

SALVATION AND THE WORD

September 29, 2024

Ephesians 6:14-17 NIV Stand firm then, with the belt of TRUTH buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of PEACE. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of FAITH, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one ¹⁷ Take the helmet of SALVATION and the sword of the Spirit, which is THE WORD of GOD.

The simplest definition of salvation is to be delivered (or rescued) from peril. The most common meaning of salvation is to be saved by God from the consequences of our sin. It's also helpful to think about our salvation as a past, present, and future happening.

Romans 6:23 NIV For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God's requirement for eternal life in heaven is perfection. On our own it is impossible. God and His gift of grace makes it possible.

The Helmet of Salvation gives us hope

1 Thessalonians 5:8-9 NIV But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the battle, submit to Christ

James 4:1-5 NIV What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ² You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁴ You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? ⁶ But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

2 Corinthians 10:5 NIV We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

When we put on the helmet of salvation, we can take captive sinful thoughts and make it obedient to Christ. When we forget to do this, we are susceptible to thoughts that are planted in us by the enemy, who seeks to harm our walk with Christ. With God on our side, there is no battle we cannot face in this world.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Philippians 1:6 ESV And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

The Sword of the Spirit = The Word of God

John 1:1 NIV In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Without the Word of God active in our lives, we cannot put on truth, righteousness, readiness, faith, or salvation because we only learn these things through the Word of God. The word of God empowers us to stand against all that Satan throws at us.

The sword is a tool. It has tremendous power and it is available to us. The sword is both an offensive and defensive weapon used by soldiers or warriors. Swords were used to protect oneself from harm or to attack the enemy to overcome or kill him. In both cases it was necessary for a soldier to get rigorous training on the proper use of the sword for maximum effectiveness.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Corinthians 10:4–5 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Psalm 119:11 NIV I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

The word of God provides us what we need to be strong in the Lord and repel the attacks of the devil. If we do not use the sword, it is of no value to us. When we neglect to put on the armor God has given us to stand, we make ourselves vulnerable to attack. The enemy is trying to draw us away from God and draw us to the world. God is trying to draw us to Him, along with the rest of the world.

Psalm 18: 30-32

As for God, His way is perfect: The LORD's word is flawless; He shields all who take refuge in Him.

³¹ For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God?

³² It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure.