

CALL to PRAYER -

Intro - Last Lord's Day we were reminded from this passage that the Christian life is a battle, that God governs the battle, and that we have a responsibility to engage in the battle. We live in an evil day with the Prince of Darkness roaming about like a lion seeking someone to devour. Our King & Redeemer calls us to stand firm in this evil day & to be strong in His mighty power. He has also fully equipped us for every good work and for every fire fight. God has provided us all we need for life and godliness ^{2 Peter 1:3}. Today we see what God has given us in TRGFSWP. In whatever battle you are engaged in (or will face) you need TRGFSWP. You don't just need a little of it, or parts of it, you need all of it. You need to be surrounded with it, engulfed by it, wrapped up in it and fully clothed with it. TRGFSWP is our spiritual protection & our weapon. TRGFSWP is our Christian chainmail. There is not one weak link in this chain but the whole chain of TRGFSWP is to be connected if we are to be fully protected. If you are wondering what this TRGFSWP is - *Truth, Righteousness, Gospel, Faith, Salvation, Word & Prayer*. These seven are sent from heaven to protect you and this is what you are to stand firm in in the evil day.

Ephesians 6:10-20 - T.R.G.F.S.W.P.

- Christians have the responsibility to take up the FULL armor of God. 6:13
 - This is not an option list from which we choose our weapon & pick our protection
 - God has given it all; we have it all and are to utilize all of it.
 - We don't want:
 - a cake that is half-baked...a gun that is half-cocked...or to be half clothed
 - We need all seven pieces of TRGFSWP. These 7 fully supply us to fight in the evil day
 - We don't supply our own TRGFSWP. This is God's armor which HE gives us
 - We don't bake our own cake, bring our own gun or wear our own clothes
 - We use what God gives and supplies
 - Many suggest that this armor is inspired from a Roman soldier's. (Paul was chained to one)
 - Maybe....but I think this is inspired from OT scripture
 - Is. 59:14-15 (evil day) Is. 59:16-17 (God's response to the evil day) (Is. 11:4-5)
 - We fight in a dark day so God has given us "*armor of light*" - Rom. 13:12
 - God is Light and has supplied us with light. God has given us His armor
 - Some have noted that this armor doesn't protect our back.
 - God has our back...and has given us TRGFSWP for our battle
1. T. **Truth - the Belt of Truth** 6:14
 - a. Truth is the belt that holds it all together. It keeps our pants up so we don't stumble
 - b. You don't want to go into battle hiking up your drawers. saggy pants limit agility
 - c. Truth helps us walk well and fight well - (unencumbered) lies will trip you up
 - d. John 8:31-32 John 18:37
 - e. The God of Truth Jesus is the Truth ^{John 14:6} The Spirit of Truth ^{John 16:13}
 - i. His church is the pillar and foundation of truth - 1 Tim. 3:15
 - f. We live in a world of lies; captive to the devil (father of lies)...so, we fight with truth
 - g. Saggy bottom saints need the belt of truth when storming castle in battle 2 Cor. 6:7

2. R. **Righteousness - Breastplate of Righteousness** 6:14
- a. A breast piece protects your vital organs
 - b. Our righteousness is filthy rags, but Christ's righteousness clothes/protects us
 - i. *"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness"*
 - c. Christ's imputed righteousness produces a personal righteousness
 - d. Personal sin wars against our soul - 1 Peter 2:11
3. G. **Gospel - Gospel shoes** - 6:15
- a. We are not to walk into battle barefoot. A tender foot will be timid on the battlefield
 - i. We walk into war in the shoes of peace. Ironically, we wage war by way of peace
 - b. The gospel of reconciliation ^{2 Cor. 5:18-21} peace with God & peace with each other
 - c. Is. 52:7 We march into battle and say *"Good news! God reigns!"*
Repent, & be reconciled! Surrender & be saved! Have peace with God & man
 - d. Gospel peace prepares us for war. A gospel calm in the middle of conflict
 - e. The devil tempted Jesus with, *"if you are the Son of God..."*
 - f. The devil will seek for us to doubt our paternity...but we have peace with God by his gospel. We can walk securely as God's kids when in gospel shoes.
4. F. **Faith - the Shield of Faith** 6:16
- a. Without faith it is impossible to please God ^(Heb. 11:6) or fight the devil ^(Eph. 6:16)
 - b. Satan's arrows are intended to get you to doubt God. THE BATTLE IS OVER BELIEF
 - c. Faith in God extinguished the devil's temptation to doubt God 1 John 5:4
 - d. Satan's arrows are "flaming arrows"
 - i. fiery trials meant to burn you, but God gives faith to protect you
 - e. When genuine faith is tested by fire it comes out stronger. Believe God in the battle
5. S. **Salvation - the Helmet of Salvation** 6:17
- a. God has supplied head to toe coverage with gospel salvation. Gospel shoes/helmet of
 - b. Helmets are to protect your head/mind
 - c. Engage in spiritual warfare by saturating your mind with thoughts of salvation
 - d. Renew your mind with thoughts of:
 - i. *Election, Redemption, Regeneration, Justification, Sanctification, Glorification*
6. W. **Word - Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God** 6:17
- a. We are to fight but not as the world fights 2 Cor. 10:3-5 Heb. 4:12
 - b. Jesus fought the devil by quoting Deuteronomy - *"It is written..."*
 - c. The word of God is a fire and hammer ^{Jer. 23:29} it is a sword ^{Eph. 6:17}
 - d. God has armed us with a double barrel shotgun of OT & NT
 - e. God has given us over 31,000 bullets to unload during the fire fight
 - i. We need to *bring the rain* with the Gatlin gun of God's Word
7. P. **Prayer - All Prayer** 6:18
- a. A prayerless fight is lost & hopeless fight. Prayer prepares us and keeps us alert
 - b. We are to fight on our knees and on our face Matt. 26:41
 - c. Maybe we have lost the culture war because we left off being prayer warriors
 - i. We have fought in our own strength and with our own wisdom.

God have given us TRGFSWP. We need each piece. These 7 musketeers are *all for one and one for all*. When linked together, and fully utilized, they are unstoppable against our formidable foe.