



The “Battle Prayer” Praying Ephesians 6: 10-18

Mary Sorrentino – October 2011

Lord, help me to be strong in You and in Your power. Help me to put on your full armor so that I can take my stand against the devil’s schemes. Help me Lord, to remember that my struggles are not against flesh & blood (they’re not against my husband, or family, or difficult people, or even against this bad economy or my boss), but they are against the rulers, the authorities, the powers of this dark world. Yes ~ this world is the enemy’s territory! My struggles are spiritual in nature first ~ fighting against the forces of evil in the spiritual world. Please Lord, don’t let me forget that. Don’t let me live just in the physical realm, because I – as your child – am a spiritual being, playing a role in this spiritual war! So Lord, help me to put on your full armor, so I can stand firm in You when the day of evil comes, and after I’ve done everything I can to fight the battle, I pray I will stand and come through all my battles – never defeated – never falling – because I have gone into it clothed in Your armor!

Help me then, Lord to stand firm, with the Belt of Truth buckled around my waist. Lord in Your day, the armor of a soldier included a large metal belt that not only protected the soldier’s vital organs, but most likely also carried all their weapons. My belt, that which holds all of my weapons against the enemy, is Truth. Truth must be tied securely around my waist – holding my faith (based in truth), my salvation (a true gift to me, securing my eternity), my righteousness (in truth, not mine, but Jesus’ righteousness), my peace (that comes only from the truth of Your Good News), and my sword – the Spirit (the truth of Your life in me ~ the truth of Your Word.)

Help me to wear the Breastplate of Righteousness – Oh God, let me hold fast to the fact that I stand in Your righteousness, not my own. The breastplate in ancient armor protected the heart. Protect mine from the lies of the enemy who says I’m not good enough to be loved by You, much less to be used by You! The truth is I am covered in your white robes of righteousness. None of my sin shows through. You have removed it as far as the east is from the west. So the enemy’s accusations that would pierce and break my heart cannot get through, because the breastplate of Your righteousness covers me! I no longer rely on what I do to be good enough. I can’t be good enough. But You have given me your righteousness as a gift – and the enemy can *never* take that away!

Father let me keep on my “Hiking Boots” so that my feet are ready to stand firm in all of my battles. My boots are the Gospel of Peace – the good news of Jesus. No matter the rough spots – trees, roots, rocks, cliffs, holes, water – whatever obstacles the enemy puts in my way – I am prepared! I will not slip. I will not fall. I will not be frightened or anxious or intimidated and tempted to turn back. Why? Because of Jesus. He has won this war, so I can trust – I can rest in the PEACE of knowing the end of the story. There is peace in standing on Jesus name. Peace not fear, no falling, just standing in confidence and peace knowing the King has already won the victory!

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Let me also hold up my Shield of Faith. God I remember learning that in Jesus day, a soldier's shield was huge – covering his whole body. And it truly did deflect or stop flaming arrows from hitting his body. My faith is my shield. When the enemy lob a scud missile at me (flaming arrows have come a long way these days) it is my faith in You that provides the protective covering to deflect and extinguish those attacks. No matter how strong or subtle, how frequent or sneaky are the attacks of the enemy, my faith is my impenetrable shield! Oh God, build my faith. Even when I doubt, let it push me toward you so in the end my faith is stronger than ever!

Lord, help me also to put on the Helmet of Salvation. A helmet protected not just the soldier's head but also his face, his eyes, mouth and nose. It protected his eyes so he could see the battle and the enemy's incoming attacks. It protected his nose so he could keep breathing and stay alive and his mouth so he could communicate with his fellow soldiers on the battle field. God, my helmet is your Salvation. The enemy would try to pierce my mind with the lie that my salvation is not sure. He would make me doubt that I belong to you or that I'm even fighting on the right side of this war. He would even try to blur my vision so I might not even see this battle is real! But God, help me guard my mind, my vision and my very breath with the truth and joy of my sure salvation ~ a gift ~ not earned; not fought for by me, but fought for with your life, and freely given to me.

Lord, help me to take up my Sword of the Spirit which IS the WORD OF GOD! Help me to remember that this – Your Word – Your Truth is my *only offensive* weapon to proactively fight against the enemy. Help me to remember that it was Your Word of Truth that even Jesus used to take down Satan when he was tempted and lied to in the desert. Oh God, help me to love Your Word. Help me study Your Word. Help me to know Your Word so that when the enemy comes at me with lies and confusion I can say, as my Savior did, “It is written.” When I hear the lies of the enemy let me say without a moment's hesitation, “but the TRUTH is ...” Oh God, give me a new and fresh passion for your Word! Help me to want to learn and memorize Your Word so that I can wield this sword and win against the enemy's schemes, attacks and lies.

And finally Lord, help me to Keep on praying on all occasions with all kinds of prayers. Let me pray in spirit and in truth. Let the words of my mouth, the thoughts of my mind and the writings of my pen be a pleasing and powerful offering to You. I pray all of this for me, for my family, for my friends and their families, and for those who you want me to minister to, in the wonderful name of Jesus, Amen.