



Christian Outreach Department

Rev. Dr. Bhavana Arthur

Aim of the Department

The purpose of the Christian Outreach Department is to encourage the Christian walk of the members, emphasizing “Ye are the salt of the earth... Ye are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13a, 14a) and to outreach to the faith community with the WCTU total abstinence message.

*Dear all, let us start with a word of prayer, **Dear God, we’re grateful, Lord, that while we aim to keep a strong grip on You, You always keep a strong grip on us! You are working in us and giving us what we need to continue trusting You on our faith journey. Amen***

I thank God for our dear World President Margaret Ostenstad, for her dedication and hard work, for her love and concern. And to all the White Ribbon Sisters for their devotion towards WCTU. As we depend fully on Christ to keep us moving forward. He will take us through the greatest challenges and lead us home safely.

Through Christian Outreach for the year 2024 WWCTU, the Christian Outreach Department focuses on Sustainable Goals to transform our world.

TEMPTATION IS EVERYWHERE... BEWARE!

But remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

We simply can't deny the fact that this world is filled to the brim with temptations! Some of those temptations are small; eating a second scoop of ice cream, for example, is tempting, but not very dangerous. Other temptations, however, are not nearly so harmless.

The devil is working 24/7, and he's causing pain and heartache in more ways than ever before. We, as believers, must remain watchful and strong. And the good news is this: When it comes to fighting Satan, we are never alone. God is always with us, and He gives us the power to resist temptation whenever we ask Him to give us strength.

In a letter to believers, Peter offered a stern warning: "Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8 NASB). As Christians, we must take that warning seriously, and we must behave accordingly.

Jesus faced every temptation known to humanity so that He could identify with us.

MORE MESSAGES FROM GOD'S WORD

Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.
Hebrews 12:1

Put on the full armour of God so that you can stand against the tactics of the Devil. Ephesians 6:11

Be sober! Be on the alert! Your adversary the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. 1 Peter 5:8

Instant Tip: We Live in a "Temptation Nation." At every turn in the road, or so it seems, somebody is trying to tempt us with something. Our job is to steer clear of temptation...and to keep steering clear as long as we live. Remember the old saying: "When it comes to temptation, it's easier to stay out than it is to get out."

My Prayer to God: Lord, temptation is everywhere! Help me turn from it and to run from it! Let me keep Christ in my heart, and let me put the devil in his place: far away from me! Amen

Life often feels like an ongoing battle. On a raging battlefield, what protects a soldier? Armor. Can you imagine any soldier stepping onto the battlefield without it? He or she would be defenseless, cut down in minutes!

In the book of Ephesians, in the New Testament, the apostle Paul uses the analogy of armor to describe how Christians can create a strong spiritual defense against the world's secular influence. I've laid out each piece of the armor Paul mentions, for us to discern their unique purposes and to see how they strengthen and sustain us with God's supernatural power.

The Armor of God

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with

*the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 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.” **Ephesians 6:10-18***

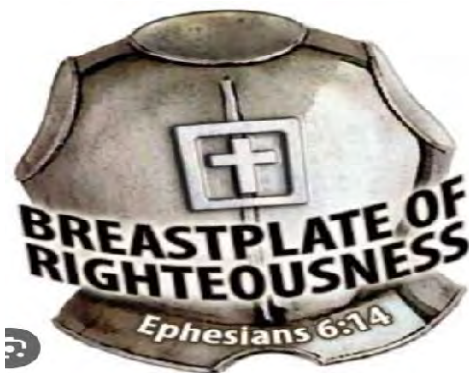
Paul uses a lot of great metaphors in this passage to help us to understand how God can empower us to resist temptation and do good. As we go through each piece of armor, make note of whether you're already wearing it.

BELT OF TRUTH



Truth is a central theme in the Bible. Jesus, for example, proclaims himself to be “the way, the truth, and the life.” When I get confused by the world’s perspective of truth and lies, I turn to the Bible’s truth to gain clarity. Reading about Jesus’ teachings to his disciples really helps me to know what is true.

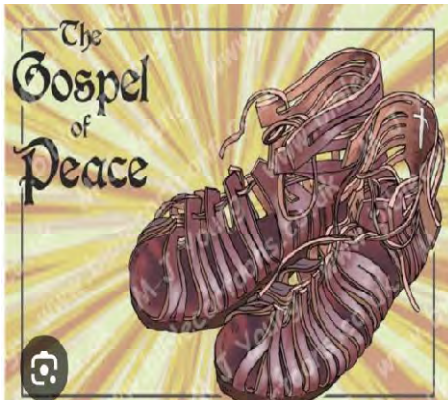
BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS



Righteousness is about applying God’s truth to our lives. In verse 14 Paul tells us to wear “righteousness like armor on your chest.” Most of our vital organs are located in our chest area. Our heart and lungs, for example.

But Paul is actually referring to the condition of our heart. Seeking to live with righteousness influences how we think, how we treat others, and how we respond to situations and temptations. But to live righteously, we must base our thoughts and actions on God's standard of righteousness, not our own *personal* standard.

GOSPEL OF PEACE



In verse 15 Paul tells us to fit our feet “with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.” To demonstrate God's righteousness, we should look like Jesus in how we treat others. Our words and actions matter to God, because every single person matters to God. The world does all it can to entice us to live self-centeredly. But living to our own standard of righteousness tends to create drama and conflict. But when we stay focused on the Gospel, we gain a “readiness” to live in peace with others.

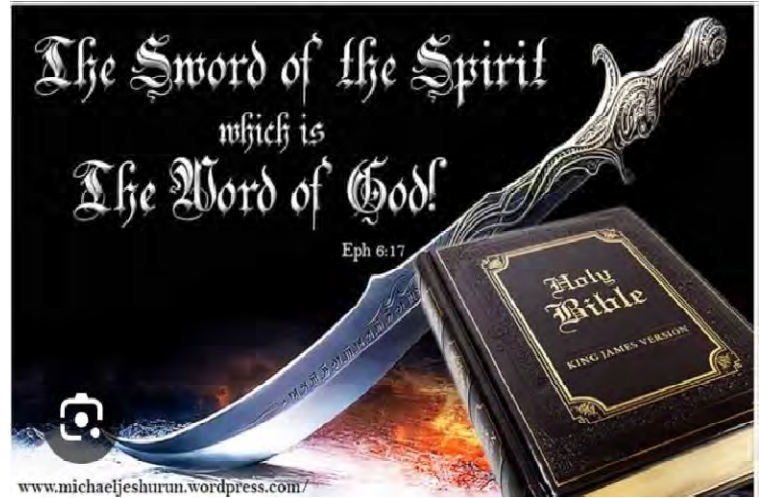
SHIELD OF FAITH



Paul then tells us to “take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.” In Paul's time, armies added fire to their arrows, to cause more damage when attacking their enemies. The Romans designed their shields to withstand these flames. Similarly, our faith in God shields us from fiery

attacks. And the deeper we know and trust God, the stronger our faith grows.

HELMET OF SALVATION/SWORD OF THE SPIRIT



In verse 17 Paul tells us to “take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” Wearing the helmet of salvation protects our head, but it also changes our heart.

Because I know that God has promised to forgive my sin, I can ignore Satan when he tries to tell me that God hasn’t really forgiven me, and doesn’t really love me. Or that I’m not really saved. I like thinking of the Holy Spirit as a sword to help me battle Satan’s lies.

The Word of God is our defense against worldly arguments, and a weapon to dismantle them. As I read my Bible, I am growing my knowledge of God’s truth. I want to fully understand the Bible, so I pray over its meaning and research what confuses me. I also seek the counsel of the people of faith that God has placed in my life to help me gain clarity.

We leave ourselves vulnerable to attack if we leave off even one piece of armor. Are there any pieces of armor you need to add to be protected by God’s supernatural power?

Frequently Asked Questions

How does the Bible say to stop addiction?

The Bible encourages us to resist addiction and stay sober, alert, and clothed in faith, love, and hope. By doing so, we can overcome our temptations and replace our habits with faith in God and confidence in His promise of salvation.

What is God's grace for addicts?

God's grace for addicts is a message of hope: that they are not lost and forgotten and can find healing and wholeness through His strength. It means they don't have to stay stuck in their destructive behaviors but can experience a new life of joy and freedom, God's grace allows them to start afresh and pursue a renewed relationship with Him.

What causes addiction spiritually?

Addiction can be seen as a spiritual problem, breaking our connection with God or a Higher Power. This break leads us to fall away from the positive paths they guide us to follow them creating suffering and the need to escape through addiction. Strengthening our spiritual bond is an integral part of the recovery process. This controls mind and takes away their God given free will it makes them slave to that substance and makes them disobey God's command breaking God given boundaries of righteousness.

What is the biblical understanding of addiction?

The Bible teaches that addiction is rooted in a person's sinful nature and desires and can be broken by submitting to God and finding a community of believers that can support them. Christians should resist the temptation to turn to addictions as a source of satisfaction, instead relying on Christ and his body, the church, for strength and healing.

Understanding Addiction as a Spiritual Battle

Addiction is an illness that can have devastating consequences if left unchecked, leading to premature death or destroying lives. But what if we told you that addiction is more than a physical or mental issue? It is, in fact, a spiritual battle. To overcome addiction, we must first understand the role of sin, recognize Satan's influence, and rely on the power of Christ.

The Role of Sin in Addiction

Sin plays a significant role in creating addiction in the lives of Christians. By engaging in sinful activities, believers may fall prey to addiction. This flawed paradigm can dangerously absolve addicts from recognizing their truth, admitting their responsibilities and sins, and committing to the necessary repentance.

Recognizing Satan's Influence

The Devil, our enemy, is an obstacle to overcome to beat addiction. As 1 Peter 5:8 warns us,

“Be vigilant and clear-minded! The Devil, our enemy, prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to consume.”

Satan convinces us that drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and other dangerous substances are okay to use daily, which is entirely false. His most potent weapon and strategy is deception, a genuinely insidious force.

We must be vigilant and lean on God's strength and guidance to counter Satan's influence. By recognizing Satan's deception and its role in addiction, we can better equip ourselves to resist temptation and find freedom.

The Power of Christ in Overcoming Addiction

The power of Christ is essential in overcoming addiction. By accessing the authority and ability to use the power of God through the Holy

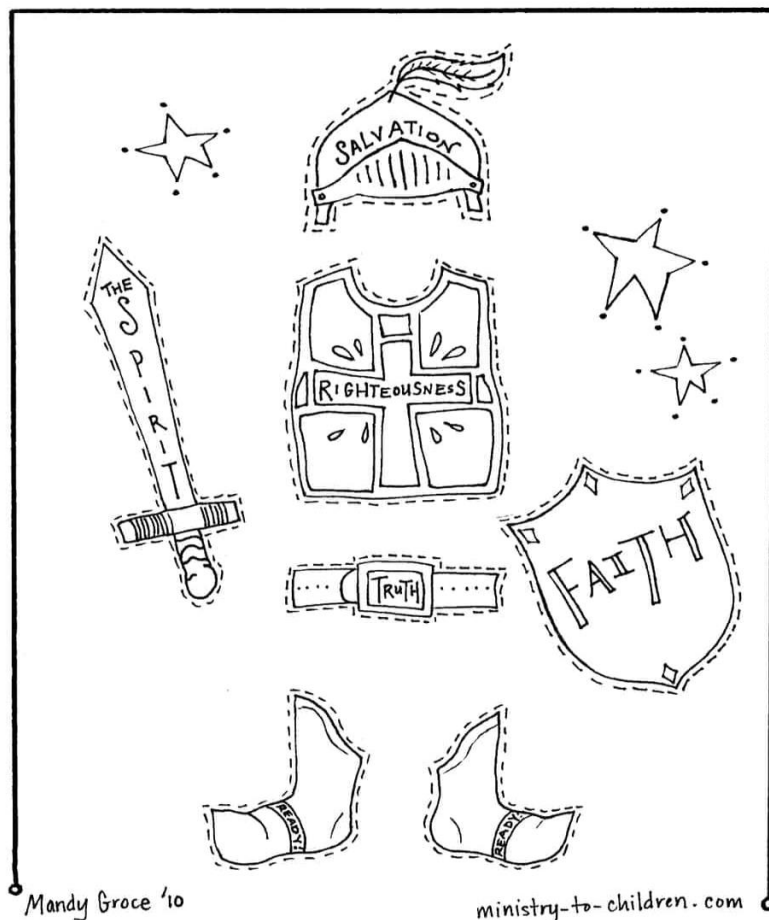
Spirit, we can tap into the same power that raised Christ from the dead, which is available to us as believers. Submitting ourselves to God is essential in helping us resist the Devil and ultimately overcome addiction.

Suffering is inevitable, but as Peter 5:10 reminds us, God will use it to restore and strengthen us.

“And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”

By leaning on the power of Christ and following His example, we can overcome the trials of addiction and embrace a new, victorious life in Him. **AMEN MAY THE DEAR LORD GOD BLESS US ALL**

ACTIVITIES:- COLOUR ,CUT AND PASTE



Pray – Please pray for families and our children.

- Pray for the authorities and leaders.
- Pray for the drug, alcohol and tobacco business industries and involved people.
- Pray for the Christian persecution raise and the harassment of Christian institution and organizations.
- Pray for war effected countries.
- Regular prayer in family and small groups needs to be encouraged to let the Holy Spirit work.

Emphasis on Bible study – Holding and reading the Bible should become a habit of all believers’ family and their children.

- Learning the word of God is very important please encourage it.
- Learning the fact about modern dangers will help to identify it and fight against it. Anything which controls your mind body and soul and takes you away from God and his command is not for us so please instill the word of God in your children and who come in contact with you.

ACTIVITIES 2:- The lesson is quick, but powerful
Armor of God Object Lesson

Use oranges and water to demonstrate the importance of girding ourselves with the Armor of God

Materials: two oranges, a glass bowl large enough for two oranges to be completely submerged, water, Bible

Read Ephesians 6:10-17

Talk about what each piece of armor stands for and how it helps us stand against the devil.

Ask your children to pretend to put on each piece of armor as you discuss how that particular piece might help them throughout their day.

Place both oranges in the bowl with their “armor” on. (In other words, keep the skin on both oranges.) Talk about how the oranges are floating, or “standing firm” in the water.

Little by little, begin peeling away some of the “armor” (skin) of one of the oranges. You might peel off a chunk and say something like, “Uh oh, this orange forgot to put on his belt of truth. When someone says something ugly about him today, he might believe it. If he believes that lie, instead of the truth that he’s wonderfully made, he might not stand as firm in the water.” Place the orange back in the water and notice that, although it doesn’t sink completely, it begins dipping further in the water than the orange still wearing all its armor.

Use oranges and water to demonstrate the importance of girding ourselves with the Armor of God

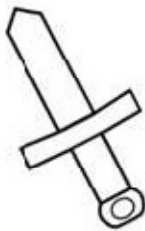
Continue on this way, peeling back a little at a time, talking about a new piece of armor the orange forgot to put on, talking about how that might affect his day, and then placing the orange in the water to see it sink more and more each time.

Use oranges and water to demonstrate the importance of girding ourselves with the Armor of God

By the time you remove all of the armor, the orange will completely sink. It is not able to “stand” at all.

Armor Of God Word Search

Find the hidden words.



L S V S T S T F B L E S Y
 E S T L W E H S E T Y S W
 P H E A M O T I A E P E O
 S B T L N R R L E I T N R
 O W E I E D P R R L J S D
 G H O N A T F I A R D U O
 G J G R S F T I H Q K O F
 G T Z A D H T U R T W E G
 H R E S I S T S Z M W T O
 C R S A L V A T I O N H D
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 P E A C E V I L L U F R H

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|-------------|---------|---------------|-------------|
| ARMOR | FEET | PEACE | STAND FIRM |
| ARROWS | FLAMING | RESIST | STRENGTH |
| BELT | FULL | RIGHTEOUSNESS | SWORD |
| BREASTPLATE | GOD | SALVATION | TRUTH |
| EVIL | GOSPEL | SHIELD | WAIST |
| FAITH | HELMET | SPIRIT | WORD OF GOD |

Armor of God

Ephesians 6:11-18

Helmet of Salvation



I am saved by
Jesus Christ.
Nothing can separate
His love from me

Belt of Truth



I will wrap myself firmly
in God's truth

Sword of the Spirit



I will slay every attempt
to deceive me with
the word of God.

Shield of Faith



God is my strength
and
refuge. I am
protected by my faith
that God conquers all.

Shoes of Readiness



I am ready to share
the Gospel
and do God's work.

Breastplate of Righteousness



I will be obedient
to God's command.