

Reading: [Ephesians 6:10-13](#)

Summer Solstice

Children of Light wear Armor of Light

Introduction

- Knights have long had a fascinating appearance.
 - We think of chivalry and honor
 - But we also think of war and fighting for the king
- The Bible used the armor analogy for godliness and war against evil
 - Interestingly, it starts in the O.T.

[Isaiah 59:17](#) For He put on **righteousness** as a breastplate, And a helmet of **salvation** on His head; He put on the garments of **vengeance** for clothing, And was clad with **zeal** as a cloak.

[Ephesians 6:14-17](#) Stand therefore, having girded your waist with **truth**, having put on the breastplate of **righteousness**, and having shod your feet with the preparation of **the gospel of peace**; above all, taking the shield of **faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of **salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is **the word of God**;

- Our verse to begin this month's series:

[1 Thess. 5:5-8](#) You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the **breastplate of faith and love**, and as a **helmet the hope of salvation**.

- This combination of terms is used 3 times in Paul's writings
- 2 of them in this book and Once in 1 Corinthians 13
- Let's look at them

1. Children of Light Wear the Breastplate of Faith

- In Ephesian, the breastplate is righteousness and the shield is faith
 - Both of these armor items protect the heart
- Many think that faith is a heartfelt thing and not a rational thing
 - Nothing could be farther from the truth

[Acts 26:25-27](#) But he said, "I am **not mad**, most noble Festus, but speak the **words of truth and reason**. For the king, before whom I also speak freely, **knows** these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you **believe** the prophets? I know that you do **believe**."

[Romans 15:17](#) Therefore I have **reason** to glory in Christ Jesus in the things *which pertain* to God.

- To pat on our chest and claim I know what I feel, is not the reason
- The reason is the resurrection of Jesus.
- The reason is the apostles' witness and testimony of it.

[Romans 10:17](#) So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- We wear a breastplate of faith, not a shirt of faith.
 - In modern terms, we could call it a bullet proof vest of faith
 - Our faith is based on the word of the truth of the faith

[Colossians 1:5](#) because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the **word** of the **truth** of the **gospel**,

- We will get to "hope" momentarily.

2. Children of Light Wear the Breastplate of Love

- Love is an amazing protection
 - We protect each other out of love, God protects us out of love
 - Our love for God protects us from things that can steal our hearts

[2 Timothy 1:7](#) For God has not given us a **spirit of fear**, but of **power** and of **love** and of a **sound mind**.

[1 John 4:18](#) There is no fear in love; but **perfect love casts out fear**, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

- Biblical, spiritual love is not just some mushy or cute feeling
 - These verses say it is power
 - This power is strong enough to cast out fear
 - Love was the power that held Jesus to His commitment
 - Love was the power that held Jesus to the Cross
 - Love is the power that holds us faithful to God no matter what

3. Children of Light Wear the Helmet of Hope

- In each place we read about the helmet, it mentioned salvation
 - The helmet protects the head, the mind and the brain
 - There is mention of being sober and vigilant in our passage today
 - This is about keeping a clear mind and focused on correct things.
- Hope is that helmet, Hope is what keeps us focused and stable mentally

[Romans 5:5](#) Now **hope does not disappoint**, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

- Can you image having "no hope"
- It is nothing but despair, and grief, and futility
- When we have no hope, we give up and we do something else

[1 Peter 1:3](#) Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to **a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

- I really like this description of hope: a Living Hope
- Jesus is alive today because of the resurrection
- Jesus' resurrection gives us Hope of eternal life
- Jesus' resurrection gives us Hope in this life as well.
- We hope for what we do not see, but one day will see.
- That's our Helmet of Hope