

## SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS

# **FROM DEFENSE TO OFFENSE**

Ephesians 6:16-17      Jeff Schreve

*Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes (methods, wiles, tricks, cunning arts, the deceit) of the devil.*

*Ephesians 6:11*

### **What do we learn about the last three pieces of armor?**

#### **1. The shield of faith combats the devil's doubts and fears.**

##### **A. The devil wants us to take our eyes off Jesus.**

*But seeing the wind, he became afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" Matthew 14:30-31*

##### **B. The devil wants us to live according to the circumstances and not according to the promises of God.**

*And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, of those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation of the sons of Israel, saying, "The land which we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If the LORD is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land, and give it to us—a land which flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against the LORD; and do not fear the people of the land, for they shall be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them." Numbers 14:6-9*

#### **2. The helmet of salvation combats the devil's deceptions.**

*But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray (corrupted, defiled) from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:3*

##### **A. The devil wants to deceive you concerning salvation.**

*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8-10*

##### **B. The devil wants to poison your mind with lies.**

*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful*

*for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5*

### **3. The sword of the Spirit combats the devil's distortions.**

#### **A. The word of God is our weapon against the devil.**

*Then the devil took Him into the holy city; and he had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, said to Him, "If You are the Son of God throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE CONCERNING YOU'; and 'ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'" Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'" Matthew 4:5-7*

#### **B. The word of God strengthens the armor of God.**

**Do you really want to stand firm against the devil's schemes?**