

No matter which camp we might more closely align with in our theology (the “Works-ists who measure their walk by their works, or the “Grace-ists” who focus on what God does), we are confronted by the reality that while we could never earn or repay what God has done for us through Jesus, we do bear responsibility in this Relationship. There are quite a few things spelled out in Scripture, and those we touch on here, we will view through these two lenses.

A. Develop / Restore / Grow our Communication with Him

B. Stand Against the Adversary and his Schemes Eph 6:10-20

Full Armor of God

- **#1 Belt of Truth** – buckled around our waist, *as opposed to a holster hanging in the closet.*

Truth is the article that holds the rest of our armory together.

2 Tim 2:15: **Study** to show yourself approved. Psa 119:105 Your Word is a lamp - my feet; a light - my path.

- **#6 Sword of the Spirit / the Word of God**

Matt 10:34-37 (brings sword - family) He wants to know that we will **Love Him more than anything / anyone**

Gal 6:2 **Bear one another's burdens**, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ.

Dwight Moody: “Merely reading the Bible is no use at all unless we study it thoroughly and hunt through it, as it were, for some great truth.”

- **#2 Breastplate of Righteousness in place:** Guarding our heart and our heart's priorities

Matt 6:21 “Where your treasure (time) is, there will your heart be also.

Being careful to address what God has asked us to handle – anything that is getting in the way of real communication (daily dialogue) with Him.

- **#3 Feet shod (fitted) with readiness, with Gospel of Peace**

We are not mere participants in the Gospel; we are ambassadors/carriers of it!

Matt 10:32-33 Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever disowns me before others, I will also disown before my Father in heaven.

➤ It is an either/or; there is no opt-out. **We are commissioned to speak His name.**

This also means we expect to be **included in His suffering**. 1 Peter 4:12-19; Galatians 2:20. Will we join Him in crucifixion or scourging? A crown of thorns or pierced side? How about being ridiculed or criticized? When we are rebuffed for our efforts in the Kingdom, how do we respond? Do we let doubters or even someone who may question our motives detract us from doing what He has asked us to do?

- **#4 Shield of Faith - to withstand all attacks**

Unity building, peace-making, forgiving – all are indivisible requirements of Christians that we have been covering extensively. **Forgiveness is a mandate** Matt 18:21-35

Heart and **promise of hopefulness** with which we view the brethren, as well as the lost, will bring us to viewing them the same way He does – (“while we were yet sinners, Christ dies for us..”)

- **#5 Helmet of Salvation** Battle for Our Minds – Ground Zero for Attacks

Our Confidence in Him / scr “Perfect Peace whose mind is steadfast on You”

ENEMY’S SCHEME: Beyond being an Equal Opportunity Damager – He knows we serve a Merciful Savior, and he knows that we SHOULD know if we “confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive/cleanse us...”

SO, we should know that he is not attacking us just to see if he can make us fail or fall; **his target is to prevent us from the work God has called and commissioned us to do in the Kingdom.** He knows that guilt or remorse will often be our biggest delay to accomplishing what God has asked of us.

- **#7 PRAYER** Pray in Spirit on all occasion – all kinds of prayer & requests – be alert!

Pray in Spirit

Be Alert

Pray for God’s people

- P – Praise Him – Thank Him for all he has done, list it out, remind ourselves. Ps22:3 He inhabits our praise.
- R – Repent – Not just ask for forgiveness for where we may have fallen, but ask “Please show me, so I may do that better next time around, for You!”
- A – Ask – Ask in Jesus Name – invocation, is a regular acknowledgement of our indebtedness to Him, our place before Him.
- Y – Yield – verbally acknowledge that He is Sovereign – He knows all and sees all – and best knows the future us He is working to shape. He is the Potter, we are the Clay. So let’s yield/submit/surrender the outcome and its journey, to Him. 1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your cares on Him.