

EPHESIANS

# Fight, Christian, Fight!

Ephesians 6:16-17



CHRISTIAN & FAITHFUL Pass Through VANITY FAIR





# Remember Our Context!



**STAND FIRM!**

- 6:10 – “be strong”
- 6:11 – “stand firm”
- 6:13 – “stand firm”
- 6:14 – “stand firm”

This is a defensive battle,  
and we are in this  
together.

## Exodus 14:13-14

## EPHESIANS

**13** But Moses said to the people, “Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. **14** The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent.”



# Quick Review

## EPHESIANS

1. Belt of Truth = **Readiness & Commitment**
2. Breastplate of Righteousness = **Guard Your Heart and Passions**
3. Sandals of the Gospel = **Stand Firm in the Faith**



# A Note on Soldiers







## 4. Shield of Faith

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6:16 – “in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”

**How Does the Shield  
(*thyreos*) Work?**



# Shields in Battle



# Battle Preparations

## EPHESIANS

- The shield consisted of two layers of wood and up to six layers of animal skins.
- The skins on the shield could not be allowed to dry out, so a Roman soldier would carry oil to keep his shield supple; he would oil the shield every morning.
- So, an oiled shield would not only deflect arrows, but extinguish flaming arrows (designed to destroy wooden shields), as well.



# Amy Carmichael



**“Don’t be surprised if there is an attack on your work, on you who are called to do it, on your innermost nature-the hidden person of the heart. It must be so. The great thing is not to be surprised, nor to count it strange-for that plays into the hand of the enemy. Is it possible that anyone should set himself to exalt our beloved Lord and not instantly become a target for many arrows? The very fact that our work depends utterly on Him and can’t be done for a moment without Him calls for a very close walk and a constant communion of spirit. This alone is enough to account for anything the enemy can do...Don’t be surprised if you suffer. It is part of the way of the cross...So rejoice! You are giving Him what He asks you to give Him: the chance to show you what He can do.”**

# Satan's Fiery Darts

## EPHESIANS

- Doubt
- Distrust
- Disobedience
- Doctrinal Confusion
- False Teaching
- Wasted Time
- Division
- Self-Centeredness
- Hypocrisy
- Worldliness
- Rebellion
- Gossip

Proverbs 30:5 – “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.”



IN GOD  
WE TRUST

# The Armor of God

EPHESIANS

1. Belt of Truth = Readiness & Commitment
2. Breastplate of Righteousness = Guard Your Heart and Passions
3. Sandals of the Gospel = Stand Firm in the Faith
4. Shield of Faith = Confidence & Assurance



## 5. Helmet of Salvation EPHESIANS

6:17a – “and take the helmet of salvation”

- The previous items were laid out for the soldier to pick up.
- The helmet (and sword) would be handed to him by an attendant or by his armorbearer.
- The helmet obviously protected the head, always a major target in battle.





**37** And He said to him,  
“You shall love the Lord  
your God with all your  
heart, and with all your  
soul, and with all your  
**mind.**”



**Matthew 16:23**

But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your **mind** on God’s interests, but man’s.”



## Romans 8:5-8

## EPHESIANS

5 For those who are according to the flesh set their **minds** on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For the **mind** set on the flesh is death, but the **mind** set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 because the **mind** set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your **mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.



# In Ephesians:

## EPHESIANS

- **2:3** – “Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the **mind**, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.”
- **4:17-18a** – “So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their **mind**, being darkened in their understanding”
- **4:23-24a** – “and that you be renewed in the spirit of your **mind**, and put on the new self”

2 Set your **mind** on  
the things above,  
not on the things  
that are on earth.



# Paul's Audience

## EPHESIANS

- Paul is speaking to those who are already saved, as Satan seeks to destroy a believer's assurance of salvation with his weapons of doubt and discouragement.
- Joseph Beet said, the helmet is “a present deliverance from sin to be consummated in eternity by complete deliverance from every kind of evil.”
- Eternal security is a biblical fact; assurance is the reward for the obedient follower of Christ!

## 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

## EPHESIANS

**3** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, **4** for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. **5** 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



# The Armor of God

EPHESIANS

1. Belt of Truth = Readiness & Commitment
2. Breastplate of Righteousness = Guard Your Heart and Passions
3. Sandals of the Gospel = Stand Firm in the Faith
4. Shield of Faith = Confidence & Trust
5. Helmet of Salvation = Deliverance from Sin

## 6. Sword of the Spirit    EPHESIANS

6:17b – “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

The term for sword refers to the short-handled sword (*machaira*), which was an important offensive weapon in close combat.

When would you need to use your sword in battle?



# Battle of Bunker Hill, 1775



# We Must Remember

EPHESIANS

Who We Are Fighting.

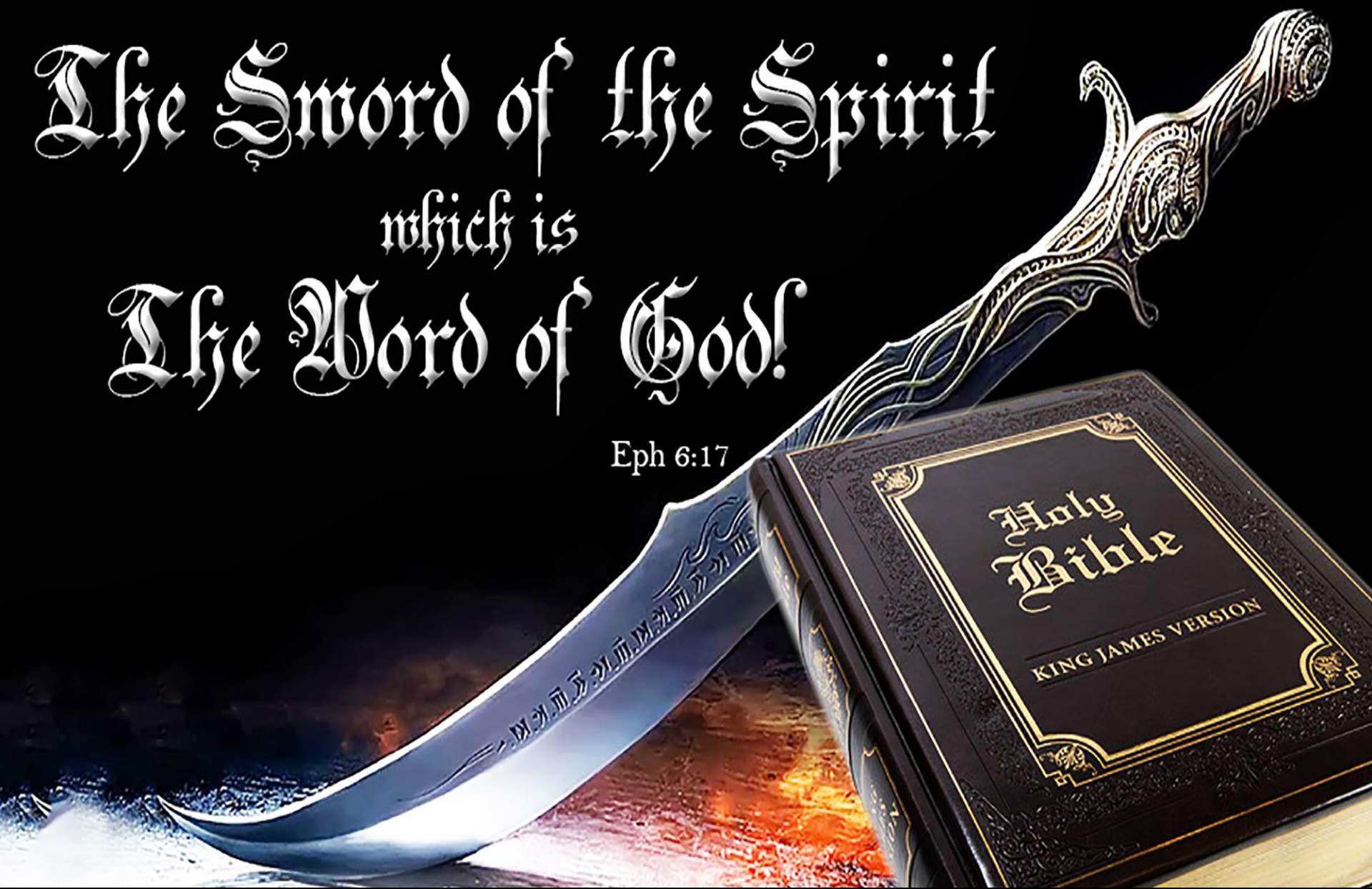
**Remember 6:12?**

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”



The Sword of the Spirit  
which is  
The Word of God!

Eph 6:17



# “Word of God”

## EPHESIANS

- Hebrews 4:12 –

“For the *word of God* is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

λόγος (*logos*) θεός (*theos*)



# “Word of God”

## EPHESIANS

- Ephesians 6:17 –

“And take the helmet of salvation, and  
the sword of the Spirit, which is the  
*word of God*”

ῥῆμα (*rhēma*) θεός (*theos*)



# What is “*rhēma theos*?”

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It means “divine utterance.”

The idea is the employment  
of the Scriptures to defeat  
the “schemes of the devil”  
(v. 11).

Think of Jesus in the  
Wilderness.



- **Matthew 4:4** – “But he answered and said, **It is written**, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” (**Deuteronomy 8:3**)
- **Matthew 4:7** – “Jesus said unto him, **It is written** again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.” (**Deuteronomy 6:16**)
- **Matthew 4:10** – “Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for **it is written**, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” (**Deuteronomy 6:13**)

# Take Up Your Sword

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1. Read it.

2. Meditate on it.

3. Memorize it.

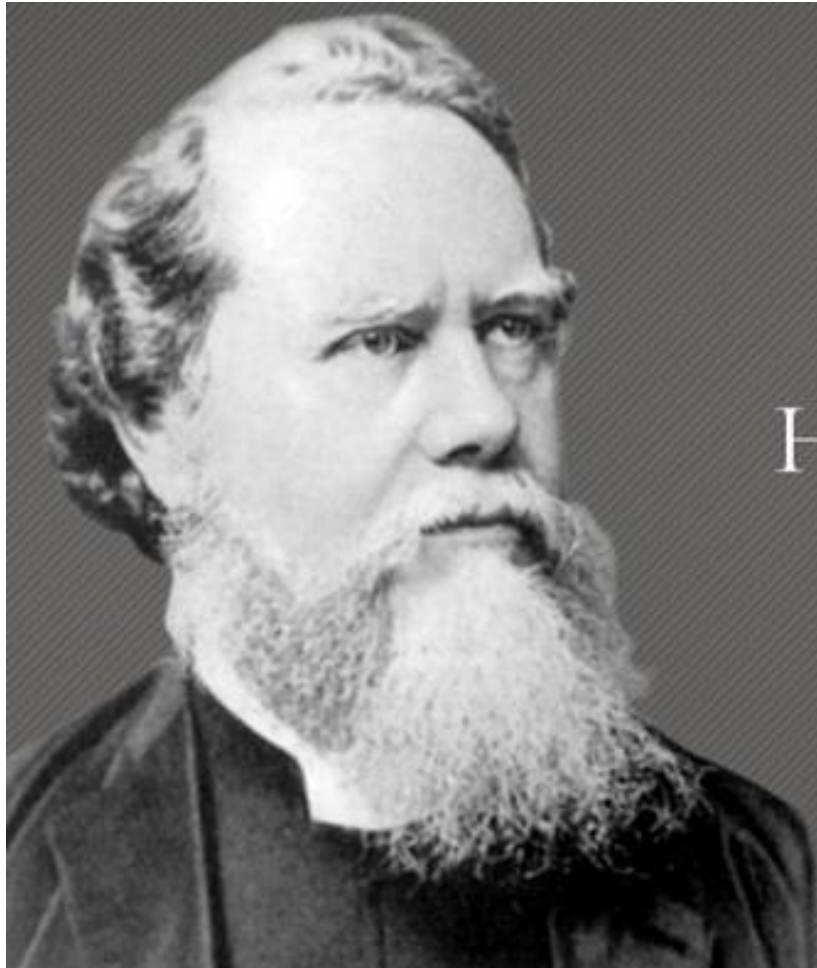
4. Study it.



# Thomas Cranmer

“Blessed Lord, who has caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: grant that we may in such wise hear them read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.”





HUDSON TAYLOR

1832–1905



“It was not easy for Mr. Taylor, in his changeful life, to make time for prayer and Bible study, but he knew it was vital. Well do the writers remember traveling with him month after month in northern China, by cart and wheelbarrow with the poorest of inns at night. Often with only one large room for colliers and travelers alike, they would screen off a corner for their father and another for themselves, with curtains of some sort; and then, after sleep at last had brought a measure of quiet, they would hear a match struck and see the flicker of candlelight which told that Mr. Taylor, however weary, was poring over the little Bible in two volumes always at hand. From two to four a.m. was the time he usually gave to prayer; the time he could be most sure of being undisturbed to wait upon God.”

**What About Us?  
Right Now.  
Today.**

**Is it acceptable for  
us to be ok with  
losing daily battles  
since Christ has  
already won the  
war?**

**Why Not?**





## C.S. Lewis



*Mere Christianity* (p. 132)

“Good and evil both increase at compound interest. That is why the little decisions you and I make every day are of such infinite importance. The smallest good act today is the capture of a strategic point from which, a few months later, you may be able to go on to victories you never dreamed of. An apparently trivial indulgence in lust or anger today is the loss of a ridge or railway line or bridgehead from which the enemy may launch an attack otherwise impossible.”



**Margaret  
Thatcher  
once said:**

**“You may  
have to fight  
a battle more  
than once to  
win it.”**





You never outgrow your need  
to preach to yourself the gospel.

John Piper

“ quote fancy

# Psalm 42

## EPHESIANS

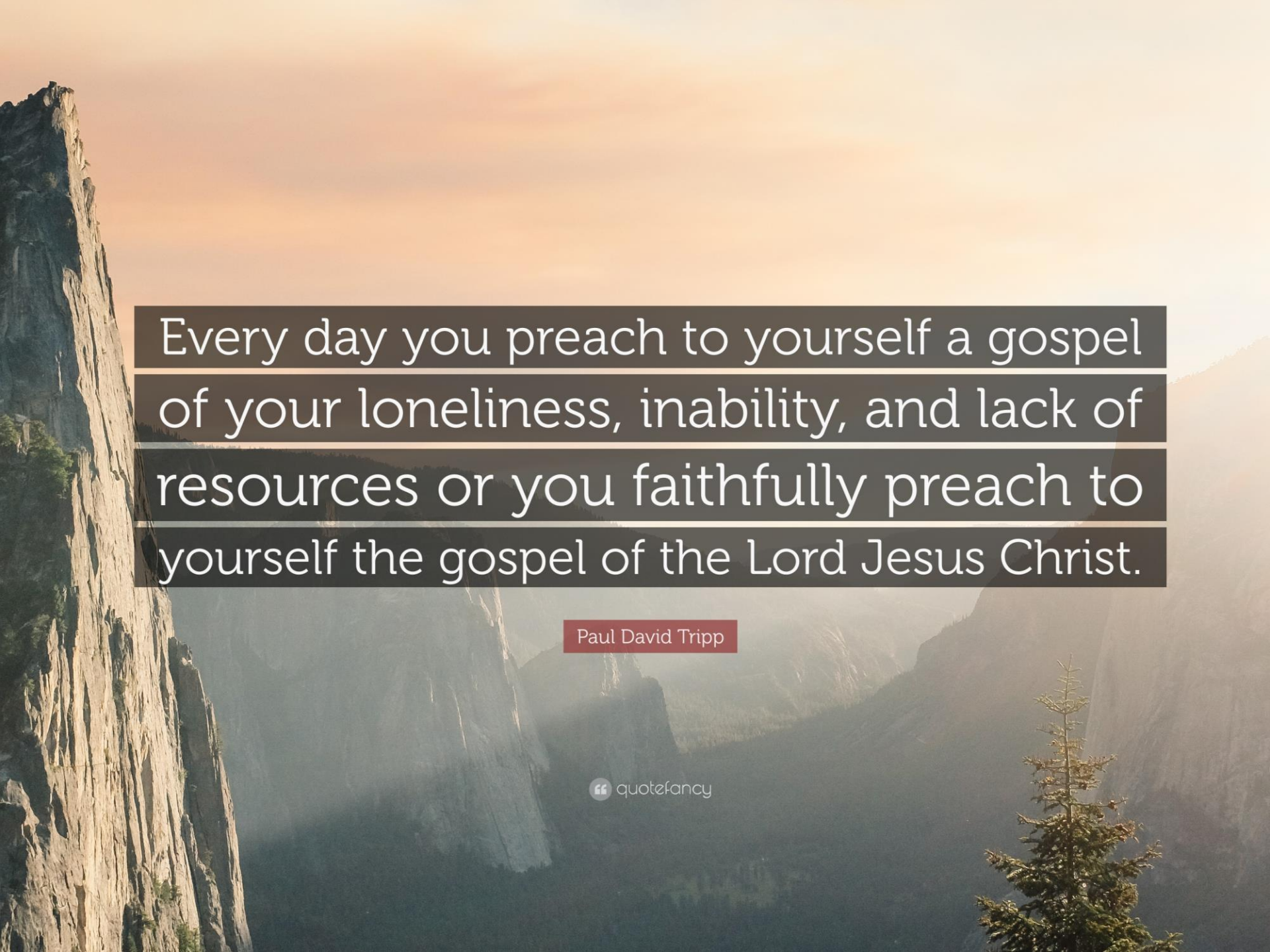
5 Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?

Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my salvation <sup>6</sup> and my God.

9 I say to God, my rock: “Why have you forgotten me?” <sup>11</sup> Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.





Every day you preach to yourself a gospel of your loneliness, inability, and lack of resources or you faithfully preach to yourself the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul David Tripp

# The Armor of God

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2. Breastplate of Righteousness = Guard Your Heart and Passions
3. Sandals of the Gospel = Stand Firm in the Faith
4. Shield of Faith = Confidence & Assurance
5. Helmet of Salvation = Stand Firm in the Faith
6. Sword of the Spirit = Trust the Word of God





The Enemy is on the Attack

Are you  
outfitted  
for battle?

# EPHESIANS