

1. Stand by Taking the Helmet of Salvation – “And take the helmet of salvation” (17a).
 - a. The Helmet of Salvation is an assurance of eternal salvation (cf. 2:1-9).
 - i. All those who've placed their faith in Christ have been made alive eternally (1-5).
 - ii. All those who've placed their faith in Christ are already seated with Christ in heavenly places (6).
 - iii. All those who've placed their faith in Christ will dwell with Christ eternally (7).
 - iv. This eternal salvation is made available to us by grace, not works (5, 8-9).
 - v. This eternal salvation is accessed by faith in Christ's finished work (8).
 - vi. When believers doubt their salvation, they have no confidence to stand against the wicked one.
 - vii. When believers go into battle with full confidence of their eternal salvation, they are bold as lions.
 - b. The Helmet of Salvation is an assurance of present salvation (cf. 1:15-23).
 - i. Christ has given believers a vast inheritance that is so hard to fully grasp that the Holy Spirit must reveal it to us a little at a time (17-18).
 - ii. Christ connects believers with the supreme source of power for deliverance (19-23).
 - iii. Believers now share in Christ's power (“dunamis” Acts 1:8) and authority (“exousia” Matthew 28:18) over the devil and his domain.
 - iv. All the evil powers are under Christ's feet, and believers are part of Christ's body (1:21-23).
2. Stand by Taking the Sword of the Spirit – “and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (17b).
 - a. Wield the Sword of the Spirit offensively by sharing the Gospel.
 - i. The word that Paul uses for sword was the most commonly used word for a sword; this was the sword worn by every Roman infantryman and often denoted a short sword and could even refer to a knife; this sword should be distinguished from the large broadsword.
 1. The short sword had to be used in connection with a shield, or it was ineffective.
 2. Similarly, when the Word of the Spirit is wielded without the Shield of Faith, it is ineffective, and in fact, counterproductive.
 - ii. The sword is supplied by the Holy Spirit.
 1. The Holy Spirit inspired the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21).
 2. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to convince sinners of their need for the Gospel (John 16:8).
 - iii. Believers must learn to make known the gospel of Jesus Christ which is the ultimate offensive attack against the kingdom of evil (Romans 10:13-17).
 - b. Wield the Sword of the Spirit defensively by using it to resist temptation.
 - i. We “sharpen the sword” by hiding God's Word in our hearts so the Spirit can call it to mind in the hour of need (Psalm 119:11).
 - ii. We wield off temptation by answering Satan's lies with the Word of God (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13).

Conclusion:

1. Are you sure of your soul's eternal salvation? Do you have complete assurance?
2. Are you growing in your understanding of God's power over the wicked one? How does that understanding changing the way you live?
3. Are sharing the gospel with others? Are you praying for the lost around? Are you praying about ways to reach them?
4. Are you hiding God's Word in your heart? Are you answering Satan's lies with God's Word?