

Armor of God Discussion Questions – Chapters 4-8

Chapter Four: Shoes of Peace

1. Why is it good news to be reminded that it is your God who reigns?
2. What idols contest the fact of God's reign in your life?
3. Who do you know who would benefit from God's peace? Make a list of three or four people with whom you would love to share this good news. Then ask God to create opportunities for that conversation.
4. How does Jesus give us peace in our own flawed efforts to reach out with the good news?
5. In your own words, explain why Paul tells us that we must have our feet prepared with the gospel of peace.
6. In what ways have you been involved in advancing God's advancing God's gospel as a soldier in His army? How could you do this more?

Chapter Five: Shield of Faith

1. Give an example of a recent situation in which your faith in God was a powerful shield for you.
2. Why is it important that your faith be built on truth?
3. Where does your faith most struggle: to believe either in God's power, or his love, or his personal interest in you?
4. List some Bible verses that help strengthen your faith that God is for you.
5. How do Jesus's death and resurrection encourage your faith?
6. In what ways and in what areas of your life has the devil tried to weaken your trust in God and His Word?
7. What are some areas in your life where your shield seems broken? Are some darts getting through? Are there some holes that need mending? How will you mend them?
8. Can you recall a time in your life when the shield of faith effectively protected you? What darts were thrown in that situation, and how did a true faith in the living God and His truth extinguish them?

Chapter Six: Helmet of Salvation

1. What is the foundation of your hope that God will welcome you into heaven?
2. Why should all Christians have assurance of their salvation? Why might real Christians nonetheless struggle with assurance?
3. How does your hope of heaven encourage you in the midst of trials? Give a recent example where this happened (or perhaps where it should have but didn't).
4. In what area of your life do you need the boldness that hope gives?
5. Why is it good news for you that Jesus has hoped perfectly?
5. Why do we need to protect our minds spiritually, and what are the consequences if we do not?
6. How do you protect your mind and thought life in battle?
7. Explain the three aspects of salvation and why the third aspect is so vital for us to focus on in the heat of battle.
8. What are some signs that you might not be wearing the helmet of salvation?

Chapter Seven: Sword of the Spirit

1. In what ways do we see Satan questioning God's Word in our culture?
2. What is your "sword drill"? How are you practicing the use of God's Word so as to be prepared when you face temptation?
3. How have you experienced God's Word as a sword, a set of garden shears, and a scalpel?
4. How has Jesus wielded the sword of the Spirit in our place?
5. How is the sword of the Spirit a defensive weapon? How is it an offensive weapon?
6. Which of the areas outlined in this chapter are the weakest spots in your sword-wielding?
7. How could you improve those areas of swordsmanship?

8. Identify at least two areas where you know you are weak against temptation, and find at least two texts of Scripture that are relevant for that area of weakness. Take steps to commit these texts to memory. How will you apply the principles behind the texts in order to resist temptation? For example, if a person's area of weakness is speaking harsh words, then Proverbs 15:1 and Ephesians 4:29 would be two relevant texts.

Chapter Eight: Prayer

1. How do you sometimes pray wrongly?
2. How do you normally react to unanswered prayers? To answered prayers?
3. When have you needed to say, "This suffering is for Christ Jesus?" How did you deal with that situation?
4. How do you remind yourself to pray at all times with all kinds of requests?
5. How is Jesus's continuous prayer for you an encouragement?
6. Why is prayer such a difficult discipline for many of us?
7. What elements of prayer are strengths in your personal prayer? What elements are weakest?
8. Describe a time when you felt an utter dependence on the Spirit in prayer, when you sensed that He was helping you. Why is it so difficult for us to depend on the Spirit regularly in our praying?
9. How could you better pray "for all the saints"? Share some ideas with one another.