"Fighting In The Spiritual Realm"

By Mrs. Sojourner

There is a realm where spiritual battles take place many Believers do not even consider—The spiritual realm.

"It's a spiritual battle," some may say, "do not insult us by telling us most do not consider that spiritual battles are in the realm of the spirit.!"

Hold on a minute, I by no means want to insult anyone, but sometimes it is easy to forget that the neighbor who berates you daily, or the child that suddenly stopped obeying you, may be a pawn of the enemy. I am not insulting these people either, because often those people used by demonic forces have no idea they are being used to hinder your (and their) walk with the Lord.

Yelling at the neighbor, or the child, only pleases the demonic forces, (and frustrates the people). Binding the demonic forces that are influencing and/or deceiving the them, and praying for the the people's souls wins the spiritual battle, and eventually bring peace to the neighborhood and home. Ephesians reminds us:

¹²For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against

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the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere. ¹³Therefore put on God's complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place. Eph. 6:12-13(AMP) Please consider, next time you are confronted by a

challenging situation, make sure your spiritual armor is on, and go to the Lord, praying for discernment to know if the people and/or circumstances are being used by the enemy, then fight the fight in the spiritual realm with the weapons given you through Christ's victory.

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Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

 $"Be\ Strong!" \ {\it (Teaching\ Sketch)}$

Ephesians 6:18-18 (NIV)

Being strong in Lord means just that! Many Believers have often seen this as their strength. Think about it. If we were to do all we have been called and commissioned to do as Believers we are certainly not to rely on our own strength alone!

The Armor Of God

The Apostle Paul makes it crystal clear Believers are not only to put on the "Armor of God" but we are to put on the "Full armor of God!"

The only way we can grasp this armor and how to appropriate it is to be a student of the scripture—the Holy Bible.

Parts Of The Armor

When we wear the armor provided by God we are completely protected.

The Girdle

God's Word is truth! If we, therefore, embrace God's Word by applying it to every situation in our lives the pro-

tection offered through God's Word is appropriated to us in its fullest extent. If we only appropriate a portion but not all then we will not enjoy everything found in the Word that is ours.

The Breastplate

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Paul makes it clear Jesus is our righteousness. Unfortunately, we may find ourselves looking at our own righteousness and recognize that we fall short. When this happens we are not appropriating the righteousness of Christ that is ours. We then, as a result of our own faulty thinking, find ourselves overwhelmed by guilt and become weak and useless in carrying out our part. Satan will always make a strong attack here.

The Word again must be appropriated to allow the Believers to overcome. It is in the Word where the truth come out that it is not us but Christ in us which make us righteous.

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Scripture:

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV)

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For 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. ¹³Therefore 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. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around vour waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And 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.

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Sojourners...
yield good
fruit and harvest unto the
Lord their
God.

"Be Strong!" (Teaching Sketch)
Ephesians 6:18-18 (NIV)

Feet Shod

Anyone who has walked much knows just how important it is to have our feet properly protected. Ask any soldier how much the care of their feet was stressed during training. We must correctly understand the Gospel of Peace or we are not prepared for our journey to seek out the lost!

The Shield

Paul tells us that our shield is our faith. It is our faith which completely covers us with the protection to withstand the things the enemy will throw our way.

The Helmet

Our salvation comes from Christ who is the Head of the Church—the body—the Believers. Salvation then comes from Christ who is our salvation. The helmet will keep the Believer focused on Christ.

The Sword

The sword (the Word) is the only part of the armor used offensively. The power, both authority and explosive, comes via the sword! Use It!

When we are fully and properly outfitted in our armor we are victorious!

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- Informal sharing of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- Opening Prayer
- Praise & Worship
- Words of Prophecy or Knowledge if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- The Pastoral Message
- Prayer Requests
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- The Blessing

