

# The Bishop's Corner

## *The Whole Armor of God*

Praise the Lord Saints,

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girted your waist with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayers and supplication in the Spirit, and being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.” (Ephesians 6:10-18 NKJV)

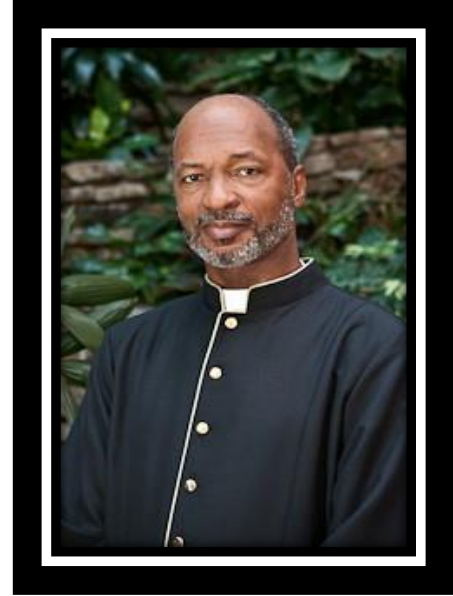
Putting on the whole armor of God means putting on everything that God has given us to fight against the wiles of the devil. It is hard to fight when we're burdened down and have not been refreshed by the Holy Ghost. When we're sick, we can't fight, because we need to be whole before we go to battle. In Ephesians chapters 4-5, God is getting us spiritually healthy so that we are able to put on the whole armor and in Ephesians chapter 6, He tells us what that armor is and gets us ready to go to battle.

New believers in God need to learn about God before they put on the whole armor of God and try to fight because they are not yet ready for battle. We all need to know that somebody is bigger than we are (God) when we go through situations in our lives. We need to know that God is real, He has not lost His power, and God is on our side.

Before we put on God's armor, we need to go through our spiritual checklist to see if we've been pleasing to God, and if we find that we have been, then we are ready to put on the whole armor of God. We don't wrestle against flesh and blood (physically with one another), so God gives us what we need to rebuke the devil and stand against his schemes, strategies, and deceptions and be ready and able to hear and believe the word of God. We must do all we can do to put on the helmet of salvation, which is important because we can't live without our head and salvation is a must in God, so we need to make sure we're saved. The breastplate of righteousness is our right-standing in God, and it points to our holiness. The breastplate is only as strong as the righteousness of the person wearing it. The breastplate is only strong when our righteousness and holiness are there. The devil attacks our righteousness and holiness by making us feel guilty. If we're not living holy, nothing else matters, and when we're not living righteously is when the devil comes with temptations. In Ephesians chapters 4-5 the word gives elements of our righteousness. The devil never attacks our head (helmet of salvation) by coming to us and telling us not to be saved, but he attacks our breastplate of righteousness. “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14 NKJV)

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith  
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**For more of Bishop Smith's teachings, go to the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Website at <http://www.gulfcoastclgi.org> and click on "Encouragement" then "Teachings."**