

Do Not Lean on Your Own Understanding!

5-10-2017

Revised 4-18-2023

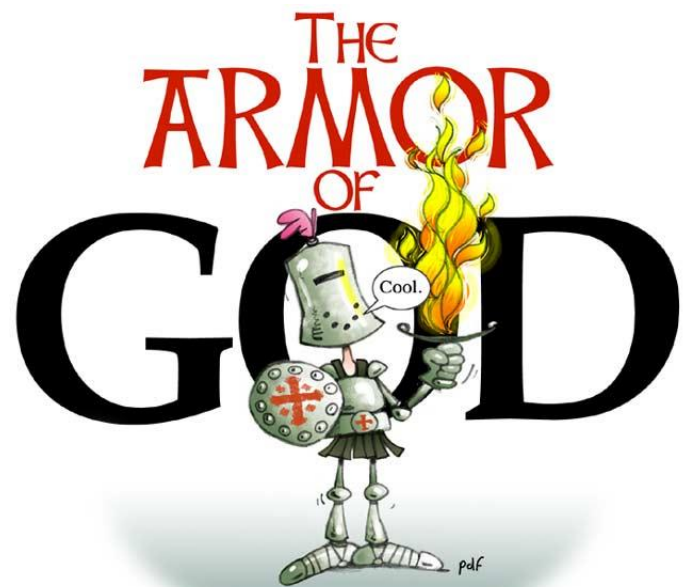
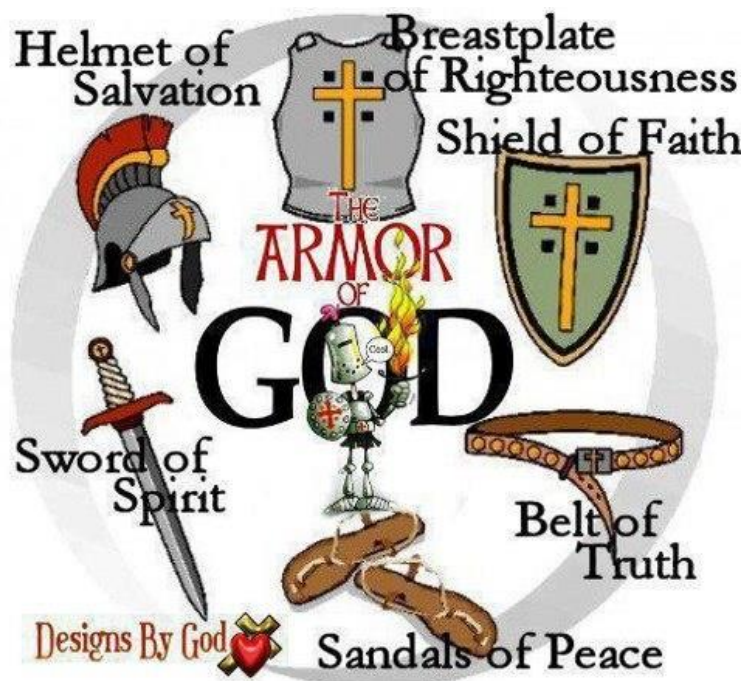
Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.



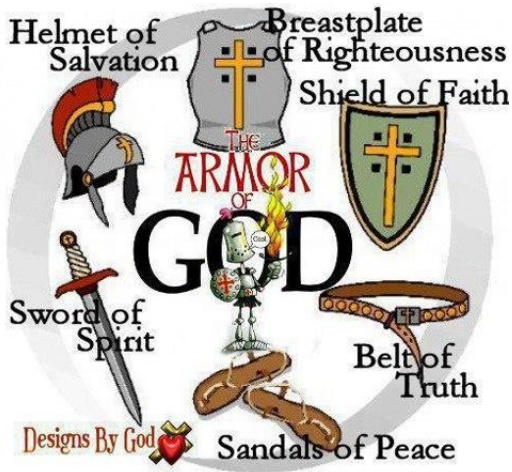
So many times we try to solve our problems by leaning on our own thinking or understanding. That's like trusting in a blank sign for information! It doesn't tell us what we need to know! Our understanding is limited; sometimes it is like a blank sign! We can't put together all that we need to know to solve our problem. God's understanding of the problem is unlimited! He knows everything about the problem! We are acting foolish when we trust in our very limited knowledge when we can trust in God's unlimited knowledge! Remember, He is omniscient! We need to completely lean on the LORD, God!



God the Holy Spirit gives us His power so that we can lean on God and have faith in the word of God. Our flesh battles to pull us away from trusting this truth. Only the Holy Spirit can war against our flesh so we have to let Him battle for us! If we try to fight the battle without Him, we'll lose big time! We need to put on the full armor of God! He will fight our battles! We need to stand still and watch His deliverance!



Ephesians 6:10-12 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.



God has given us the Belt of Truth, Ephesians 6:14. The belt of truth involves our minds. Truth keeps us secure in Christ and makes all the other pieces of armor work well. The belt of truth holds our armor in place. "Teach me your ways, O Lord, that I may live according to your truth!" Psalm 86:11 Learn God's word!

God has given us the Breastplate of Righteousness, Ephesians 6:14. God the Father has declared us righteous or blameless because we are in union with Christ. The devil is constantly attacking us with lies and reminders of past sins trying to make us feel guilty. God has given us the breastplate of righteousness to protect us in our spiritual battle. With the breastplate of righteousness we know we are blameless in God's eyes no matter what the devil tries to tell us or "shoot at us"!

God has given us the Shoes of Peace & Preparation, Ephesians 6:15. Shoes allow us to step freely and without fear while we turn our full attention to the battle at hand. They aid in our movement and defense. The shoes God gives propel us onward to tell people about the true peace which is available in Christ - the Gospel.

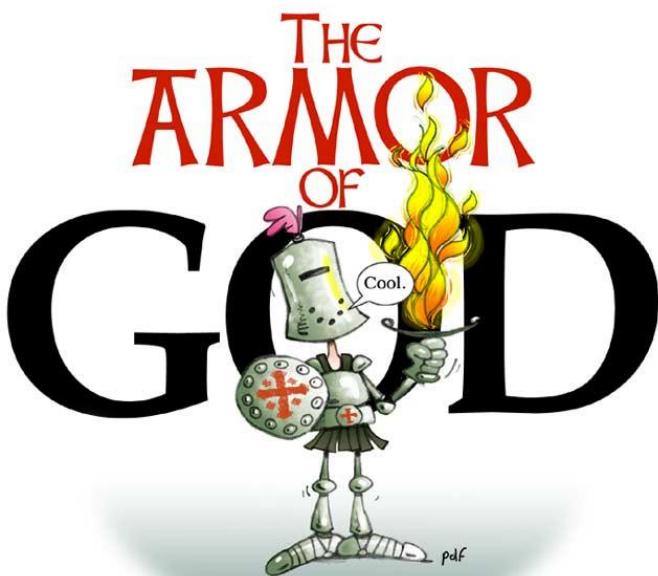
God has given us the Shield of Faith, Ephesians 6:16. The shield not only defends our whole body but also our armor. The shield of faith has a very specific function, which the Bible makes clear: stop **all** the fiery darts of the wicked. Not some but **all** of them. The shield moves with the direction of the attack. God has us covered!

God has given us the Helmet of Salvation, Ephesians 6:17. Satan's target is Your mind. Satan's weapon is lies. The enemy wants to make us doubt God and our salvation. The helmet protects our minds from doubting the truth of God's saving work for us. It protects our heads - our thinking by remembering that we are born again, we have eternal life, God has declared us righteous, the blood of Christ has dealt with our sins and now our minds can rest in Christ!

The Sword of The Spirit, Ephesians 6:17. Thoughts are weapons the enemy uses against us. With the Sword of the Spirit, God's word, we are equipped to deal with them all. We need to trust in the truth of God's word. God's word is the thing that cuts through the lies, fear, despair, attacks, and depression that the enemies want to bring into our thoughts. **There is No condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.**

Romans 8:1

The armor of God protects us!

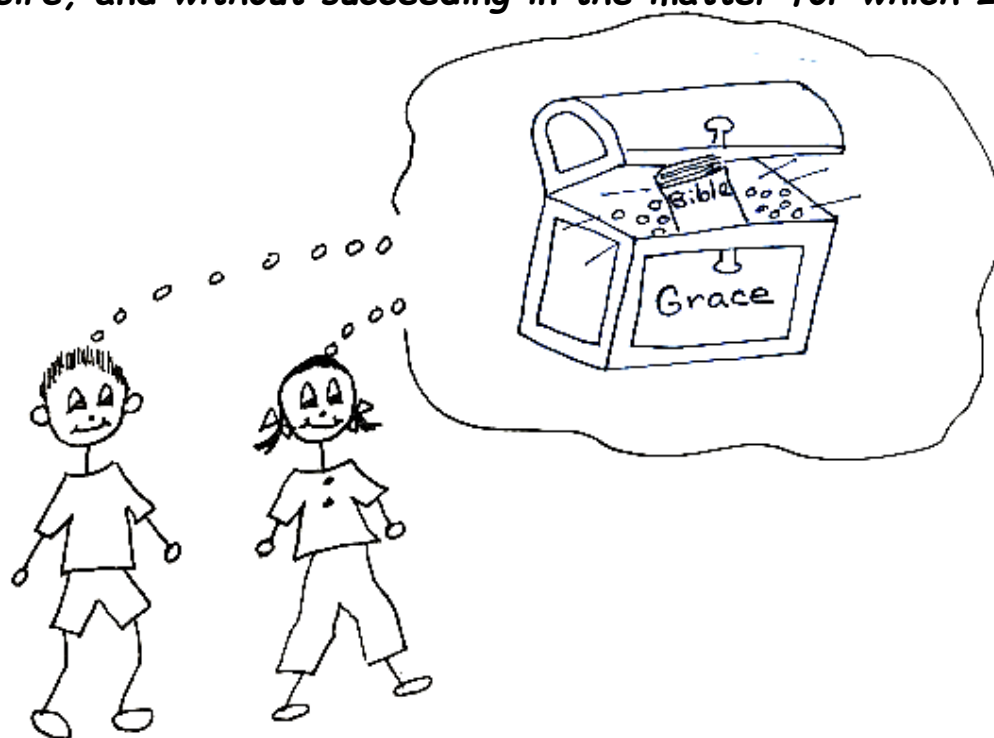


Ephesians 6:14-17 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.



Sometimes when God is allowing pressure in our lives, I like to picture it like He is pressing us into His care! He wants us to lean on Him! He presses us into a safe place - into the arms of Jesus! He presses us to rest our thinking in the thinking of God! His thinking is soooo far above ours; His ways are soooo far above ours! We are to read our Bible and learn what the word of God has to teach us - truth! He will teach us the truths we need for our journey through life on earth. Remember - God knows everything!

Isaiah 55:8-11 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth, and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it."



When we are leaning on God, He is supporting us! Keep that in mind - GOD SUPPORTS US! UPHOLDS US! CARRIES US! PROTECTS US!



2Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Isaiah 41:10 Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.



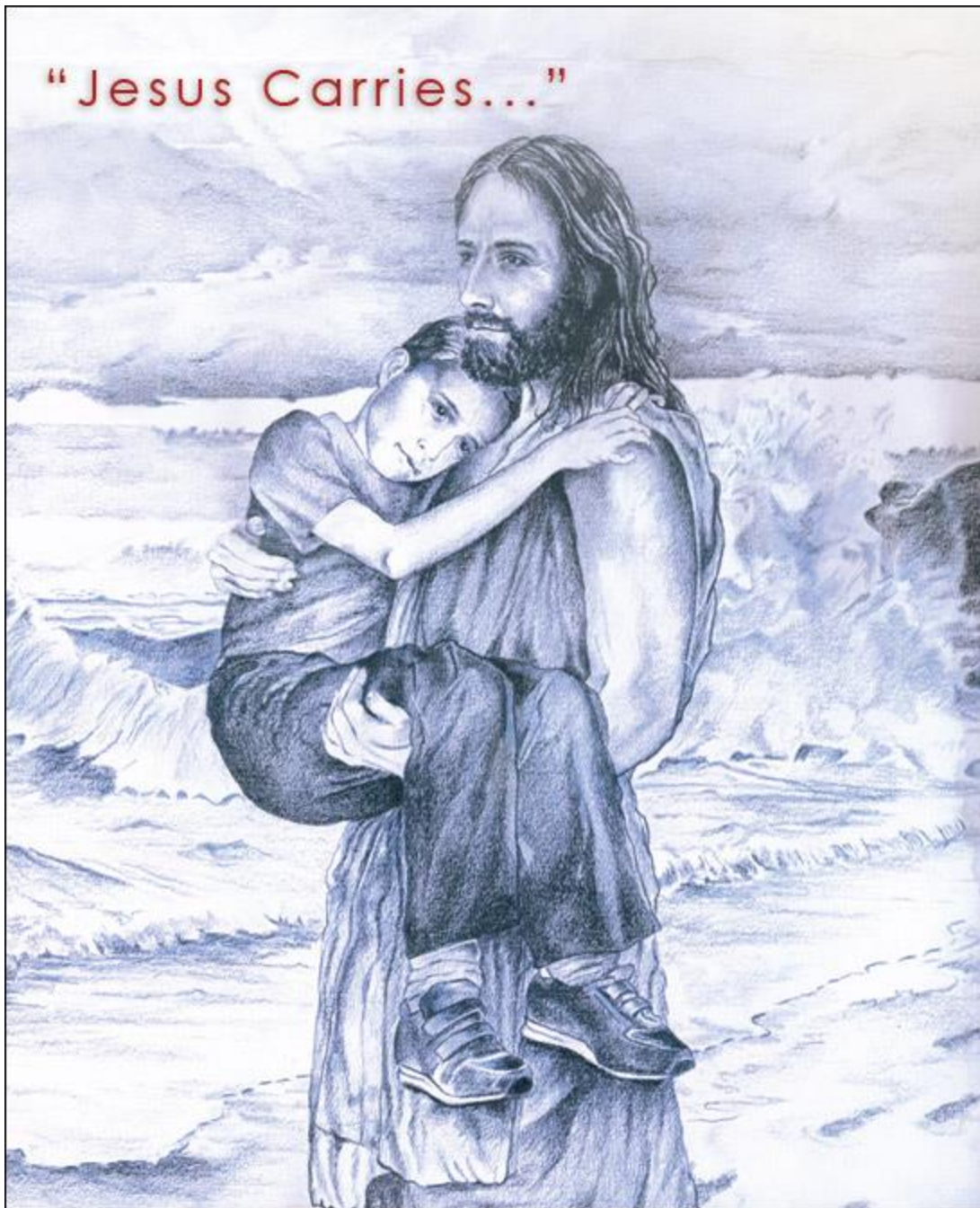
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Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Lean on God's Understanding!



Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.



2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way.