

# OUR POSITION IN CHRIST



*Leap*  
of FAITH  
Hebrews 11:1



## 1 John 5:18–21 (NKJV)

18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

# There Is No More Secure Place To Be Than In Christ.

## Hebrews 12:28 (NKJV)

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

- Despite the fierceness with which Satan will come against a believer, we can still stand.
- We have the incredibly wonderful advantage of being preordained winners in every spiritual struggle.
- As long as we stand in faithfulness to Christ, victory in spiritual warfare is our undeniable right and hope.
- Failing to keep this truth firmly entrenched in our minds and hearts will give the advantage to our enemy.

- Hesitation in battle can be costly. Being uncertain of your strength in a struggle will leave you vulnerable.
- In business, school, and all other areas of life, the indelible mark of a successful person is confidence.
- Successful people know who they are and understand what they can accomplish.
- They have learned that even their weaknesses can be leveraged to advantage.
- And they know the value of being networked with other successful, supportive people.
- This factor has a biblical model we can use in spiritual warfare.

- We are Christ's own chosen.
- We are united with Christ in His victory.
- We love Him because He first loved us.
- By our union with Him we have full authority against our unseen enemies.
- If any have reason to be confident, we do.
- And if we are to believe the Word, we know what we can accomplish in Christ—all things. All the time.



- And our weaknesses? Christ specializes in turning weaknesses into incredible strengths, turning what was meant for harm into good.

## 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV)

And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

- Not only do we have the power of Christ in us, but we are part of the most powerful network of supportive, like-minded people—the body of Christ. Being His priests, we are all highly placed in the kingdom of God!



## Hebrews 4:15–16 (NKJV)

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

## Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.



# In Spiritual Warfare You Have Legal Rights As A Child Of God!

## Titus 2:15 (NKJV)

Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority.  
Let no one despise you.

# In Spiritual Warfare You Have Legal Rights As A Child Of God!

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- In Christ Jesus you and I have all the authority we need to resist and defeat the attacks of the Enemy against our family and ourselves.
- Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit can help you and I to stand firmly when challenged or tempted.
- We always have access to His power and authority. Grant to us the wisdom to discern all factors that may be giving our enemies advantage over me.



# Know Your Enemy!

## John 8:44 (NKJV)

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

## John 10:10 (NKJV)

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.



- Satan the father of lies and the author of confusion, and with the single-minded goal of stealing everything good from us, killing us, and destroying all those around us, Satan is relentless and insidious in his attacks.
- Seldom obvious, he will magnify our own human weaknesses, whether physical, spiritual, mental, or emotional.
- Difficult circumstances will be stirred up to impossible-appearing dimensions.

- Friends who merely disappoint will appear to us as low-blow backstabbers.
- Tiny events that normally occur in the lives of everyone will feel like total catastrophes in our lives.
- A small personality quirk virtually invisible to others will look to us like a mountain of death on our souls!

# We Have The Victory!

## Ephesians 6:10–20 (NKJV)

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 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.

# We Have The Victory!

13 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.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

# We Have The Victory!

17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 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 Lord's people.

19 Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,

20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.



# The Armor of God

- Since we are fighting against enemies in the spirit world, we need special equipment both for offense and defense.
- God has provided the “whole armor” for us, and we dare not omit any part.
- Satan looks for that unguarded area where he can get a foothold:

**Ephesians 4:27** (NKJV)

nor give place to the devil.



# The Girdle Of Truth

(v. 14a)

- Satan is a liar (*John 8:44*), but the believer whose life is controlled by truth will defeat him.
- The girdle holds the other parts of the armor together, and truth is the integrating force in the life of the victorious Christian.
- A man of integrity, with a clear conscience, can face the enemy without fear.

# The Girdle Of Truth

(v. 14a)

- The girdle also held the sword.
- Unless we practice the truth, we cannot use the Word of truth. Once a lie gets into the life of a believer, everything begins to fall apart.

# The Breastplate Of Righteousness

(v. 14b)

- This piece of armor, made of metal plates or chains, covered the body from the neck to the waist, both front and back.
- It symbolizes the believer's righteousness in Christ (*2 Cor. 5:21*) as well as his righteous life in Christ (*Eph. 4:24*).

# The Breastplate Of Righteousness

(v. 14b)

## 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

## Ephesians 4:24 (NKJV)

and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

- Satan is the accuser, but he cannot accuse the believer who is living a godly life in the power of the Spirit.
- The life we live either fortifies us against Satan's attacks or makes it easier for him to defeat us (*2 Cor. 6:1–10*).
- When Satan accuses the Christian, it is the righteousness of Christ that assures the believer of his salvation.
- Our positional righteousness in Christ, without practical righteousness in the daily life, only gives Satan opportunity to attack us.

# The Shoes Of The Gospel

(v. 15)

- The Roman soldier wore sandals with hobnails in the soles to give him better footing for the battle. If we are going to “*stand*” and “*withstand*,” then we need the shoes of the Gospel.
- Because we have the peace with God (*Rom. 5:1*) that comes from the Gospel, we need not fear the attack of Satan or men.
- We must be at peace with God and with each other if we are to defeat the devil (*James 4:1–7*).



- But the shoes have another meaning. We must be prepared each day to share the Gospel of peace with a lost world.
- The most victorious Christian is a witnessing Christian. If we wear the shoes of the Gospel, then we have the “*beautiful feet*” mentioned in Isaiah 52:7 and Romans 10:15.
- Satan has declared war, but you and I are ambassadors of peace ([2 Cor. 5:18–21](#)); and, as such, we take the Gospel of peace wherever we go.



# The Shield Of Faith

(v. 16)

- The shield was large, usually about four feet by two feet, made of wood, and covered with tough leather. As the soldier held it before him, it protected him from spears, arrows, and *“fiery darts.”*
- The edges of these shields were so constructed that an entire line of soldiers could interlock shields and march into the enemy like a solid wall. This suggests that we Christians are not in the battle alone.
- The *“faith”* mentioned here is not saving faith, but rather living faith, a trust in the promises and the power of God.



# The Shield Of Faith

(v. 16)

- Faith is a defensive weapon which protects us from Satan's fiery darts.
- In Paul's day, arrows, dipped in some inflammable substance and ignited, were shot at the enemy. Satan shoots "*fiery darts*" at our hearts and minds: lies, blasphemous thoughts, hateful thoughts about others, doubts, and burning desires for sin.
- If we do not by faith quench these darts, they will light a fire within and we will disobey God.
- We never know when Satan will shoot a dart at us, so we must always walk by faith and use the shield of faith.



# The Helmet Of Salvation

(v. 17)

- Satan wants to attack the mind, the way he defeated Eve (*Gen. 3; 2 Cor. 11:1–3*).
- The helmet refers to the mind controlled by God.
- It is too bad that many Christians have the idea that the intellect is not important, when in reality it plays a vital role in Christian growth, service, and victory.
- When God controls the mind, Satan cannot lead the believer astray.

- The Christian who studies his Bible and learns the meaning of Bible doctrines is not going to be led astray too easily.
- We need to be *“taught by Him as the truth is in Jesus”* (Eph. 4:21).
- We are to *“grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 3:18).
- We need the truth of God’s word, and this helmet to protect us from Satan’s lies.

# The Sword Of The Spirit, Which Is The Word Of God

(v. 17<sup>b</sup>)

- The sword of the Spirit (v. 17<sup>b</sup>). This sword is the offensive weapon God provides us.
- The Roman soldier wore on his girdle a short sword which was used for close-in fighting.
- Hebrews 4:12 compares the Word of God to a sword, because it is sharp and is able to pierce the inner man just as a material sword pierces the body.
- You and I were “cut to the heart” (Acts 2:37; 5:33) when the Word convicted us of our sins.



- A material sword pierces the body, but the Word of God pierces the heart. The more you use a physical sword, the duller it becomes; but using God's Word only makes it sharper in our lives.
- A physical sword requires the hand of a soldier, but the sword of the Spirit has its own power, for it is *"living and powerful"* ([Heb. 4:12](#)).
- The Spirit wrote the Word, and the Spirit wields the Word as we take it by faith and use it.
- Note that Satan can also quote the Word: *"For it is written"* ([Luke 4:10](#)), but he does not quote it completely.

- A physical sword wounds to hurt and kill, while the sword of the Spirit wounds to heal and give life.
- When we use the sword against Satan, we are out to deal him a blow that will cripple him and keep him from hindering God's work.
- When He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, Christ used the sword of the Spirit and defeated the enemy. Three times Jesus said, *"It is written"* (Luke 4:1–13).
- Satan tries to use the Word of God to confuse us, so it is important that we know every word that God has given us. *"You can prove anything by the Bible,"* someone said.

- True—if you take verses out of context, leave out words, and apply verses to Christians today that do not really apply. The better you know the Word of God, the easier it will be for you to detect Satan’s lies and reject his offers.
- In one sense, the “*whole armor of God*” is a picture of Jesus Christ. Christ is the Truth ([John 14:6](#)), and He is our righteousness ([2 Cor. 5:21](#)) and our peace ([Eph. 2:14](#)).
- His faithfulness makes possible our faith ([Gal. 2:20](#)); He is our salvation ([Luke 2:30](#)); and He is the Word of God ([John 1:1, 14](#)).



- This means that when we trusted Christ, we received the armor. Paul told the Romans what to do with the armor (*Rom. 13:11–14*): wake up (*Rom. 13:11*), cast off sin, and “*put on the armor of light*” (*Rom. 13:12*). We do this by putting “*on the Lord Jesus Christ*” (*Rom. 13:14*).
- By faith, put on the armor and trust God for the victory. Once and for all, we have put on the armor at the moment of salvation.
- But there must be a daily appropriation. When King David put off his armor and returned to his palace, he was in greater danger than when he was on the battlefield (*2 Sam. 11*). We are never out of reach of Satan’s devices, so we must never be without the whole armor of God.

# Know Your Position In Christ And Who You Are!



*Leap*

of

FAITH

Hebrews 11:1

