



# The Church That Thrives in Crisis

## Part 2 of 5

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*“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.”*  
*Ephesians 6:13-20*

**PRINCIPLE 1:** Churches that thrive in crisis see things other people don’t see—they see the reality of heavenly places and discern the hidden causes behind the visible effects.

**PRINCIPLE 2:** Churches that thrive in crisis take firm hold of weapons they never before understood.

A Roman soldier utilized six pieces of armor—three to protect the core, and three around the periphery.

<b>Protect the Core</b>	<b>Protect the Periphery</b>
Belt	Shield
Breastplate	Helmet
Shoes	Sword

As followers of Christ, we are in a battle. God wants us to have a battle-ready mind. As followers of Christ, we have seven pieces of armor, the six pieces of the Roman armor plus one additional piece, which makes all the difference.

Every piece of our armor corresponds to a blessing that is ours in Christ. These seven pieces of armor are not clunky nor cumbersome; they fit perfectly and the more we consciously take hold of them, the more comfortable they become.

I put on the belt of truth. *Jesus is the Truth.*

I put on the breastplate of righteousness. *Jesus is my Righteousness.*

I put on the shoes of the gospel of peace. *Jesus is the Good News.*

I take up the shield of faith. *Jesus is the Faithful One.*

I put on the helmet of salvation. *Jesus is my Savior.*

I take up the sword of the spirit. *Jesus is the Word of God.*

I take up all prayer. *Jesus is my intercessor.*

*"Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25*

I stand complete in Christ and the evil one cannot touch me!

*"He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." 1 John 4:4*

*"We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him." 1 John 5:18*

*"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil." 1 John 3:8*

Because each piece of armor affirms the fact that we are in Christ, we are guaranteed victory.

*"But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere." 2 Corinthians 2:14*

*"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you." Romans 16:20*

*"And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death." Revelation 12:11*

*"To Him who overcomes" 7x in Revelation 2, 3*

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