

Battle Gear

A few years ago I got caught up in playing an online game "World of Warcraft". Amazing what women in their late 40s will do. It became an addiction but I still saw God in the design. Yet I digress. My character was a mage, a beautiful woman that could throw fire or ice at beasts. One of the funner parts of the game was when you got together with other friends and went after a really bad evil guy made by the creators. In order for your team to take on the bad guy, you had to put on your "Battle Gear". It took lots of gold and plenty of hours in the World of Warcraft to purchase just the right gear for your character to play at the top of their game. Despite the years I focused on the game, and lost contact with God, it still taught me a few things. One is that more important than ever today, we as Christians need Battle Gear. Here is the list I have compiled for my Armory.

Prayer – We are to pray without ceasing. At all times of the day and night I find myself talking to God as if He were beside me. Sometimes I have to walk to the bank to make a deposit during the workday and I treasure these moments because God is in nature and I see Him all around me. During these times I talk out loud and I'm sure my angels get a kick out of it (not to mention people looking out of their windows). I also speak to God before bedtime and ask for Bride Training dreams. When I was very little, my Grandma taught me the Lord's Prayer found in Matthew 6:9-13. Our prayers are to be patterned after this one and you will see that it is a very simple and short prayer. I will admit to not being a prayer warrior but am grateful to have friends that are. Still, I see prayer as being the #1 piece of Battle Gear in this war against satan and his minions.

Armor of God – Ephesians 6:10-17

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

In the World of Warcraft, you were either a close up fighter, or one far away. My mage was far away because she could throw things at the beasts. But her armor was more vulnerable because of it. As a mage, she had to rely on friends to help her. Unlike real life with God, the first sentence of the verses above tells us everything. Be strong in the Lord, not ourselves, not our friends or spouse, not our country or world, but in God the Creator. Since before Christmas (2013) I started putting on my armor of God each morning before work or starting my day. I don't really read these verses aloud anymore but have my own prayer and ask Jesus to put each piece on for me. I've also written the verses out on recipe cards for each family member. I believe this is one of the most important pieces of Battle Gear.

Bible – We are told the Word of God is your sword in the Armor of God. This is the only offensive weapon you have. Everything else is defensive. In the game (WoW) you had someone fight the monster up close and that character was considered the "Tank". This character held a shield in one hand to help ward off the blows, yet their other hand carried an offensive weapon so they could fight. With the armor of God we are a Tank...we have the shield of faith and the Sword! God's Word cuts through anything. This is not our word but His. Our words without faith fall flat and the devil laughs. But God's Word will take anything down. We should memorize what we can for the times of need to come. Another of the more important pieces of Battle Gear.

Oil of Joy – Sometimes it’s very hard to have joy. My husband lost his job two weeks ago. If this had happened last year, I would have freaked out! So I “Work for the Lord rather than men” as the Bible tells us to do. I try to incorporate “joy of service” that we have learned those in Heaven practice. I am NOT perfect but each day I try to improve. If I leave the house in a bad mood (no oil of joy), then I pray in the car, worship in tongues, and turn on Christian music and that usually helps. I try to keep that flask full and a spare one in the trunk with my prepper stuff. ☺ (Update, hubby got a job within a month of writing this)

Communion – Matthew 26:27-29

27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

I take communion every morning, adding it to my armor of God dress code. This is harder than it appears because I must forgive and know that I have been forgiven of sins, some of which I don’t even know. But that doesn’t stop me from requesting forgiveness. Yet God shows us that He loves us no matter what we’ve done. The thief on the cross may not have had one unselfish day in his life, but he believed Jesus words, and was allowed into Paradise that same day. We have had more time to commune with Jesus, so I believe more is expected of us. I try not to get myself in situations where I will need to be forgiven. I don’t want to give satan a foothold to mess with me again.

Marking our Thresholds – A year ago this idea was foreign to me. But God has told us of the importance of the symbolism of marking our thresholds with oil. Is it not amazing that we...WE...people living and working in this day and age, are told to mark our thresholds by GOD...like He had those of Moses time. We are being told that satan and his horde have been let loose to cause havoc in the world. I believe this marking thresholds is very important. There is no magic to how to do it. Initially I grabbed some olive oil and prayed a short quick prayer over each threshold or area where something from the outside can come in. I only did real thresholds and internet/cable connections and our vehicles and employment, but I have other friends who have done every window in their house and their entire property. When the Jews were building and adding implements to the Temple, they had to anoint each and every item. So it’s whatever you feel led to do. Don’t make it hard or difficult to understand. We are simply told to mark our thresholds. I believe God tells us to do this so angels can see our homes in the dark and help defend us. Also, it is an act of obedience. If we believe...if we have faith that what we are doing is right, then that faith is added as God’s light to the oil and it shines forth in the dark. That’s my belief and I’m sticking to it.

Mantle - Isaiah 61:3

“...and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.”

Once again from the WoW, the “Cloak” was a very important piece that your character would wear. It wasn’t necessarily pretty, in fact you could hide it on your character so the protection was there, but no one could see it. When you first start out as a new character, the cloak is torn, but as you advance in the game, the cloak can become one of the more important pieces that you wear. We may not see the covering that God gives us, but it’s there. We have been told that we will be protected and have peace in these chaotic days to come. Perhaps we will be issued an invisible mantle that the evil ones can see, but we cannot.

Singing – Lastly I find that singing is very helpful. It’s worshipping God for starters, and medically it helps your blood pressure and emotional stress levels. I think the more we sing, the more we shine. We once again become those lanterns that shine out over the world. And satan hates it. ☺ So it must be good.