

THE

ARMORY

EQUIPPING WARRIORS OF THE FAITH

ANDREW BOLL



THE ARMORY: Equipping Warriors of the Faith is a collection of more than 80 daily devotions with the theme of spiritual warfare. Author Andrew Boll explores how Christians are called on a daily basis to guard their own hearts against the darkness of temptation and doubt while striking out with the Sword of the Spirit - the Word of God - to free those who have been imprisoned by sin and unbelief.

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First Edition

Part I: 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.”

~Ephesians 6:10-17

Andrew Boll

The Armor of God

"Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground..." (Ephesians 6:13)

It seems only fitting that the first devotional series in a book called "The Armory" should focus on Ephesians chapter 6. If you've glanced outside the barracks lately, you may have noticed that the spiritual warfare in our world has reached a level of epic intensity. Cadets and veterans alike may be tempted to simply pull back the flap on their tent, stuff some cotton in their ears to drown out the din of battle, and hit the cot until things calm down.

Of course, that's absurd. At a time like this, we need every warrior available on the field and ready to fight. So for the next six days, we will discuss individual pieces of "GI" (God-Issued) equipment to make sure that you're getting maximum protection and effectiveness from your spiritual armaments. This is no time to be hastily throwing on your armor or neglecting the care of your weapons!

God has given us each individual piece of equipment for a purpose, and the word of God doesn't waste precious real estate listing random bits of gear without a good purpose. You'd better believe that what God tells us in Ephesians 6 has real relevance and meaning for our lives today! It would be foolish for any soldier to neglect any part of his armor; the enemy is a master at identifying and taking advantage of our weaknesses and vulnerabilities.

So I hope you've been keeping your gear polished and in top-notch condition, because your Commander is waiting on the battlefield, and He's going to want to see equipment that shines so brightly He can see Himself in it! We'll start first thing tomorrow by talking about one of your most important pieces of protective equipment; your...belt? While oft neglected, it was issued for a reason - and you don't even want to *try* to get along without it!

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In the meantime, head out for the day's fighting filled with the courage that comes from knowing your Commander laid down His life for the sake of our victory. In our continual Easter celebration, we also recognize His power and greatness in the fact that He has taken it back up again in order to guide us and protect us from the assaults of the enemy. Jesus Christ has triumphed gloriously over sin, death, and the devil, and He will lead us to success as well in our daily skirmishes. To Him be the glory forever!

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, You have given Your Son to die that we might live with You. Forgive us our failure for His sake; cleanse, renew, and empower us to fight boldly for Your name's sake. Help us to recognize those gifts with which You have equipped us, and teach us to use them in a way that reflects Your grace upon those around us. Through Jesus Christ, our risen and victorious Commander! Amen.*

*"A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from every need that hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal."*

*"With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One, Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabbaoth Lord, and there's none other God;
He holds the field forever."*

~Martin Luther: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Andrew Boll

The Belt of Truth

“Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist...” (Ephesians 6:14)

I know what you’re thinking; what good is a belt compared to breastplates and helmets? I mean, we’re up against roaring lions and fiery darts and stuff, and the first thing God hands us is a *belt*? Well, our Heavenly Commander has been equipping warriors for thousands of years; guys like Joshua, King David, and the apostle Paul – and I hear they didn’t do too badly. So let’s consider how this “belt of truth” just might save our lives in a combat situation.

First of all, we’re not talking some wimpy leather strap here. God’s truth is a heavy-duty WWF championship style belt that covers and protects every inch of our core. Jesus calls Himself “the Truth,” and it is His teaching and redemptive work that stands as our first line of defense against the lies of the Devil and the attacks of this fallen world. When Satan nails us with a shot straight to the gut, accusing us of all the terrible, sinful behavior that we’ve committed today, yesterday, and throughout our lives, we have the truth of Jesus’ Gospel to repel the attack and prevent us from being cut in half. When the world takes aim at the core of our being, His promise that we are saved by grace alone through faith protects us.

Secondly, spiritual combat can lead to some intense situations. When fighting against the darkness of this world, God’s warriors can’t afford to have their pants falling down around their ankles because of lies they have told or truths that they have withheld. At best, it can be an embarrassment to you personally and to the Commander in whose name you are fighting. At worst, it could leave you vulnerable to a fatal strike from the enemy as you try to recover from your own lack of discretion. Keep the belt of truth securely cinched and buckled to avoid such mishaps.

Finally, this belt is what holds it all together. The rest of your armor will be loose and clumsy without it, affording you only moderate protection

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at best. In a world of postmodern relativism, God's warriors need to use the protective equipment He provides them with to its full potential. Truth is what separates the clanking, bumbling buffoons from the elite swordsmen who exhibit the kind of dexterity necessary to fend off foes on every side. God's Word is truth, and without this truth we make a mockery of the very things we claim to be fighting for.

So buckle up, troops; the belt of truth is more than just a fashion accessory. It is a vital part of your spiritual armor and a secure resting place for your only weapon – the sword of the Spirit. Without it, we go from being soldiers of truth to mere hypocrites and liars; and the father of lies is always looking for fresh recruits.

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for the beauty of Your Gospel truth in Christ Jesus. Help us to always look first unto His victory for protection and deliverance from the Devil's lies. Grant that we may faithfully abide in the truth of Your Word through all of life's challenges and difficulties, through Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.*

*"Innocence is like polished armor;
it adorns and defends."
~Robert South*



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