

“Are You Wearing A Mask?”

By Mrs. Sojourner



The Apostle Paul, in Ephesians, ^[a] gives us some details in how to fight the spiritual fight against our enemy, the devil. Included in these details is a description of the "Armor of God" which includes a belt, a breastplate, a shield, a helmet, shoes, and a sword.

A piece I noticed he did not include in the armor is a mask. Have you ever noticed that some people, maybe even you, wear the armor Paul talks about but they include a mask, OR, unfortunately, some that wear a mask and none of the scriptural armor pieces.

There could be any number of reasons someone wears a mask. Some possible reasons are: fear that someone sees their identity, fear of someone seeing the true appearance of their identity, fear of something in the surrounding air.

Notice that these reasons are all rooted in fear. We are so fortunate that perfect love drives out fear^[b] and our God is love himself!^[c] Praise the Lord!

Notes:

^[a] Eph. 6:10-18

^[b] 1 John 4:18

^[c] 1 John 4:16

God knows our true identities. He knows everything we have ever done,

good or bad, and he knows everything we will ever do. AND He loves us as we are. God loves our true identities and loves us even if we have an unlovely appearance.

Through his death and resurrection, Jesus has victory over Satan, the prince of the power of the air. We have no need to be afraid of anything in the air because we, as Believers in Christ, have the victory, through Christ, over Satan.

Let me encourage you to verify you are wearing every piece of the "Armor of God." If you find that you have included a mask, cast it off and boldly live in the strength of God's love.

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...with The Sojourner

“What Did You Say?”

(Teaching Sketch)

Deuteronomy 28:1-14



There are times when we simply find it necessary to ask someone to repeat something they have said perhaps because we were distracted by a

thought, a loud noise, or even a poor connection over some type of device such as a phone or radio.

Distractions

Jesus talked of distractions when he told the "Parable of the Sower" and then found it necessary to explain^[a] what he had said to his disciples.

Mark 4:18 **Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word;¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.**

One of the great things about the Bible is we can review, check out, and memorize what God has spoken to us for our benefit. It is important we

Notes:

^[a] Mark 4:13-20

^[b] James 1:6

^[c] Hebrews 10:23
Hold unswerving

^[d] James 1:8
unstable

focus on God's Word and not man's word. I have received what most people would consider negative reports from man such as "you will die soon" because of some medical condition.

The doctor was not lying but giving me what he understood as truth. It was then necessary for me to look to God's Word for the ultimate truth. Scripture says in the Book of James:

...believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.^[b]

Anyone can be tossed by doubt and become confused. The use of doubt is Satan's favorite weapon.

Loud Noises

There are many people who are so overwhelmed by the loudness of the world it is difficult for them to hear from God. This was true of the disciples when Jesus was asleep in the boat. All the disciples could do was watch the storm and listen to it

Scripture:

Deuteronomy 28:1-14^(NIV)

¹If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth.

²All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God:

³You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.

⁴The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

⁵Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed.

⁶You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

⁷The LORD will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven.

⁸The LORD will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will

bless you in the land he is giving you.

⁹The LORD will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the LORD your God and walk in his ways. ¹⁰Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will fear you.

¹¹The LORD will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your forefathers to give you.

¹²The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. ¹³The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. ¹⁴Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.

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drown out the calmness of the Master sleeping. They feared what the words of Jesus could easily control.^[c] Jesus simply said “**Peace be still.**” The very storm which had confused the disciples and drowned out the peace of God (their spiritual ears hearing) could easily hear and respond to Jesus’ words.

Poor Connection

We have all experienced a poor connection over a phone or the like at some time. Many people will argue with another over the ability or lack of ability to hear God. The real problem is a poor connection. If people do not seek God regularly in his Word and in prayer, I mean daily, they will have a poor connection. This happened with Jesus’ disciples. Jesus would speak to the crowd and the disciples would ask for a clarification because they had not yet become close enough to experience a good continual connection with God with the ability to hear him. The person who is uncertain of God and his promise will be spiritually unstable and unstable in every way.^[d]

Look at both the promises of God in Deuteronomy 28 *God’s will* and the curses *not God’s will*. Choose Blessings! The curses of the world were never meant for you!

Just so you’ll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during “Praise & Worship” (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

