

The Neglected Piece of Armor

By: David Sproule

Often times, when there is a study about putting on “the whole of armor of God,” which is described in Ephesians 6, there is great attention given to six pieces of Christian armor: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit. What a great study that makes! We must put on every piece (6:10-13)!

However, how often does that study include a seventh piece of armor? Seventh? That almost sounds like a Biblical number, like maybe God meant to list seven pieces of armor and not just six. May I encourage you, when you study the armor of God, to keep reading into verse 18 and finish with the seventh piece listed—“prayer.” In fact, Paul gives more attention to this piece than any other—“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”

When you think about armor, you may not naturally think about prayer as a piece of armor, but it most definitely is. And, just as the sword of the Spirit can be both an offensive and a defensive “weapon,” so can prayer. Think about how the New Testament depicts prayer as a powerful piece of armor for faithful followers of Christ.

Prayer can keep us from being lead into temptation (Matt. 6:13; 26:41). Prayer can deliver us from the evil one (Matt. 6:13). Prayer

can help us to find the way of escape from temptation (1 Cor. 10:12-13).

Prayer can give us boldness from God to speak for Him (Acts 4:29-31). Prayer can open doors for the Word of God, so that we may speak (Col. 4:3). Prayer can strengthen us with all might, that we might walk worthy of the Lord, please Him, be fruitful for Him, increase in knowledge, and grow in patience and longsuffering (Col. 1:10-11).

Prayer can fortify the peace of God in guarding our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:6-7). Prayer can give us confidence that, even in the midst of trials and daily challenges, the Lord will deliver us (2 Cor. 1:10-11; Phil. 1:19; Phile. 22), even delivering from unreasonable and wicked men (2 Thess. 3:1-2). Prayer will help us to stand perfect and complete in all the will of God (Col. 4:12).

Study what your Bible tells you about prayer. And instead of seeing it as a “last resort” or as “a wish and a prayer” or as “better than nothing,” see it as a piece of armor that God grants to you from His own arsenal. Do you trust God? In trusting in prayer, you are trusting wholeheartedly the God to whom you pray, for the confidence we have is that “His ears are open to [our] prayers” (1 Pet. 3:12). That’s powerful!

All Good, Nothing Bad and Nothing Ugly—Philadelphia

By: Selected

The title of this series on New Testament churches is based upon the movie from years ago entitled, “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.” This approach does not fit the church in Philadelphia, for there was nothing bad or ugly known about this church. What a joy it would have been to have been part of the body of Christ in this ancient city.

The city of Philadelphia. While we can think of this city as an ancient one, this was not the way it was seen in the first century. It had been built about 150 B.C. as a center to spread the Greek language and culture in a place where it was not well known, and it accomplished its purpose. In A.D. 17, there was a great earthquake in the area, followed by many aftershocks. The emperor Tiberius helped in the restoration of the cities impacted, and the citizens of Philadelphia renamed the city Neo-caesarea—The New City of Caesar. There was also a large Jewish population which opposed the church as it served the Lord. The Jews thought they were God’s chosen people, but the church knew better.

The church in Philadelphia, faithful in the midst of adversity. As the Lord does in each of the letters to the seven churches, He reminds them that He knows their works. In spite of the opposition, they had persevered, keeping His word and not denying Him. The Lord saw their faithfulness and promised them that their faith would lead to great blessings.

The church in Philadelphia with an open door of opportunity. Those aftershocks from the earthquake created an air of uncertainty.

Many were so fearful that they would not stay in their house which might be destroyed and were constantly leaving their homes with every aftershock. The Lord told the church that He was about to open a door before them that would remain open and provide for the growth of the church.

The early church used the idea of an open door for evangelism (see 1 Cor. 16:9; 2 Cor. 2:12; Col. 4:3; Acts 14:27). This church was promised that the Jews would come to realize that the church was now the true Israel of God and that, with the destruction of the city of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, there was a New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven, and they were its pillars inscribed with a new name, the name of God! The Jews thought they were His chosen one, but when the worst tribulation came against Jerusalem and that holy city with its holy temple ceased to exist, the situation totally changed. It was the church which became His temple and His name was given to all men of every nation.

Think again of what a blessing it would have been to be part of the church in Philadelphia with its open door!



Upcoming Events

Sat. Aug. 29: Randy and Mandi D'Herde will be hosting an ice cream and singing fellowship at their home 204 Beacon Lane from 6-8pm. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Genesis would like to thank everyone for the prayers for his father, his tests came out well.

Service Roster

Week of August 23, 2026

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading.....Caleb Lehtinen
Song Leader Kirk FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer..... Jake Jacobs
Closing Prayer..... Jeff Cannady

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Randy D'Herde
Cup..... Cody McCoy
Offering..... Ron White
Assist.....Caleb Lehtinen
Assist..... Blake Jacobs
Assist..... Clifton Rutherford

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer.....Ron White
Closing Prayer..... Clifton Rutherford

Lord's Supper & Offering.....James Cammock/
Willie Fossati

Wednesday Evening

Adult ClassCongregational Singing
Song Leader
Devotional.....

Other

Prepare Communion.....Sneeringer

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Yvonne Smith.....Aug. 29

Anniversaries

Jim & Angy Hutt.....Aug. 24

Tuesday Ladies Bible Class

The Tuesday Ladies Bible Class begins the first Tuesday in September at 10am here in the fellowship hall. They will be studying "Women of the Bible"

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido—Benevolence
Doug Jobs—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

A new commandment I give to you, that you love
one another; as I have loved you, that you also
love one another.
John 13:34 NKJV

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of August 16, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....56
A.M. Worship.....76
P.M. Worship.....53
Wednesday Worship.....54

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

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5901 N. Main
Victoria, TX 77904
361-573-0030

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