

*"But let us, who are of the Day, be sober, Putting On The Breastplate Of Faith And Love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." 1 Thessalonians 5:8 KJV*

Paul uses the analogy the "shield of faith" and the "breastplate of faith" with an added dimension; "love." The "breastplate of righteousness" is the sum of "faith and love." A breastplate is, in a word, protection. It isn't wielded, but fixed. Faith and love are all God desires from men. They are evidenced, not by words, but by actions. If your child obeys you, you know they trust and love you. If they do not, you know all their proclaimed love is but lip service so they may continue in their own chosen path. I can't love God unless I believe He is. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is." I must receive and believe the Word that verifies His existence and power. God's Word will never fail: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts," saith the LORD. "So shall my Word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall accomplish that which I please." Faith enables man's righteousness in Christ. The Love of God enables that Righteousness to be imparted to sinful man via the Word of God. All are gifts of God. "Faith cometh by hearing (believing and receiving)...the Word of God. We love Him because HE FIRST LOVED US. Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all THEM THAT BELIEVE. By grace are ye saved through faith, and that, not of yourselves, it is the GIFT of God. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." We conquer the foe only IN Christ. The battlefield is fatal to armourless, weaponless soldiers. God's Word conquers the enemy. Those left standing are the conquerors. We do not march in battle. We withstand the enemy by remaining IN our protected place, God's Word. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed (anchored to; anchored boats don't move.) on Thee. Wherefore take unto you the WHOLE armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day. We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. God...giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. WHO IS HE THAT OVERCOMETH the world, but HE THAT BELIEVETH that Jesus is the Son of God? Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and THIS IS THE VICTORY that overcometh the world, EVEN OUR FAITH." We do not march, we STAND! We STAND invincible only on the ground of Truth. He will destroy all foes by the "Sword of His mouth; the Word of God!" We are only conquerors IN Christ. On our own, we are powerless!



The righteousness of God bestowed,  
Empowers ev'ry faithful saint betrothed,  
Who firmly on the Truth do stand,  
And conquer through His mighty hand! –CGP

Standing is easier than marching. Faith is about standing against the foe, not marching against him. "That your faith should not STAND in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God: the gospel which...ye have received, and wherein ye STAND. Watch ye, STAND FAST in the faith. STAND FAST therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage (sin). We live, IF YE STAND fast in the Lord." We are invincible, if we but STAND fast and depend totally upon God!

*"O Death, where is thy sting? O Grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 15:55-58 KJV*