



# The Armour of God [Ephesians 6:10-20]



## Belt of Truth

*“having girded your waist with truth”*

The belt is a humble but absolutely essential component of God’s armour. Though it often goes unnoticed or unappreciated in the heat of battle, it is the item which holds all the others together. Without a firm understanding of Truth (“Your Word is Truth.” – John 17:17), the Christian soldier will struggle to keep it all together in the midst of an attack. The belt is also where the sword is kept.

## Background of a Roman Legionnaire

*“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.” - 2Timothy 2:5*

Rome created the first army of professionals, not drafted conscripts. They volunteered for 25 years and would be greatly rewarded upon retirement. Josephus, the famous ancient historian, wrote of the Roman army in 64AD, “They do not wait for war to begin before getting to grips with their weapons, nor are they idle in peacetime...but, as if born with weapons in their hands, they never stop training”. It was this army that had conquered and occupied Israel, and most of the known world, during the first century. This would have been the cultural context Paul used as a reference for the Armour of God in his epistle to the Ephesians.

## Breastplate of Righteousness

*“put on the breastplate”*

Roman upper torso armour was made of overlapping iron scales. Does your understanding of your righteousness before God have any gaps? Or does it overlap, creating complete protection? The breastplate covered the vital organs and, figuratively, the place of your emotions. Your understanding of a righteousness standing before God, through Jesus, will temper your emotions and is vital to your survival in spiritual combat.

## Helmet of Salvation

*“take the helmet of salvation”*

The protection of the head is paramount in self defense. A head shot is a kill shot. Often the ability to resist the attacks of the enemy will hinge upon the firm belief in the fact that you are saved by grace through faith in Jesus. If you struggle with this fact, your head will always be vulnerable. The Roman helmet was often made of bronze, the metal that withstands the fire...will your salvation withstand trials and fire?

## Shield of Faith

*“taking the shield of faith”*



This is the maneuverable portion of the armour, it can be moved to deflect the area of greatest attack at any moment. The primary use of the Roman shield, or *scutum*, was to protect against flaming arrows the enemy would shoot. These darts were meant to confuse more than kill, as are the “fiery darts” of our adversary. The *scutum* could also be used in a unique way in that 27 men would come together and create *testudo* (tortoise) formation. Their shields would interlock on the sides and overhead and they became more effective and able to do things together that they would not alone. This is also true of a Believers faith. When coupled with another’s faith, the Church can do mighty things! Therefore you should always make sure the soldier next to you has their shield in good condition! “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” – Romans 10:17.

## Sword of the Spirit

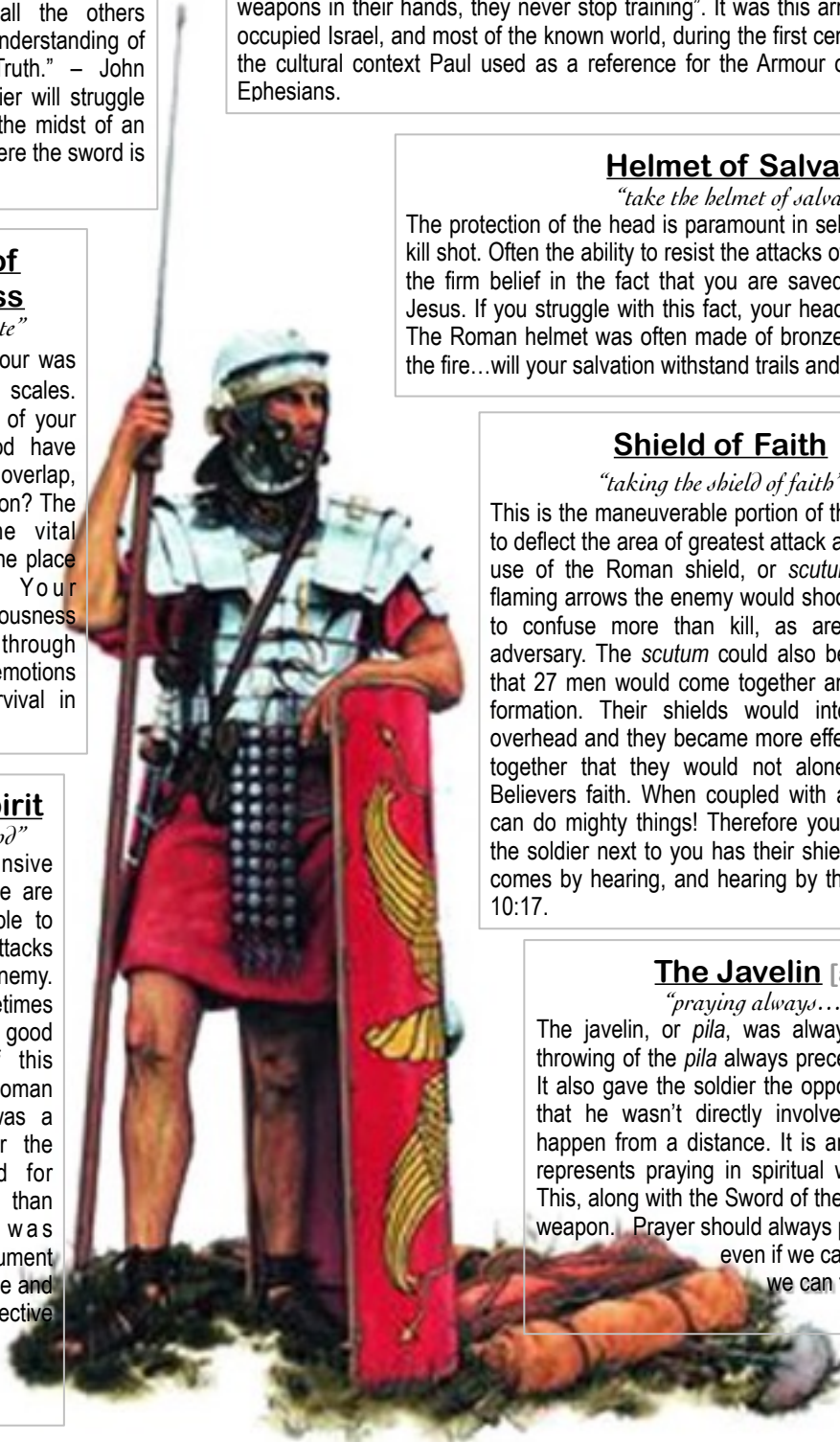
*“which is the word of God”*

This is the main offensive weapon in the armour we are given. We utilize the Bible to parry and deflect the attacks and accusations of the Enemy. It has been said that sometimes the best defense is a good offense! The sword of this period used by the Roman Legions, the *machira*, was a revolutionary weapon for the first century AD, used for precise thrusting rather than broad hacking. It was considered a difficult instrument to master, taking much time and practice to become an effective tool. Is your Sword sharp? Have you practiced with it today?

## The Javelin [an opinion]

*“praying always...in the Spirit”*

The javelin, or *pila*, was always carried into battle. The throwing of the *pila* always precedes hand-to-hand combat. It also gave the soldier the opportunity to affect a situation that he wasn’t directly involved in, to make something happen from a distance. It is an opinion that this *possibly* represents praying in spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:18)?! This, along with the Sword of the Spirit, is our only offensive weapon. Prayer should always precede our battles and even if we can’t be in the fight directly we can throw our *pilas*-of-prayer into the fray!



## Sandals of the Gospel

*“having your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace”*

Whether it is boxing, rugby or karate, close quarter combat is often won or lost based on your ability to keep balanced and on firm footing. “By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God”, as you stand against the enemy are you standing balanced and firm in your personal comprehension of the Gospel (*literally* = “good news”) of peace with God through Jesus Christ?