

stand by the truth, and it will stand by us. Truth is mighty and shall prevail.

Then, there is the breastplate of *Righteousness* — not our righteousness, but the righteousness of Christ, which guards us against the arrows of divine wrath. The devil will never overthrow a sincere man, girt with truth, and breastplated with the righteousness of Christ. But if he drop his breastplate, which protects his very vitals, and relies upon his own righteousness, he will be defenceless, and in danger.

Next comes *the preparation of the Gospel of Peace*, with which to shoe our feet. Some ancient battlefields had spikes or sharp sticks laid privily in the way to obstruct the onward march of the enemy, so that soldiers had to be shod with stout sandals or their march would be very irregular. So, we must be shod with the gospel of peace, that with a firm tread we may pass over the dangerous places in our warfare, and have a measure of comfort at the same time. We can't fight well when we are troubled and in a state of annoyance and restlessness.

Again, we have *Faith*, as the shield, which we raise to ward off the fiery darts of the wicked one. This is a movable piece of the armor. The others, noticed so far, are stationary, but faith moves to the defence of every part. "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Then comes the helmet of *Salvation*, which has hope as its object. It is placed over the head, the part most exposed in the conflict. A good hope of salvation, well-founded and well built will help to purify the soul, and keep it from being defiled by Satan; it will serve to free the soul of trouble, and communicate comfort in the presence of all our enemies.

Then we have the Sword of the Spirit, which is the *Word of God*. No sword was ever like this. Goliath's was nothing to it. It works strangely. When it pierces the heart of an enemy, it makes him a friend. Let us be skilled in the use of it. Let us be faithful in Scripture research. There are no arguments like Scripture arguments to make the sceptic and an infidel cringe beneath us. There are a great many good and commendable books in circulation. Every day is adding to their number. We welcome them right heartily; but we must guard against the tendency, which is manifesting itself at the present day, of allowing this religious literature to turn our attention away from the good Book itself. In buckling on this armor, do not Christian soldier, forget your sword. Do not leave it for your pastor alone to carry. It is a precious defence to your souls. In seasons of trouble and darkness, you have found it to be so. A soldier once lay bleeding on a battlefield, and when approached by a com-