

*Contend (Part 2) – Aimée Walker – Ephesians 6:10-18*

**Call to ‘suit up’ is a call to be clothed in Christ. (Eph 6:14-18; Rom 13:11-14)**

We are called to be conformed into the image of Christ (Rom 8:29), to be transformed with ever-increasing glory into His likeness (2 Cor 3:18). Each weapon reflects who Jesus is and the names given to Him in Scripture:

* Belt of Truth: Jesus said, *“I am the way,* ***the truth*** *and the life…”* (John 14:6)
* Breastplate of Righteousness: *Jesus Christ, the Righteous One* (1 John 2:1)
* Shoes of Peace: *He will be called…Prince of Peace…* (Isaiah 9:6)
* Shield of Faith:…*Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness…*(Rev 1:5)
* Helmet of Salvation: *author of salvation* (Heb 2:10) Jesus means, God saves.
* Sword which is the Word of God: *The Word became flesh* (John 1) *…His name is the Word of God* (Revelation 19:13)

**Belt of Truth (Eph 6:14 / John 8:44-45)**

Truth not intended to be an accessory but the foundational garment. Truth is objective and the Cross is the ultimate expression of truth about our past, present and future.

**Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph 6:14 / 2 Cor 5:21)**

Paul wants us to be aware of our positional righteousness, but also to experience the power of transformed living that is practical righteousness.

**Shoes of Peace (Eph 6:15 / John 14:27 / Isaiah 52:7)**

Shoes that Paul had in mind had hob-nails on the soles to ensure the soldiers didn’t slip but kept steady feet in the battle. Peace is crucial to a sound mind, to standing firm.

**Shield of Faith (Eph 6:16 / Rom 4:16-22)**

The faith Paul refers to here is not saving faith, but faith in the promises and power of God. We worship a God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they are. And we must be like Him –faith gets into agreement with what God has said.

**Helmet of Salvation (Eph 6:17 / 1 Thess. 5:8)**

Paul is inviting us to put protection over our minds – the helmet of salvation is an awareness that we are not under condemnation, but grace.

**Sword of the Spirit (Eph 6:17 / Isaiah 49:2)**

Isaiah said *He has made my mouth to be a sword.* What comes out of our mouth is powerful. We know in our human interactions that our words have incredible power to heal or to wound, but what comes out of our mouth also has power in the spiritual realm – we are either in agreement with the enemy or with Jesus. The finished work of Jesus is our most powerful weapon against our enemy.

***13-18****Be prepared. You’re up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it’s all over but the shouting you’ll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You’ll need them throughout your life. God’s Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other’s spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out*.

Eph 6:13-18 in The Message paraphrase

Recommended Reading: *The Kneeling Warrior by Dr. David Ireland*