and
false arguments.



It **convicts** people of sin, it teaches us what is right and it introduces strangers to God. It is the element through which the Spirit of God travels.



It is interesting to note that every piece of armor is related in some great way to the Word of God.



It appears that there is an understanding of and confidence in the truths in the Bible which can protect us from Satan.

It appears that this understanding of the Bible, is not a simple, basic, “Sunday only” knowledge of the Bible.

*It is a well-educated, personal,
thorough & confident
knowledge of the Bible.*

*With a confident understanding
of why these things are true.*

Through these pieces of armor we are able to identify several routine weapons & strategies that Satan will use to attack us.



Doubt

*Doubt in God, doubt in God's
word & doubt in the truth
through a host of lies.*

Accusation

*Accusations of guilt, failure,
& shortcomings. Accusations
against God & self.*

Temptation

*Temptation for something
sinful, something worldly,
something destructive.*

Paul closes with
3 pieces of Defensive Actions
available to the believer.

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. (v18)

Prayer

The believer should constantly be praying in the Spirit to God the Father for wisdom, strength, Self-control etc.

Alertness

The believer should ever be alert to anything and everything that could hinder them at best and destroy them at worst.

Persistence

The believer must understand that this battle will go on every minute of every day until Christ returns or calls us home. The believer is unrelentingly persistent in fighting against the enemy.