THE PROTECTOR

"The Protector" Series Book One

Once you get your armor on and are starting to get success through spiritual warfare, Jesus will give you assignments to protect people who don't have their armor on yet.

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Chapter One

The Full Armor Of God In Action

Eph 6:11-18 (NIV) Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Jesus, help me to use everything You taught me about this powerful and wonderful armor. Thank You for helping me put it on, so I can win against all those things that come against me. Help me be very proficient and skillful with it all, so I am not only winning for myself, I am able to skillfully protect others. Make me into a mighty warrior that is able to come to the rescue of all who are in danger. Give me the attitudes and character that inspire me to really care about others. Help me to practice and apply myself, so I can be one of Your very best warriors. Show me how to best serve and protect those around me.

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes: As you have already seen, you are responsible for putting on the full armor of God. And if you do, you will be able to take your stand against the devil's schemes. The “so that” words are saying that the putting on of the full armor comes first. And, it is saying that, that makes it possible for you to stand against the devil’s schemes. You just looked at the process of Preventative Spiritual Warfare. In it you saw that the full armor of God enables you to ward off all the attempts of the devil, if you have the armor on. You have now taken the various elements of the full armor of God and have gone to Scriptures in other places in the Bible that explained what they are, how they work, how to get them on, and how to go about using them skillfully.

Jesus, help me see how serious this is for my protection and for the protection of the weak, untrained, and unskilled. Show me how much I need to let You give me opportunities to practice spiritual warfare, so I can get better at defeating Satan and his efforts. Give me a warrior’s attitude of aggressiveness and viciousness. Help me apply myself with such intensity and seriousness that I become a very successful defender of the vulnerable.

Once You Are Safe, You Can Bring Safety To Others

Put on the FULL armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes: This isn't talking about the individual pieces like Jesus just showed you. It is talking about the whole thing, as a single unit. If you only put on part of it, you won't be ready to take your stand against the devil's schemes. You must eventually look at it as a whole. However, as in the case of **Preventative Spiritual Warfare,** you will have to see how the individual parts function in **Ministerial Spiritual Warfare.**

Jesus, help me see that putting **on the full armor of God** is a one-time process. Once I put it on, help me keep it on. Show me that it is vital to my security; and, it is vital to the security of those You need me to protect. As You take me through the individual pieces of the armor, help me see how they are used to fully protect those around me. Show me that it isn't enough for me to just protect myself; it is vital that I understand it, as a protection of others. Help me take it from this armor illustration and bring it into the reality of what it looks like in real life.

As the Bible breaks the full armor of God into individual parts, you can see their names, their positions on your spiritual being, and their purpose. You have seen the life and death aspects of your survival through using the full armor of God. Intense pain can come your way, if you don't take advantage of all this equipment. The same is true, as it relates to your ministry of helping hurting people. Many have been destroyed, as they ministered to others because they didn't keep their armor on and use it skillfully. This may look like a repeat of what you have just studied. But, it isn't. It is the same armor; but, it is being used for a very different purpose.

Jesus, help me learn how to take each individual piece of this armor and understand what they not only do for me, but how they protect those around me. Help me see that their quality, size, and functionality are dependent on my spiritual condition. Show me how to have complete coverage and protection it all the areas of my life. Then help me position myself in the lives of others in such a way that they get the full benefits of its quality, size, and functionality.

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Jesus, help me **stand firm** with all my armor pieces in place. Help me not allow them to slip out of position or fall off. As I **stand firm** in my own life, let it be an example to others, as to how they need to also **stand firm.** As I take a defensive position in their life, help me explain how they can do the same for their life and the lives of others. Help us all get the full meaning and full training on how to take advantage of these powerful provisions.

Chapter Three

Each Part Of The Whole In Action

Now, let Jesus show you each piece, so you can see how they can be used to protect those people around you.

Belt of truth: The Truth about God and the things of God from you to others. This is a defense mechanism that reveals the true God to them.

Breastplate of righteousness: The character and deeds of God living in you flow into the lives of others. This is a defense mechanism that reveals a different way of life available to them.

Gospel of peace shoes: The message about Jesus, The Christ, Who wants to set them free. This is a defense mechanism that reveals a way of escape for them.

Shield of faith: Protection from the devil and his devices. This is a defense mechanism that keeps the satanic temptations, the world's enticements, and their body's animalistic drives from being able to damage them.

Helmet of salvation: Protection for the command center. This is a defense mechanism that sets them free from satanic control in their mind and heart.

Sword of the Spirit: The Word of God. This is an attacking mechanism that protects the unprotected and sets them free from the lies, traps, and bait of the devil.

- Jesus, help me use the belt of truth to block off those lies of the devil that are trying to destroy those around me.
- Help me use the breastplate of righteousness to protect those around me from wrong, bad, and evil words and deeds from others that are trying to hurt and destroy them.
- Help me use the gospel of peace shoes to position myself in between those around me and those who are working for Satan.
- Help me use the shield of faith to stand there between those around me and Satan's temptations, traps, and bait and remove the influence and power of those flaming arrows before they get to them.
- Help me use the helmet of salvation to be positioned between them and Satan, so their minds and hearts are protected from the thoughts and feelings Satan wants to inflict them with.
- Help me use the sword of the Spirit to attack Satan, the world, and the bad influences of their bodies, so they can be set free from all their evil controls.

The full armor of God has four major aspects to its functionality:

1. It **protects you,** so you can remain effective in your relationship with God and His ministry.

2. It becomes a delivering mechanism for setting **lost (unsaved) people** free from Satan's control.

3. It becomes a protective barrier between Satan and **new or untrained believers** in Christ.

4. It exemplifies, for **those who don't have theirs on yet,** the procedures for putting it on, keeping it on, and how they are to use it skillfully.

Jesus, help me yield to be benefits of the full armor of God. Let it protect me, so I can have a powerful relationship with God and His ministry. Help me yield to it, so I can set unsaved people free from the control of Satan. Help me be able to position myself in the lives of the new and untrained Christians, so I am a protective barrier between them and Satan. Help me set an example to those who don't have their armor on yet. Empower me to be able to teach them how to put it on, keep it on, and use it skillfully.

God's first priority, for His full armor, is for it to *protect you*. If you get knocked out, damaged, hurt, or debilitated, who is going to stand in protection for others, who can't yet protect themselves? The quality of your Christian life is a ministry in itself. It isn't just important that you live a victorious life for your own benefit. Your life, as people view it, and your life story, as you tell it, has a tremendous impact on those around you.

Your life and your message are either pure or contaminated based on the success you are having with your full armor of God. People see how you live and compare it with what you express to them. People also see how God takes care of you, as His child. God doesn't always give you everything you would like to have. However, very often you are living without certain provisions of God because of spiritual failure, that isn't good for you and it isn't good for others to see it happening to you.

Jesus, help me see how important my own times spent with You are. Help me see that I am not only doing it for me and my wellbeing, I am doing it as an example for others to see and hear about. Show me that the quality of my spiritual life, as it is protected by Your full armor, has a great effect on those around me. Help me seek You with a great heart of hunger and thirsting after Your righteousness. Help me see that it brings great blessings to me and gives me the powerful influence that it brings to those around me. Let me, the person in this full armor, be a mighty warrior for me, for other people, and for You.

When you fail to get what you need from God, because of spiritual failure, it not only cheats you, it gives others the impression your lack of provisions are because you are a Christian. There are Scripture in the Bible, that if incorporated into your armor and heart, would totally change your life, your circumstances, and your example about Christianity to others. Not only does that help you, it helps those watching your life. The following truths will show you how the various pieces of the full armor of God will serve to make your life and ministry to the people around you better.

Jesus, help me see that You not only want to do wonderful things to me, because You love me, You want to do them because You love the people around me. Help me use the full armor of God effectively, so I can live a life in front of those around me, so they can see how You will treat them. Help me with my spiritual failures, so I can be blessed by You and others can be blessed by my example. As people watch my life, help me not try to impress them. Help me keep looking to You for Your miracles and blessings, as I take advantage of Your armor.

The Belt of truth protects you from believing any lies about God and the things of God. It helps you and your message stay on target, as it relates to the Truth about God and the things of God. When people repeat the misinformation of the world and the devil, you, in a gentle and loving way, help them see what the truth is.

Jesus, give me great wisdom and love, so I can wisely and lovingly set people free from those philosophies they are taught in the world. Help me show them a much better way of approaching life and relationships. Help me use the belt of truth to protect people from things that are coming at them, as flaming arrows of the devil.

The Breastplate of righteousness protects you from living different from the character and deeds of God. As people look at you, they see the life of Jesus being lived right in front of them. When they see you treat them different from others, you let them know that Jesus and His principles are helping you treat them differently.

Jesus, as I go about my day, I can live my life in such a way that is best for me. I can do those things that I want and I like and not care about how they affect others. Help me be aware of how, what I say and do affects those around me, so they can see Your love and Your desires to produce win/win results and solutions through me for them. Then help me share with them what Your Bible says, so they will know where these win/win ideas are coming from.

The Gospel of peace shoes protect you from getting contamination in the message you proclaim. An uncontaminated message provides those you are ministering to with a true gospel presentation that causes their faith to be in the power of God rather than in the wisdom of men. When you accidently say or do something to hurt someone, Jesus empowers you with your gospel shoes of peace to go to them and tell them you are sorry for the way you treated them. That reveals to them what the gospel of peace looks like.

Jesus, I know I am not going to live a perfect life. There are things that I will say and do accidently that will hurt people and my relationship with them. Help me yield to the shoes of the gospel of peace and go make it right with them. Help me not just say I am sorry; help me let them know how much I love and respect them and try to build a relationship with them.

The Shield of faith keeps your faith, trust, reliance, and dependency on God while protecting you and those you are ministering to from the attacks of Satan. This keeps Satan's plans from being implemented and it causes the plans of God to be fulfilled in your and other's lives.

Jesus, let my shield of faith be empowered by Your faith. Then help me show others how to put their faith, trust, reliance, and dependency of God. Help me and those around me to realize that the only way we are going to win against our bodies, the world, and the devil is to believe in Your power and truths and use our shields of faith accordingly.

The Helmet of salvation protects you, new Christians, and untrained Christians from living below the salvation provisions. The truths or lack of truths concerning the provisions of salvation, resident in the hearts and minds of the believers, changes every aspect of how victorious or defeated they live.

Jesus, my mind and my heart make up who I am; and, that is also true of those around me. What we think and how we feel is where we are going in life and in eternity. Help me see the importance of this helmet of salvation, in my life, and how it needs to be used to protect the minds and hearts of those around me.

Sword of the Spirit attacks and completely thwarts the plans and efforts of Satan in you and in those you are ministering to. The promises of God have to be received. They are yours; but, Satan will do everything he can to prevent you from benefiting from them.

Jesus, help me fight the good fight of faith for myself and for those I am ministering to. I know this sword of the Spirt, which is Your Word, is extremely powerful and can set me and those I am ministering to free. Help me be incredibly proficient with it, so You can empower me to help everyone I possibly can.

Our Life Of Victory Helps Them With A Life Of Victory

As you successfully use your full armor of God, your ministry becomes more and more powerful and beneficial to the people around you. God is able to flow through you with a greater stream of His love, grace, mercy, and provisions. People start getting their needs met, God starts doing God-sized miracles, Satan is thwarted, lives are changed, people are saved, and you get mightily used for the glory of God.

Jesus, help me make sure that more Christians see, for the first time, how great God is, by me successfully using my full armor of God. Show me that more lost people will meet God and be saved by Him for the first time. Show me that more will let praises pour forth to the throne of God in a new and increased fashion. Instead of God and the things of God being blocked off in the lives and ministries of His people, He will show Himself to all in a full way. Show me that this is the battle that God will bless in a supernatural way. Help me see that this battle is one of the dearest things to God's heart. It is the setting of a captive free.

Chapter Four

Armor For The Unsaved

The full armor of God becomes a delivering mechanism for setting <u>lost (unsaved) people</u> free from Satan's control: A lot of the time you may not think about how the full armor of God provides ministry. Standing behind you are all the people that God wants to use you to protect. Jesus died for them too. But, they don't have their armor on.

Jesus, I can't tell who is interested in You and who isn't. I need Your guidance, as to who You want me to stand in front of spiritually and protect with my armor. Show me where to be, how to stand, what to do, and how to yield to You in the process. Let Your power and training make me into a person who cares about what is happening to the people around me. Give me a heart that wants to use everything You have given me to help those who don't have them yet.

There are people who don't have their armor on because they haven't made Jesus the Lord of their life yet. Others are new born Christians and don't know how to put it on, keep on, or use it. And, unfortunately, there are some, who are mature Christians, who never learned how to put their armor on, keep it on, and use it skillfully. You, who have your armor on and know how to use it, stand in between them and all Satan wants to do to them.

Jesus, help me understand that I can't just stand in front of the unsaved and protect them. Help me protect them by sharing all You have done for me. Then help me lead them into asking You to be their Lord and Savior and do what Romans 10:8-10 tells them to do. Then let me stand in a spiritually protective position between them and the evil that is trying to destroy them. Teach me how to not only lead people to You. Help me understand how to see to it that they remain in You.

One of the greatest aspects of the full armor of God is its ability to help you set the lost free. They are currently considered to be the devil's territory. You are out to conquer that territory for Jesus. Jesus bought all these people with His blood. The gospel message you proclaim will set them free from the control of the devil. With your full armor on, you can walk right into Satan's camp and deliver the lost out of his possession.

Jesus, I haven't realized and based my life on how protected I am because of Your full armor. I have felt fear, intimidation, reluctance, and hesitation in sharing all You have done for me. And, it is happening while I am wearing Your full armor. Help me see how protected and secure I am. Show me how powerful and influential I can be through You. Show me what the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit can do for the hurting and abused people around me.

The Belt of Truth enables you to present The Truth about God and His saving, delivering, healing, blessing power through Jesus. The people you are ministering to will know the Truth and the Truth *will* set them free.

Jesus, I have the victory and truth about life; yet Satan and his people come at me like they have all the power and truth. Help me be strong in You and Your mighty power. If I were fighting to protect my physical family and I allowed myself to be intimidated, I and they would get damaged and maybe destroyed. Help me see how determined, committed, and bold I am going to have to be in order to protect others and defeat Satan.

The Breastplate of Righteousness helps you even treat enemies with the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control of the Holy Spirit. This empowers you to show the lost a way of life that they may have *never* seen before.

Jesus, the fruit of the Spirit is the most powerful influence in all the world. Nothing and no one can out do that emotional power, when it is applied to hurting people. It is so overwhelming with love, compassion, and care, that it can melt the most resistant heart. Help me see that, as long as I have my full armor on, I am protected to go into the most spiritually dangerous places and speak forth the fruit of the Spirit and live it in such a way that it transforms people.

The Gospel of Peace shoes introduce you into procedures for giving what people are seeing emanating out of your life. By using the *knock key,* your heavenly Father prepares the hearts of those He wants you to go to. So, when you yield to the **gospel of peace** shoes and go where God wants you to, you and the people you are sharing your breakthroughs, healings, blessings, and miracles with, are ready for each other. That creates incredible spiritual results in people's lives.

Jesus, help me spend time with You knocking on the doors of opportunity to share all the wonderful things You have done in and for me. Help my heart to be ready to go wherever You want me to go, so I will be at the right place, at the right time, doing and saying the right things, to the right people. Help me see that this is the only way for me to effectively wear and take advantage of the gospel of peace shoes.

The Shield of Faith provides God's power to people from your life. Your ministry shows them the wonderful works of the almighty God. As they see God at work all around them, they start to believe in Jesus as their Savior. Since all Christians must live by faith, as you live by faith in front of them, they see what a life of faith looks like in real life. When Satan tries to attack you or them, you demonstrate how to handle the situation by using the shield of faith.

Jesus, help me see that using the shield of faith is the only way I can show others how the life of faith works. Help me demonstrate faith in handling those life challenges that I have, as I go about my day with other people. Help me be demonstrative and activated in the life of faith in front of those who need to see how it works. Show me how to be verbal and instructive, as I use my shield of faith in ways that would teach them how to do the same.

The Helmet of Salvation causes you to live and proclaim the full life of salvation to those who may be willing to accept it. You have salvation operating in your life. It isn't until the unsaved and the new and untrained Christians, see it lived out in real life that they learn how to live it. The helmet of salvation empowers and protects your mind and heart in such a way that the knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, and wisdom of Jesus flow in and through them.

Jesus, let Your power, knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, and wisdom flow through the helmet of salvation into my mind and heart, so I will be totally led by You in all I do. When I am protecting someone or setting them an example of how salvation is lived, let Who You are flow in and through me from Your helmet of salvation.

The Sword of the Spirit is used to protect and set the lost free from the bondages of the devil. You are able to go around doing good in people's physical and spiritual lives, because the Holy Spirit is in you and Jesus is doing His ministry through you. You also use the sword of the Spirit to demonstrate to the new and untrained Christians how to be more than conquerors in Jesus. The more you use the sword of the Spirit to win in your own life, the more you are able to live the victorious life in front of those around you.

Jesus, help me not just live the victorious life in front of people. Help me not give them the impression that I am doing these things by my own skills, knowledge, and power. Give me incredible wisdom and power to be constantly able to share the fact that it is all You and Your principles that making these things happen in my life. Show me how to live it, teach it, and transfer it into the lives of others.

Jesus, teach me that when the full armor of God is used in this way, the power of God grows in the lives and ministries of others, as I involve them in Spiritual Growth training and they involve others in this same lifestyle. Show me that this is Your plan for exponential growth that will reach the world for God.

Chapter Five

Where Will It Do The Most Good?

You Must Go Where The Lost Are:

Most people don't know that there is a successful defense against Satan's temptations, the world's pressures, and their body's desires. The Holy Spirit is causing them to be aware of the fact that their life isn't like it should be. They know they are doing wrong things. But, they keep *wanting* to do them even though they know they are doing wrong. Some know there is a much better way to live, while others only hope there is. But, they keep not being able to live them. They feel miserable about their life and deeds. Yet they find themselves completely sold out to them, body and soul. Nothing is going to change for the better in their life unless you make contact with them.

Jesus, help me remember how important it was for someone to share their life and the message of salvation with me. Help me remember how my life was going, prior to them being willing to fight through all the resistance that many gave them before they got to me. Show me that they had to be willing to be rejected, made fun of, verbally abused, and some were even physically abused before the salvation message got to me. Help me be so thankful, that I take my full armor of God and use it to ward off anything anyone can do to me. Help me be willing to do what it takes to get to those who want You.

The Unsaved Are Very Important

Mat 18:12-14 (NIV) What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.

Jesus, help me see that this sheep **wandered away.** Help me always remember that You died for the sins of every person on the planet. Teach me that the reason they can be saved through faith is because their salvation has already been provided for them. All they have to do is accept it as being a gift that You have already purchased for them. Help me take my full armor and forge through all the opposition and find that lost sheep that wants to come to You.

Luke 15:4-7 (NIV) Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep." I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Jesus, when You lead me through all the persecution and satanic attacks successfully because You empowered me to take advantage of Your full armor I am wearing, help me not just lead that **lost sheep** into Your salvation. Help me call all my friends all of us rejoice **over** that person. Help me provide that person with all the love and support they need, so they can grow and be transformed into a shepherd for other **lost sheep.**

You Can Safely Go Into Dangerous Territory

Your armor is designed to be able to go out into some of the most spiritually dangerous places, find a lost person, and bring them to God. God's character, provisions, and power flow through this armor of God into the lost person's life and circumstances. The man healed, at the gate called Beautiful, is an example of God flowing through a person's life and ministry, doing massive damage to Satan's kingdom, and setting a large quantity of captives free. What happened was, Peter and John were going to the temple for a time of prayer. As they got to the gate called Beautiful, that let them into the temple area, there was a man that was unable to walk.

Jesus, as I see Your full armor being used by Peter and John, make my mind and heart receptive to what You are trying to teach me. Help me enter into that situation, as if I am Peter and John, so you can make this event real to me. Help me live in them for a moment, so I can experience what You caused them to experience. Help me see how I would go about protecting this physically handicapped man. Help me see how I would use your full armor to bring salvation into his life by Your power.

This handicapped man was begging for money from those passing by. As Peter and John got close to him, he asked them if they would give him some money. Peter told him that he didn't have any money, but what he did have, he would share with him. Then Peter told him to stand up and walk. After that Peter reached down his hand and pulled the man to his feet. Immediately the man's feet and ankles were strengthened and the man was able to walk.

Jesus, help me see that You will guide me to that place where I need to be. That, as I use the knock key to knock on the doors of opportunity to share my life with others, I will be right there where the need is. You will have them ready for me to minister to them in power and transformation. Help me understand and experience the thoughts coming into their minds, as they decided to go to the temple during the time of prayer. Help me understand how You had that man there, at just that right time. Help me be looking for this.

Acts 3:9-11 (NIV) When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade.

Jesus, help me continue to live inside this situation, so it will bring my heart and mind into the experience. Help me see how You were completely able to control the situation and bring a great spiritual victory of setting large quantities of people free from Satan. Help me see how spiritual armor are used, how the battles are fought, and how the victories are won. Help me see how powerful it is, when You are allowed to take me, with my armor on, and use me to be where You want me to be.

With a curious crowd gathering, Peter proclaims the message of salvation to them. But, as usual, there were those who had no intention of accepting the healing and delivering power of God into their lives; and they were going to do everything in their power to keep anyone else from receiving God's loving power.

Jesus, help me see not only the way You used Peter and John's armor to set a man and a lot of people in a crowd free, help me see how You use it to keep Peter and John strong and brave. Help me realize how Satan and his people are always there ready to come against me and keep me from being willing to help a handicapped man, be willing to proclaim Your truths to a large crowd, and be willing to not back down the great resistance.

You're Going To Get Attacked; But You're Dressed For It

Acts 4:1-4 (NIV) The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John <u>while they were speaking to the people</u>. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. <u>They seized Peter and John</u>, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. <u>But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand</u>.

Jesus, help me live in Peter and John and see if I am where I need to be. Help me feel what it is like to have government officials arrest me for presenting You to people. Help me see if I am ready to be put in jail, because I am unwilling to be quite about Who You are and what You want to do in the lives of those who want You. Help me allow You to so strengthen, enlarge, and position my armor that I am able to withstand all satanic attacks.

It occurred in hostile territory. Satan was very upset with all this gospel preaching. However, approximately 5,000 men plus women and children came to Jesus. When you allow to do God-sized things, awesome things happen in the hearts of people. This is Jesus' ministry; and, this is Jesus' plan for reaching a desperate world with the good news. Peter and John made it very clear that they didn't do it. They clearly explained to the crowd, that this was Jesus doing the second phase of His ministry. He hasn't changed; and, His ministry hasn't changed. The works He did, are the works He is and will continue to be doing through you.

Jesus, this is adding a whole new aspect to my understanding of my full armor. Help me not just read this and see it as something that happened to Peter and John. Help me understand that, if I get out of the church building, out of the Christian meetings, and into the places where the unsaved are, this is what is going to happen to me. Help me see that the reason it isn't already happening, is because I am not out there.

Chapter Six

This Is Going To Rock Your World

Phil 4:13 (NIV) I can do everything <u>through Him Who gives me strength</u>. Jesus isn't doing all this for entertainment. He is doing this for victory. People's eternal destiny is at stake. Satan is doing everything he can to blind the eyes of the unbelievers. **2 Cor 4:4 (NIV) The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, Who is the image of God.**

Jesus, you healed the handicapped man at the gate beautiful, so that all those thousands of people would be saved and set free from Satan and sin. You used Peter and John to war against the damage Satan had done in that man's body. That made the difference in the lives to those thousands of people. Help me join You in that spiritual battle, so you can set the people free around me. Help me position myself in the lives of those around me. Let my full armor of God effectively set them free through Your power.

This Is War!

You aren't going to be able to use human techniques to win this battle. This is supernatural, spiritual war. **2 Cor 10:4 (NIV) The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have *divine* power to demolish strongholds.**

Jesus, help me see that this is supernatural, spiritual armor. It is designed to do things for me and those around me in a supernatural, God-sized way. Show me that the damage that is being done to all these people is coming from the spirit realm. Just because we can't see the source and see the events causing the damage, that doesn't change the situation. All the events, good or bad, are coming from this realm. And I need to help people see Your full armor that is on me, do this supernatural work.

In many areas of the world, the battle is being lost. Even though Christians are working day and night, trying to bring the lost in, the battle is still being lost. Why? Because the Bible, its principles, techniques, and procedures have been neglected. Advertising, marketing, entertainment, and human effort are trying to accomplish spiritual results. The people who respond to advertising, marketing, entertainment, and human effort aren't the people God is calling. **John 6:44 (NIV) No one can come to Me unless the Father Who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.** Unless God is yielded to, His Word is followed, and His presence is released; the lost are going to suffer the consequences.

Jesus, this full armor of God isn't optional. Help me see that without it being used to help these people, their spirits won't be touched by You. Unless I position myself in their lives in such a way that they are protected, they won't survive. Make it clear to me that this all must be done through spiritual procedures in the spirit realm. Show me that all the things I do through natural procedures in the natural realm will produce natural results. That is why churches grow and then have major fights and conflicts.

This Is War Against Satan For The Lives Of Hurting People

Eph 6:12 (NIV) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, *But* against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. This is what you are dealing with; this is why you must use your full armor of God. Unless you allow the power of Jesus and the Holy Spirit flow through you, you will be doing human work and getting human results.

Jesus, help me understand that these people don't need me, my ideas and opinions, or my human effort. Help me join You and yield to Your supernatural work. Let Your thoughts, feelings, words, and deeds flow though this full armor and do what this armor was made to do. I need its protection and so do the people around me. But, help me realize that this armor doesn't get activated without You flowing through it.

Eph 6:12 (NIV) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, But against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Does this sound like you are going to be able to deal with protecting people using non-spiritual efforts, procedures, and systems? It sounds bigger than anything you will ever have to offer.

Jesus, I submit to You and what You want to do in and through me. Work through my helmet of salvation and empower my mind and heart with Your supernatural instructions. Let Your ministry flow into them and change the way I protect and deliver people. Show me that You alone can make these pieces of armor function properly. Help me understand that I am no match for what I am going to and will be facing. Take me and my armor and work in my mind and heart, so I will know how to respond to all Your commands.

Ephesians 6:12 alone will help you want to get your armor on, keep it on, and learn to use it skillfully. A lot of these poor, lost people are being touched and ministered to by weak Christians who don't know how to fight with spiritual weapons. The Christians themselves are struggling to keep their own noses above water. Yet they are out there trying to rescue someone else and bring them to shore.

Jesus, I yield to Your Leadership and Lordship. I can see that this is way over my head. I feel the weakness and ignorance that is keeping me from being able to protect myself, much less protect others. But, I can now see that You aren't trying to get me to use this armor. You are showing me how supernatural the work is, so I will yield to You and Your knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, wisdom, and power.

We Are Not The Answer, Jesus Is

Eph 6:10 (NIV) Finally, be strong <u>in the Lord</u> and in <u>His</u> mighty power. The lost need people like this. You must be a person like this. They are doomed if you aren't a person like this. Satan isn't going to just lay down and let you rob his house. This is a vicious, insidious, malicious battle of eternal consequences. The whole **be strong** issue is totally dependent on **in the Lord and in *His* mighty power.**

Jesus, help me see that it all revolves around me keeping my eyes on You. **Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.** You are the One Who paid the price. You are the One Who lived the life. Help me see that I am never going to be enough to go it on my own. Empower me to **fix** my **eyes on** You.

1 Pet 5:8-10 (NIV) Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, Who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

Jesus, help me realize that me being **self-controlled and alert** isn't self controlling self. You are doing the **self-controlling and** making me **alert.** As I put for the effort of controlling myself, if I do it in faith in You and Your power, I can control myself. But, I did it through Your mighty power, knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. You are training me how to function in the spirit realm in such a way that I feel like I am doing it. But, my faith isn't in me; it is in You making it all work.

Since 1 Peter 5:8-10 isn't talking about self controlling self. It presents you with a great opportunity to let Jesus teach you your part and His part. If you do anything with faith in yourself, you are controlling self. That is the human effort you were in, as a new Christian. But, if you try to control yourself, while believing that Jesus is empowering you to do it, that is operating in the power of the Lord. **Eph 6:10 (NIV) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.**

Jesus, teach me how to try to do things in the spirit realm with faith in You. Show me that faith-action is me taking action, while believing that You are giving me the knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and power to do it. Show me that, if You aren't empowering me in this way, it will not bring spiritual results. As I operate in the spirit realm using my full armor, I am doing all of it by means of constant faith that You are doing it in and through me.

1 Peter 5:8-10 is you bring your "self" under the control of the Holy Spirit and Jesus, so you can be used by the life and ministry of your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. You aren't resisting the devil and standing firm in the faith with your own strength, and you know it. You are allowing Jesus to fill you with His power. You are allowing Him to equip You with His armor. You are allowing Him to function through you with His skill. This is the only way you are going to bring salvation and new life to the masses of people in this world.

Chapter Seven

Protecting Those Not Yet Ready

The full armor of God becomes a protective barrier between Satan and new or untrained believers in Jesus: If new and untrained believers are left unprotected, they will get mauled by the devil. They can find themselves unchanged, as it relates to actually living what the Bible teaches. They will want to do godly things but not do them. They will want to stop doing worldly things but not be able to.

Jesus, while You are using me and others to teach and train new and untrained Christians, help me make myself available for them to contact during their week. Help me to do whatever it takes to answer any texts that have 911 in them. If it is something that isn't an emergency, then help me get with them as soon as is possible. But, if it is an emergency, help me stop or cancel whatever I am doing and respond. Show me that this is me positioning myself in between them and Satan.

The confusion and desperation that will ensue in new and untrained Christians can do major damage to them. Unprotected Christians can actually spiral downward in their spiritual condition and life. You, who have your full armor on, must be willing to stand in between them and all of these attacks. Teach them to not try to just handle everything on their own. Show them how to apply as much as they can; but, if it gets overwhelming, have them send you a 911 text.

Jesus, if a new or untrained Christian indicates that they are having an emergency and they are misusing the system, help me not react inappropriately. Show me that, if I do, they may be afraid to text, when it is an emergency. Help me gently and lovingly teach them when something is an emergency and when it is something You are trying to teach them how to handle with just You and them. Show me how to lead them into having a very functional knowledge of when to stick it out and when to get help.

The Belt of Truth makes sure that you are living and teaching new and untrained Christians The Truth about God and His character; and, that you are undoing misinformation in them. **John 14:6 (NIV) Jesus answered, "I am the way and *the truth* and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.** When a new or untrained Christian is listening to or believing something that isn't the truth of Jesus, you use your armor to protect them from that deception.

Jesus, help me, in a loving and gentle way, show new and untrained Christians Your truth. Show me how to protect them, when they are believing something that isn't Biblical. Help me not try to get them to believe anything that I can't prove Biblically. Help me teach them to not believe anything they can't prove Biblically. Help me show them that they must not trust anything from anyone that doesn't have Biblical proof.

The Breastplate of Righteousness makes sure you are showing the new and untrained Christian God's true character, by example and training. And it makes sure that you are helping them to learn to live it. When they believe Jesus is helping them only do good to themselves, others, and God's plan, they will start trying to do that in faith in Him. When they fail, you will have to help them go to Jesus and repent, tell Him they are sorry, and ask Him to empower them to never do it again. Then you will need to help them pray and ask Jesus to help them go make it right with those they hurt.

Jesus, help me lead the new and untrained Christians into righteousness. Help me keep them aware of their perfect record with God. But, also help me show them that, if they do something on purpose, they breach their perfect record with God. Help me take them into a time of repentance with You and a time of repentance with those they hurt. Help me teach them that this is their journey into righteousness. Help me show them that the Holy Spirit in their conscience and the Bible are the only authority on what is righteous.

The Gospel of Peace shoes make sure you are proclaiming the gospel to the lost in front of these new and untrained disciples. And, it makes sure you are training them the true message of Jesus without contaminates. As you use the knock key to ask Jesus to open doors of opportunity to share your miracles, blessings, healings, and breakthroughs with others, it is important to share this principle with new and untrained Christians. They have a tendency to decide who they want to share their Christian life with.

Jesus, help me be constantly yielding to Your gospel of peace shoes. Let me allow them to guide me to those who the Father has prepared their hearts. Then help me explain what is happening, as I help the new and untrained Christians learn how to get their gospel of peace shoes on and yield to them. Help me see that these special foot wear are powerful in taking me into situations that are perfect for spreading Your wonderful news to the whole world.

The Shield of Faith makes sure the lies of Satan don't get through to the new and untrained Christians. It provides God's power to them from your life. They will experience God's supernatural power in their life and in their circumstances. These miracles will be far beyond anything they will be ready to believe for or typically receive on their own. From these experiences, they will start to believe God for His sized work in and through them.

Jesus, help me not only block off the lies of the devil, the enticements of the world, and passions of my friend's bodies, help me lead them into the faith work that You are bringing them into. As the shield of faith quenches the flaming arrows of the devil, help me guide them away from spending much time with him. Help me direct their eyes into the miracles that come, once the flame is quenched. Help me show them that, as they resist sin, failures, and shortcomings, You pour alternative blessings on them in their place.

The Sword of the Spirit makes sure that the plans and efforts of Satan are not implemented against the new or untrained Christian. It also attacks the misinformation that people and Satan have taught them. You are using the Word of God to destroy lies, misinformation, deceptions, and useless information. It is used to guide them into those parts of the Bible that help them grow spiritually. Help them see that there are things in the Bible that they need to know but can't do anything about.

Jesus, help me show the new and untrained Christians that the Book of Revelation is for their information about the future. Help me show them that they need to read it and pray about it and its meaning; but, it is more for inspiring them to righteousness and spiritual growth. Help me show them that, if they get distracted by it, they will not have the necessary spiritual growth to be ready for it, when it comes. Help me lead them into the Biblical truths that get them ready to win now and in eternity.

Babies Aren't Very Mature

New and untrained Christians make a lot of unbiblical decisions. They have Biblical concepts mixed in with worldly philosophies. Human effort on their part is the rule rather than a unique incident. Their doors are open, in a lot of areas, to Satan and closed, in a lot of areas, to God. Your full armor of God is ready and powerful enough to help you get in between them and unbiblical things. Jesus will use all of it to help you be powerful and relevant in their life.

Jesus, as new and untrained Christians start shedding off all that the world and the devil have taught them, help me realize that they are applying the only things they know. Help me remember my Romans chapter seven life. Help me be kind, but steady in my guiding them away from unbiblical things into Biblical things. Help me be understanding, but wise in my ability to help them see the power and benefits of the Biblical. Help me be loving, but unwavering in my stance with the Bible being the only way.

James 1:6-8 (NIV) But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <u>That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord</u>; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. New and untrained Christians are tossed like the waves of the sea, they are double-minded, they are carnal, and they trust their instincts. When you talk to them, you can often be amazed, as they tell you what they believe or think about things.

Jesus, I can see that You, working through my armor, will be quite busy. As You and I start working with the new and untrained Christians, they will be open to the world, the devil, and the passions of their body. Help me be willing to do what it takes to face things that can be even offensive. Help me not judge them and decide that they aren't salvageable. Help me trust that You have the necessary knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and power to flow through my feelings, thoughts, words, and deeds into them.

If it were not for the grace and mercy of God, new and untrained Christians would be destroyed in a minute. Fortunately, their salvation has been credited to their record, as them being perfect. But, that is only true for as long as they are willing to take advantage of it. Jesus isn't going to allow them to go on hurting themselves and others and not be willing to start doing something about it.

Jesus, help me encourage new and untrained Christians to do what it takes to grow spiritually. Help me show them that their current situation is doing a lot of damage to them, other people, and God's plan. Show me how to yield to You and my full armor, so I can show them how You are making major changes in my behavior. Help me take the principles that You are using in my life and share them with them. Let my miracles, blessings, healings, and breakthroughs be an encouragement to them that these things work.

If your friend's lives were representative of what their relationship with God was, they would be very lost and without God. Anytime you have a person who *wants* to do good and doesn't do it, you have a person who doesn't look like a Christian. The fact that they know what good is and still don't do it, looks like rebellion, but, it isn't! You had that problem and sometimes still have that problem. The only thing you need to always know is, do they sincerely *want* to do good and sincerely *hate* doing bad?

Jesus, help me know if a person sincerely *wants* to do good and sincerely *hates* doing bad. Help me not protect those who don't have this attitude. Help me understand that they are going to have to reap what they are sowing. **Gal 6:7 (NIV) Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.** Help me not get in the way of this; help me aways check and be able to find out whether or not they are sinning on purpose.

God loves those who sincerely *want* to do good and sincerely *hate* doing bad. And, He has accepted them into His family. The Holy Spirit is confirming with their spirit that they are a child of God. However, they look like either a hypocrite or a liar. This is where you come in. You have to be able to detect whether or not they sincerely *want* to do good and sincerely *hate* doing bad. Jesus will have to help you find out the truth about their desire.

Jesus, I trust You to help me be able to detect what the desire of those I am working with is. Help me see that it doesn't matter how often, how bad, or how long. Help me understand that what matter is, do they sincerely *want* to do good and sincerely *hate* doing bad. Help me not be distracted by anything else. Show me that for as long as they are pursuing You with all their heart, that is a good indicator of what their desire is.

Okay, It's Time To Start Learning How To Walk

You will be protecting those who are sincere, from the flaming arrows of the devil, while taking them through the various stages of spiritual growth. Step-by-step, you will be able to help them start living like a real Christian. All the principles you have learned and Jesus is now applying to your life, will be taught to them. Through the examples of your life and the teachings of your mouth, you will be able to gradually help them trust Jesus to turn them into victorious Christians.

Jesus, help me believe in Your knowledge, understanding, wisdom and power flowing in me and through me into those I am protecting. When great ideas, feelings, words, and deeds come in and flow out of me, help me always realize it is You doing Your work in that through me. Show me that it realization is the difference between pride and humility. If I give myself the credit in thought or word, it is turned into a prideful issue. Empower me to always keep my faith in You and what is happening in and through me.

As new and untrained Christians grow and change, their life will become more and more of a testimony to the people around them. Up until now, people have just had to take their word for it. The only real draw they had on the people around them was their joy. They found something that they wanted everyone to get. Even though they weren't living much of Christianity, as it related to sin (hurting the people around them) and righteousness (helping the people around them), they were extremely happy and most of them are typically extremely evangelistic.

Jesus, help me know when to gradually allow my friends to use their own full armor of God. Guide me in such a way that I never do to much or to little. Help me see that their growth is very dependent on them being allowed to become mighty warriors. Speak to my heart and help me be always aware that there are times when You want me to not protect them. Show me that protecting can be simply giving them further training. Help me let them learn directly from You at the appropriate moments.

Like the woman at the well, you must allow your friends to go ahead and invite people to come to Jesus. But, you don't let their simple testimony be the end of what your friends tell others. You, like Jesus, need to supplement their ministry by sharing the Biblical aspects of what your excited friend is sharing. Then, like in the case of the Samaritans, you will help your friend's friends believe for themselves and not just because someone told them about it.

Jesus, if I can't supplement my friend's sharing with others by going there in person, help me supply my friend with supplement literature that will be helpful. Help me supplement their ministry by giving them additional training that they can share with their friends. Help me answer any questions they have, so they can take it to their friends. Help me pray for my friend and their friend, so they are being prayed for by a more mature prayer warrior.

New and untrained Christians cannot be left alone to their own devices. Mature Christians must always be close by ready to protect them and take them to the next level. Those people who eventually got the deeper message from Jesus, came by being invited by someone who had a lot less spiritual knowledge than Jesus did. Let Jesus flow through you to your friend's friends in as many ways as is possible. But, pray that you will not give too much help or too little.

Jesus, help me not just care about my friends. Help me have a heart of love and compassion for all who come to You. Help me be ready to supply any help that is needed from me. Show me how to work with my friend's friends, while they are watching how it is done. Help me provide group meetings, where we all share what You are doing in our lives. Help us all become a family that grows together in love and fellowship.

Chapter Eight

Learning to Live the Life

Discipleship training (spiritual growth/sanctification) doesn't leave people where they are. It is good they are excited and are inviting everyone they meet to come to Jesus. But, these new and untrained Christians must start living what they are sharing. Spiritual Growth training (being sanctified) starts taking them to very exciting new successes in Christianity. Sooner or later the new and untrained Christians are going to run into spiritual issues they can't handle.

Jesus, help me use my full armor to be there in crisis moments of my friends. When they start thinking that they have tried *everything* and Christianity or some principle in Christianity doesn't work, help me be there. When they start giving up on some aspect of their spiritual growth, help me be there. When they start slacking off on their time spent with You, help me be there. Help me know when my friends have reached some major blockage that will stop their growth.

New and untrained Christians will also start realizing that their life isn't being lived like it should be. This is not only a time for you to be there, it is a time for you to be there with the help they need. They must be guided into spiritual and Biblical training as soon as possible.

- They must not get the impression that it is okay to go on sinning (hurting themselves and others) and not move into righteousness (treating people with kindness and love).
- Their relationship with God must be brought into intimacy.
- Their life must start taking on the character of God.
- They must start being an example of godliness to those around them.
- They must start treating people with the life of Jesus.

- Jesus, when my friends get the impression that sin or a specific sin isn't beatable, help me protect them from that lie and give them the truth on the matter.
- Jesus, when my friends get mechanical and ritualistic in their relationship with You, help me guide them into intimacy.
- Jesus, when my friends stop seeking God's character and attitudes, help me show them how much they will enhance their life.
- Jesus, when my friends stop carrying about how their life is affecting others, help me teach them what their final exam is going to be judging them on.
- Jesus, when my friends stop treating people good by allowing You to flow through them, help me show them how to yield to You in a better way.

You are now ready to reexamine your full armor, so you will not only be able to live it in front of them but teach them how to live it as well. You must grow in your ability spiritually and ministerially so you can pass these truths on to others. You learn things and apply them in ways that are more unique to you. As you start trying to apply these same truths to others, you will discover that a lot of people don't think, learn, and grow spiritually the way you do. This is where Jesus really shines in teaching you how to train disciples (trainees).

Jesus, help me not only be able to show how the full armor works, as I protect them. Help me be able to teach them these principles that You taught me. Help me understand that it isn't until they learn the Biblical principles that go with it, that they fully grasp all that it is capable of doing. Let me spend time with them going over each individual piece of the armor. Help me teach them how to put it on, keep it on, and use it to its fullest potential.

As you go through the ministry of Jesus in Matthew, you will grow more and more in your ability to yield to Jesus and the Holy Spirit. This will help you not only do the ministry of discipleship in others, it will help you teach your friends how to mentor their friends. This is called exponential growth. While you are continuing to mentor your friends, your friends are mentoring more and more of their friends and teaching them how to do the same. There is no other system that will spread the message of Jesus faster than this.

Jesus, help me see that the quality of the people, who are involved in exponential growth makes all the difference. If a branch of people is involved in exponential discipling and they are fully dedicated to You, then all the branches that spread off of it will have the potential of being fully dedicated to You. Help me keep spending time with You, so You can keep me in a fully dedicated condition, as I spend time protecting others and teaching them how to do it as well.

The full armor of God sets an example for those who don't have theirs on yet. They see what it looks like in real life:

1 Cor 11:1 (NIV) Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

Phil 3:17 (NIV) Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.

Jesus, help me see all the aspects of exponential growth. Show me how to present it in high quality and help it say in high quality. Teach me the principles of these letters Your ministers sent out to the groups, individuals, and churches. Help me see how they are working on keeping those that grew off of them in high spiritual quality. Help me teach these letters from all Your disciples, so we will have high spiritual quality.

Be sure to study the epistles of Peter, James, Jude, John, and Paul. They are dealing with those things your trainees will go through. If you are very familiar with those things they said, you will know where to go to get the Biblical guidance for solving the problems of your friends. It is an exciting moment, when you are able to see the mighty work of God being done in and through someone you have helped.

Jesus, help me be a major student of the Bible. Help me be familiar with all the main issues dealt with by You and Your trainees. Help me understand that the only way to handle a particular problem is to follow those things You and they presented. Help me keep in mind that these solutions are being taken from the inspired Word of God. They are the answers, solutions, and principles that have the power to transform lives.

Chapter Nine

The Full Armor Of God

Now, let Jesus show you the full armor as a complete unit. Even though its individual parts can be readily identified, it is actually a single entity. You don't need to spend a lot of time considering which piece is being used in actual life. Once you get it on and learn how to use each piece, you can start seeing it as just the full armor of God. One of the few times you will need to go back to looking at the individual pieces will be, when you are having trouble in some area of your life.

> Jesus, when I start having problems with a temptation, a spiritual battle, a ministerial issue, or I find myself weak in an area, help me go back to the individual parts of my full armor of God and see what my problem is. But, when things are operating under normal spiritual warfare, help me just use them without dealing with which one I am using.

Another time you will need to identify and be able to explain the individual parts is when you are training others; or, when you are helping them get theirs on, keep it on, and use it skillfully. But, once they get to the place where you can see they understand the individual parts and are using them properly, you will need to help them see the full armor of God as a unit and not as a bunch of pieces. Be sure to teach them how to find out which piece is not functioning properly and get Jesus to help them fix it.

> Jesus, help me prepare all my friend's training to include how to tell which piece of their armor is weak or not functioning. Help me teach them how to see where they are struggling in getting the victory over a spiritual issue. Then let me teach them which armor piece is involved in that part of their spiritual warfare. Show me how important it is for them to be able to go to You and be helped with a specific spiritual need. Help me see that this is why You made sure all of this information is in Your Bible.

The full armor of God is a resistive mechanism and a passage way at the same time. Unlike earthly armor, it has qualities that resist certain things and let others pass through. In other words, it has the ability to let the things of God in, while resisting worldly and satanic influences. It offers no resistance to God and the things of God. Even though it looks impenetrable, it leaves open complete passage and right of way to Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the Word. It only resists things that oppose or are contradictory to these concepts.

> Jesus, teach me the incredible features of Your full armor. Show me that at one moment it is impenetrable and the next it is totally open to You and Your principles. This feature provides me with a filter that wards off wrong, bad, and evil, while allowing all right, good, and righteousness to enter into my being. So, Satan is only able to try to talk me into things because he can't get anything past my armor.

Your full armor of God creates the perfect environment for you. Even though you are living in a very contaminated and hostile world, you are able to navigate through it without being corrupted or destroyed. For example, you could feel hated and be tempted to hate back. But, Jesus wants you to look at it this way.

John 15:19 (NIV) If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

Jesus, make it clear to me that the only way any wrong, bad, or evil will get to me, is for me to remove that item of my armor. If Satan can convince me that some unbiblical thing is true, that is when I remove the armor piece that would have protected me from that lie. Help me only believe Biblical truths and principles. Help me know Your Word with such skill that I recognize the lie and keep my *full* armor on. When ideas, feelings, and issues come my way that are questionable or have negative emotional characteristics to them, help me run to You.

Even though the world hates you, you are protected by all the full armor of God. It helps to ward off that hatred and helps you love them in spite of how they feel about you. Without that, you could feel so rejected that you would become debilitated from doing the work of God in the world. When you have the armor of God protecting you, your heart is shielded from that damage and you move forward in the joy of the Lord. Let Jesus show you a case where Peter and John were threatened by the major spiritual leaders of the day.

Jesus, help me see why I am able to be strong in You and in the power of Your might. Show me how much of the things of the world are coming at me and I don't even feel them. Teach me the truth about all the things that are pouring on me all the time and I am unaffected by them. Help me give You thanks and praise for the incredible gift this full armor is. Let me see how much You are always giving me all the things I need, so I can be totally victorious in life.

That Used To Hurt My Feelings

Acts 4:23-33 (NIV) On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "You made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: "'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against His Anointed One."

Jesus, show me that these kinds of Scriptures heal my heart, when I have been attacked by persecution. Teach me that there is nothing wrong with the full armor; it is perfect and impenetrable. It's the person in the armor that makes the difference. If I am discouraged, fearful, feeling defeated, or depressed, then even though the armor could do great and mighty things, it can't. So, teach me that part of the sword of the Spirit is used to bring faith and encouragement to me. As I look at that sword, what I see is incredible power and authority.

"Indeed, Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against Your holy servant Jesus, Whom You anointed. They did what Your power and will had decided beforehand should happen."

Jesus, help me realize that when things look impossible, You are still fulfilling Your will on the earth. When Satan is giving it all he has, keep me fully aware that all he can do is try to get me to take an item of my armor off. Help me not look at the circumstances and be influenced by them. Help me turn to You and Your Word and be filled with faith through that. Show me how to regulate and direct my spiritual eyes toward the Bible and only what it says.

"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak Your word with great boldness. Stretch out Your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of Your holy servant Jesus."

Jesus, help me turn to You and make my request through the *ask* key. Help me *ask* this kind of request. Show me how to be threatened, persecuted, hated, abused, and mistreated and have this kind of spiritual attitude and condition residing inside my full armor. Help me see that Your armor, so protects me that there is nothing that Satan, circumstances, or people can do to me. Even if they destroy my body, my spirit will immediately come to You.

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. <u>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all</u>.

Jesus, reveal to me how powerful the results are, as I give myself over to the protection of the full armor of God. Show me that this is how things turn out, when I keep my full armor on and use it to its full potential. Help me grow and get more and more skillful in taking advantage of it. Then help me do what these disciples did, they went right back out and started protecting as many people as possible. And, they used it to set many people free from Satan's control.

In spite of the fact the disciples were resisted and threatened, they were not damaged in their emotions. It didn't scare them away from continuing to go out into the world and minister to the unsaved and help those who were damaged and hurting. The only way you can fail to keep Jesus and His message out where the needy are, is because you don't have the *full* armor of God on.

Jesus, no one can stand constant rejection. If I keep feeling stress and strain, as people are talked to about a gospel message that their body doesn't want, it is going to be impossible for me to stay out where the needs are. I have to be shielded from social pressure and satanic attack. Help me keep my full armor on and use it to stand in between those new and untrained Christians that don't have theirs on yet.

Chapter Ten

I Am Not Going To Quit

The moment you walk out of your church building and go out where the unsaved are, is the moment you are under fire. It is indicating that you had better not even think about talking to someone about Jesus. If you start giving that possibility a thought, Satan and all his demonic hoards start screaming at you. Everyone knows what the rules are. You are to never talk about religion or politics. You can talk about anything you want, as long as you don't bring up the Bible, Christianity, and Jesus.

Jesus, help me not be willing to follow Satan and the world's rules. Help me be like Your disciples and refuse to stop presenting Your good news message. Help me be willing to have any kind of persecution come my way and still be willing to keep searching for those who what You. Help me see that this is the battle. This is a major part of protecting others with my full armor. Help me use my armor to keep me from caring what Satan and the world think. Help me forge forward until I get to those wanting You.

Satan doesn't like it, when you start bringing up things that will set his people free from him. He will attack your emotions and make you feel weird about starting the subject. And he will attact the emotions of his people and cause them to be upset. Tension fills the room, when the Name of Jesus is presented in a true, spiritual fashion. If you open your Bible in a group of unsaved people, be sure to have oxygen ready. Some will experience anxiety attacks and others will leave the room. It just isn't done.

Maybe It Was Easier
During New Testament Times

You might assume that it was easier or more acceptable back in Jesus' day. Maybe people were more receptive to religious talk. Jesus probably didn't have it as hard as you do today. Maybe people were more receptive back then. It may have been much harder back then. The things people said to Him were evil and He was eventually killed. The disciples were beaten and James was killed with the sword. Things were at least just as tough back then as it is for you. But, your armor is designed for this.

Jesus, show me that things were just as bad and probably worse back in Bible days. Help me see that this is what my full armor is all about. It isn't just to help me resist sin; it is also for being able to push forward past Satan's people and get to those who need me protecting them. Help me not feel picked on, abused, or mistreated. Help me see that I am experiencing what You and Your first disciples experienced. Show me that this is normal battle procedures. Help me take advantage of my full armor and help hurting people.

Mark 3:20-22 (NIV) Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that He and His disciples were not even able to eat. When His family heard about this, they went to take charge of Him, for they said, "He is out of His mind." And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebub ! By the prince of demons He is driving out demons." His family thought He was crazy. The main religious leaders declared Him demon possessed. This situation alone could cause you to run back into your church building and never come out again. It is tough out there!

Jesus, You had Your full armor on. You forged forward and said anything and everything that needed to be said. You didn't let social pressure, public opinion, legal issues, or family evaluations stop You from pushing through the persecution and resistance until You found those who would believe in You. Help me see that my full armor is just as able to block off all that influence. And, it will protect me from giving in to the resistance. Show me that I must not stop looking for the people who will believe in You.

Luke 4:28-30 (NIV) All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove Him (Jesus) out of the town, and took Him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. But He walked right through the crowd and went on His way. Jesus went to His home town and this is how they treated Him. He told them what they needed to hear; and, they didn't want to hear it. But, those in the crowd that did, were given the message that they needed.

Jesus, show me that even in a hostile crowd there are people who will believe. They probably won't speak up and let their decision be known. But, there will usually be those who will secretly decide in their heart that You are their answer to their needs. Help me see that if I don't rely on my full armor, I will avoid conflict and not give these people the opportunity to make that decision. Help me be vicious, ferocious, and relentless against Satan. Help me feel secure inside my full armor and defeat every one of his arguments.

No, it wasn't any easier then than it is now. Jesus had to have His full armor on, in order to go out and face the world. The disciples had to have their full armor of God on or they would have spent the rest of their lives hiding from the world. **John 20:19 (NIV) On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, <u>with the doors locked for fear of the Jews</u>, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"**

Jesus, help me experience Your peace in my heart, so I won't be **with the doors locked for fear of** what will happen to me. Since my full armor is perfect and supernaturally invincible, help me understand that it is me that needs to be strong in You and Your mighty power. Show me that my full armor won't let me down. So, help me not let it down. Help me be filled with the kind of attitudes that my full armor needs and deserves.

What Worldwide Christian Movement?

John 20:19-22 (NIV) On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, <u>Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!</u>" After He said this, He showed them His hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "<u>Peace be with you</u>! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you." And with that He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Jesus, it is a matter of self-preservation. I don't want to suffer or die. I don't even like the emotional pain of rejection, criticism, or verbal abuse. Help me allow my full armor filter out the sting of all those fears. Show me that it is protecting me from *anything* happening to me that isn't Your will. Help me totally submit to Your will for my life. Let Your power flow into me, so I can suffer anything that will bring people into Your eternal Kingdom. Help me be willing to pay any price for their salvation.

Jesus had spent approximately three and a half years investing His life and ministry in His disciples. He was preparing them to go into all the world and proclaim a message that was going to set people free from their old way of life and get them ready to enter His eternal Kingdom. He had just been crucified and had risen from the dead. Through those two events, salvation and sanctification were now in place, so everyone could start living a powerful Christian life. But, His disciples weren't on board with His plan.

Jesus, You gave Your first disciples a peace that freed them from the fear of physical and emotional pain. You put a power in their heart and mind that enabled them to face any kind of persecution that might come their way. Give me that peace, so I can push through all the opposition and get the message to those who will accept You as their Lord and Savior. Help me not let anything stop me from getting to them. Help me position myself and my full armor in front of them, so they can make a decision to follow You.

There wasn't going to be a worldwide Christian movement. There wasn't even going to be a city-wide Christian movement. The disciples weren't going to leave the house. They could tell when they weren't wanted. A Christian could get killed out there in the world. There were four major things they needed in order to be able to leave the safety of their meeting place.

- Jesus had to be with them.
- He had to give them His peace.
- They had to be sent.
- The Holy Spirit had to occupy their body.

Jesus, thank You for being inside me, so I can yield to Your life, message, ministry, and method. Thank You for putting Your peace in me through the fruit of the Spirit. It is flowing like a river out of my heart. Thank You for giving me Your great commission that is empowering me to do my part of going into all the world and proclaiming Your gospel message. Thank You for putting Your Holy Spirit in me at salvation. And, thank You for immersing me in Your Holy Spirit, so He was able to give me power to be Your witness.

Conclusion

This is the first book in **The Protector Series**. As you know, this book is called: **The Protector.** The second book is called: **Protection Through Relationships.** The third book is called: **Protection Through Jesus.** And the fourth book is called: **Protection Through Love.** These all deal with protecting those who can't protect themselves.

Jesus can use **The Prevention Series** to help you teach your friends how to put on, keep on, and use the full armor of God, so they can protect themselves. If they haven't gone through that series, it would be good for Jesus and you to take them through it.

A Prayer For You To Always Pray For Yourself And Others

Jesus' people are praying Ephesians 1:17-23 for you. It contains such vital requests before God that it has been converted into a prayer for you and those around you. As others pray it for you, please join them by praying this modified prayer for yourself and your friends.

I *keep asking* that the God of my Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may *give me* the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, *so that* I may know Him better.

I pray also that the eyes of my heart may be enlightened *in order that* I may know the hope to which He has called me, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for me, who believes. Jesus, help me see, know, and understand the hope, the riches, and this power.

That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills everything in every way. Jesus, I ask that I would receive a full revelation and vision into all this power that is available to me; and, I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

It would be good for you to pray this prayer for yourself and those around you regularly.