

Armor of God—Helmet (Hope) of Salvation

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BIG SANDY, Texas—One of the most encouraging sections of Scripture is found in the book of Ephesians. In that letter, the apostle Paul described a spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:10-13) and the spiritual weapons (verses 14-17) available for the children of God to use.

In this article, we will discuss the fifth weapon—the helmet (hope) of salvation (verse 17).

1 Thessalonians 5:8—“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.”

Reminders about faith

Matthew 8:13—“Then Jesus said to the centurion, ‘Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.’ And his servant was healed that same hour.”

Romans 4:5—“But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness.”

Eager expectation

The Greek word *apokaradokia* (which is a noun that is used only twice in the New Testament) means eager expectation.

Romans 8:19—“For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.”

Philippians 1:19-20—“For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.”

Hope and expectation

The Greek word *elpis* is a noun that means hope and expectation. The Greek word *elpizo* is a verb that means to hope and to expect.

Romans 8:24-25—"For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance."

- Hope that is seen is not hope.
- People hope for and anticipate a wedding ceremony. Once the wedding ceremony happens, people have no need to anticipate it anymore.
- People hope for and anticipate a trip. Once the trip happens, people have no need to anticipate it anymore.

Romans 15:4—"For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

Believing and anticipating

- Faith is believing, and hope is anticipating.
- I believe that faith is based more on facts—knowing and accepting the promises.
- I believe that hope is based more on feelings and emotions—anticipating the promises.

Faith and hope working together

Hebrews 11:1—"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

1 Peter 1:20-21—"He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God."

Acts 24:14-15—"But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets. I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust."

Romans 15:13—"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."