

THE ARMOR OF GOD

To put on the "full armor"--and enjoy a daily and eternal love-relationship with Jesus Christ, thank Him for what He has shown you in His Word. *Know* the Scriptures behind your prayer so that your words and faith are grounded in the *authority of the Bible*. Then pray through each piece. You can use the following prayer as an **outline**:

- The belt of truth: Thank you, my Lord, for showing me the *truth* about yourself. Thank you for reminding me that You are the only God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the King of the universe, my Father who loves me, and my Shepherd who leads me. You are my wisdom, my counselor, my hope, and my strength. You are everything I need each day.
- The breastplate of righteousness: Thank you for showing me the truth about myself--that on my own I could never be good enough to live in your presence. Thank you for taking *my sins* to the cross and offering me *your righteous life*. Lord, show me any sin that I need to confess right now, so that nothing will hinder me from being filled to overflowing with your Spirit. [Take time for confession] Thank you for forgiving me and for filling me with your *righteous* life.
- The sandals of peace: Thank you for the **peace** you give me when I trust and follow you. Show me how to help others find that peace.
- The shield of faith: Thank you for helping me have **faith** in you. I choose to count on everything you have shown me about yourself--and everything you have promised me in your Word.
- The helmet of salvation: Thank you for promising me **salvation** both for today's battles and for all eternity.
- The sword of the spirit, the Word of God: Thank you for the scriptures you have given me to memorize. Please show me which one(s) you want me to use to cut through deceptions and gain your victory in any battle I may face today.

How can I explain the armor to my children?

In a world where public schools, television, movies, and popular music all offer tempting counterfeits of what God promises His people, there is only one safe place for our children: in the loving arms of the Shepherd. So train your children "in the way they should go" (Proverbs 22:6) and help them to wear the "full armor of God" each day.

First, read Ephesians 6:10-18 together, then review the chart at the end of this section. It shows why the parts of armor will expose and resist all the main lies of New Age and Neo-pagan religions. Memorize scriptures that show the truth about God and His righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation. Explain that these verses are scripture *swords* that counter the main lies of the enemy. Remember, when children know the truth about God, they won't trust popular counterfeits. Knowing the source of their righteousness, they won't believe sanctification without the cross. Knowing God's way to peace and salvation, they won't choose occult paths.

Remind your children that the armor is not like a magic shield they can casually slip on in order to be safe anywhere they want to go. One day, my youngest son asked if he could see a popular movie with some friends. "No. I'd rather you didn't," I told him.

"Why not?" he asked.

"Because it makes occultism seem both fun and right. Even though your friends know it's fiction, the story and images leave the impression that you can win in life by using occult rituals to get supernatural power. Not only does the Bible tell us occultism is evil, it also shows how it destroys people." I started to look up Deuteronomy 18:9-13.

"But I'll put on the armor."

"It won't help. When you go somewhere that you shouldn't, you disobey God and lose the breastplate of righteousness. You're never safe if you go somewhere Jesus wouldn't want you to go."

David got the message and stayed home. He knew that by himself he was no match for occult forces. But with God, he was on the winning side.

EACH PIECE	CHRISTIAN PARADIGM	GLOBAL PARADIGM
<i>Put on:</i>	<i>Know and affirm:</i>	<i>Recognize and resist:</i>
Belt of TRUTH	His sovereignty, love, wisdom, and holiness. (<i>Deut. 4:39; Ps. 18:1-3</i>)	Pantheistic, monistic, polytheistic gods and goddesses.
Breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS:	Jesus Christ and His blood, which cleanses us from sin. The cross which frees us from bondage to selfish nature.	The natural goodness, connectedness, and sacredness of all life.
Sandals of PEACE	Our peace through our union and ongoing relationship with Jesus Christ.	Peace through occult practices and union with a cosmic force or nature spirits.
Shield of FAITH	Our continual trust in God, His Word, and His promises.	Trust in Self, inner wisdom, dreams, visions, gods, goddess, cosmic force, coincidences, etc.
Helmet of SALVATION	God's promises of daily and eternal salvation in Jesus Christ.	Evolving spiritually by growing in consciousness staying tuned to the cosmic mind.
Sword of the Spirit, His WORD	The power of God's Word to counter deception and triumph over spiritual foes.	The power of thoughts, words and affirmations to change reality and direct spiritual forces.