

***A distinction between the Wars
and the Weapons, and the Arms
and the Armor in the Old
Testament and the New; for in
the Old Testament they were
carnal, and in the New
Testament spiritual.***

By George Fox

The apostle tells the church of Christ, 'Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil; for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.' So this wrestling was with spiritual weapons, spiritual men; for carnal men wrestle with flesh and blood, and with carnal weapons, and men's armor, and not the armor of God. And again the apostle said, 'Take unto you the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand in the evil day, and having done, and having overcome all, to stand, having your loins girded with truth.'

So this is a heavenly girdle, not natural; and 'having on the breastplate of righteousness,' this is a spiritual breast-plate, not natural; 'having your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace,' which is the power of God over the devil, and before he was; to be shod thus, is not with outward shoes, but with that which will never wax old nor wear out; 'and above all, take the shield of faith,' that faith which Christ is the author and finisher of, 'with which you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked;' this shield of faith is holy, divine, and precious, and is the victory; which spiritual faith, God and Christ is the author of, and not men. 'And take unto you the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the word* of God.' Ephes 6:11-17. This helmet of salvation is spiritual, and the sword is spiritual; so not a natural sword or a natural helmet; and the word of God is called a hammer, a fire, and a sword, to hammer down, and cut down, and burn up that which has made a separation between man and God; and it is called the 'word of reconciliation, that reconciles

to God.' So the true church and ministers of Christ are to prove themselves 'by pureness, by knowledge, by long suffering, by kindness, by the holy ghost, by love unfeigned, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness, on the right hand and on the left.' 2 Cor 6:6-7.

*Neither is the *sword of the Spirit* the Bible, as many modern, so-called preachers teach. The *sword of the spirit* is the word of God, the words heard and spoken by God or Christ. Christ is the Word of God and out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which he fights and rules. "*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.*" So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

For though the church of Christ do walk in the flesh, yet the apostle said, 'We do not war after the flesh; for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God, to the plucking down of strong holds, (namely, of Satan), casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ, having in readiness to revenge all disobedience.' This is with spiritual weapons, not carnal. 2 Cor 10:4-6.

And the apostle said to the Romans, 'The night is far spent, and the day is at hand; let us cast off therefore the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light.' This armor of light is not natural, but divine and spiritual, to all the children of the light, and of the day. This armor of light is before darkness was, and the devil the power of it, and he, the power of darkness cannot pierce through this armor of light; and this armor of light is above all natural and carnal armor; and all the children of the light, that walk in this light, and this armor, they walk honestly, and decently, as in the day; for those who walk in 'not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature,' such are naked concerning armor of light, and though they may make profession of Christ, they do not put him on, as in Rom 13.

And Christ said, 'When a strong man armed keeps his house, his goods are at peace, but when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he takes from him all his armor wherein he trusted, and spoils his goods.' Is not Christ stronger than the devil that has kept the house of the hearts of people? And does not he disarm him and spoil his goods? And are not Christ's weapons spiritual? And the Lord said to Zachariah, 'Not by might, nor by power, (namely, of men), but my spirit, said the Lord of hosts.' Zach 4:6. The Lord said, 'Comfort you my people, speak you comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.' Isa 40:2 Is not this Jerusalem God's people, whose iniquity Christ pardons, and warfare is

accomplished. And again Isaiah said, (Isa 2 and Micah 4), speaking of Christ. 'He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people, and they shall beat their swords into plough shares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more, but they shall sit every man under his vine, and under his fig tree, and none shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken it.' Is not this vine Christ, and are not these the days of his gospel of peace?

And David said, 'Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolation he makes in the earth, he makes wars to cease unto the ends of the earth, he breaks the bow and cuts the spear in sunder, he burns the chariots in fire.' Psalm 46:8-9. 'The Lord rebukes the company of spearmen, the multitude of the bulls, with the calves of the people, until every one submit himself, (namely, to the Lord), who scatters the people that delight in war.' And are not these the days of Christ in the new testament, 'who ascended on high, and led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men, that the Lord God might dwell among them.' Psalm 68:18 and Eph 4:8 where the apostle shows the fulfilling of it; and the apostle James said, in his General Epistle to the church of Christ, 'From what come wars and fightings among you? They come from your lusts, that war in your members.' (Mark, in your members.) James 4. So here is a war in your members, the ground of it is from your lusts, before the wars and fightings were outwardly among people, which wars and fightings without, come from the lusts of the members within. And the apostle said to the In Hebrews 11:33-34, 'Who by faith subdued kingdoms, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword.' This was the shield of faith, a stronger weapon than outward swords, and is a stronger weapon than fire, and can quench the violence of it, that stopped the mouths of lions; this is beyond carnal weapons, which fire and lions may overcome.

And the apostle exhorts Timothy, 2 Tim 2:1-3, 'You, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and endure hardship, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.' But Timothy did not war with flesh and blood, with carnal weapons, as he was a soldier of Christ, but with Christ's heavenly arms and armor; for as the apostle Peter said, in his General Epistle to the church, 'Therefore, since Christ suffered for us[a] in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, (namely, of Christ) for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. For we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles or nations.'

And the apostle said to the Rom 6:13, 'Yield not your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield your members unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.' So it is clear, that those who yield their members as instruments of

unrighteousness unto sin, are not alive unto God; and the two witnesses that had power to smite the earth as often as they would, do you think that they did it with carnal weapons? 'And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon fought and his angels, and the dragon prevailed not, neither was there any more place found in heaven for him, but he and his angels were cast out into the earth.' Rev 12:7-8.

Now the holy angels of God are spirits, so then they had spiritual weapons, and not carnal swords, muskets, pikes, and pistols, etc. to fight with the dragon. And John said, 'I saw heaven open, and behold, a white horse, and he that sat upon him, was called faithful and true, and in righteousness he judges, and makes war,...and he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood, and his name was called, the word of God; and the armies which were in heaven followed him, upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean; and out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron.. And the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together, to make war against him that sat on the horse, and his army, who is King of kings, and Lord of lords; but the beast was taken, and the false prophet, and those who had received the mark of the beast, and had worshipped his image, these both were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone, and the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the white horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth.' Rev 19.

Do you think these were carnal weapons, with which Christ and his followers made war against the beast and the false prophet, and those who worshipped the beast and his image, and received his mark, and took them, and overcame them, and cast the beast and the false prophet into the lake that burns with brimstone? And was that an outward carnal sword that went out of his mouth, by which he slew the beast's worshippers, that had his marks and image? Do you think that Christ or his army, which sat on white horses and followed him, and which were in heaven, that they had outward swords, and pistols, and pikes, and muskets, and guns, and cannons, by which they overcame the beast and the false prophet? No; it is said, 'that Christ's army was clothed with fine linen and Christ's vesture was dipped in blood,' which army followed him in heaven.

Nebuchadnezzar lift up his eyes to heaven, and blessed the Most High, and said, all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing, and the Lord does according to his will, in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth, and none can stay his hand, nor say unto him, what have you done? Here you may see Nebuchadnezzar was made to confess to the great God, who saw his armies in heaven, who abased his pride. And Jesus said unto Pilate, 'My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now is my kingdom not from here,' (that is, of this world.) John 18:36. Here you may see a

distinction between the new covenant and the old, and the kingdom of Christ, and the kingdoms of this world, and their arms and armor.

The apostle exhorts the Ephesians, 'My brethren,' said he, 'be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might; put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil; for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, and rulers of darkness of this world, and against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore, take unto you the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand in the evil day, and having done all, or overcome all, to stand. Therefore, having your loins girded about with truth, and having on the breast-plate of righteousness, and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall 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; and praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, [**mark, in the spirit** they are to pray,] watching there in all perseverance, and supplication for all the saints.' Is not this generally to be practiced now by all true christians, as it was in the apostles' days? And the apostle said to the Romans, 'The night is far spent, the day is at hand, let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.' So light, you see, is your armor, which will defend you against darkness, and the prince of the power of it, and their weapons; and all such that hate the light of Christ, and are against it, are naked, and are without the light, which is the true armor; and you may see what the saints did do, and what victory they had with the shield of Faith, in Heb 11.

And the apostle said, 'He was sent for the defense of the gospel,' which is the power of God, and that was in the shield of faith.

And David said, 'You, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory, and the one who lifts up of my head;' so he is now to all his people. And further, 'You have given me the shield of your salvation, and your right hand has held me up, and your gentleness has made me great.' All must feel this shield of salvation from God, and if they be held up, it must be by his right hand. And again, David said, 'The Lord is my strength and my shield, my heart trusts in him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices; and with my song will I praise him.' This was not an outward shield, but the Lord was his strength and his shield; so God is to all his people in all their troubles.

And David said, 'The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my strength, in whom I will trust, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my fortress.' Mark, a rock, fortress, deliverer, strength, horn of salvation, high tower; the Lord God was so to David, and is so to all his people; God's way is perfect, the word of the Lord is tried, and endures for ever, and God is a shield to all those who trust in him. And again, said David, 'The eyes of the Lord are

upon them that fear him, to deliver their souls from death, and to keep them alive from famine. And David said, 'Plead my cause, O Lord, with them that strive with me; fight with them that fight against me; take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for my help, and stop the way against them that persecute me; and say unto my soul, I am your salvation.' Here David looked unto the Lord, his shield and buckler, and his help, to plead his cause against them that strove and fought against him; and so should all God's people. And David said, 'I will sing of your power; yes, I will sing aloud of your mercy; for you have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble.' And therefore let all God's people now know the Lord to be their defense, and refuge in the time of trouble. And David said, 'The Lord is only my rock and my salvation, he is my defense, I shall not be greatly moved;' so he is to all his people.

David said, Blessed is the man whose strength is in you; they grow from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appear before God. Behold, O God, our shield, look upon the face of your anointed; for the Lord God is a sun, and a shield, and the Lord will give grace, and glory, and no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. He shall cover thee with his feathers; you shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor for the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor for the destruction that wastes at the noon day; and under the Lord's wings you shall trust, his truth shall be your shield and buckler. So no outward shield or buckler; but the Lord is my defense, and the rock of my refuge. So he is of all God's people. O you that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord; he is their help, their shield that trust in him; for 'you are my hiding-place and my shield; my hope is in your word; depart from me, you evil doers, for I will keep the commands of my God.' Here is the bold confidence and steadfastness of all God's people. 'Blessed be the Lord, my strength, my goodness, my fortress, my high tower, and my deliverer, and my shield; and he in whom I trust.' Here you may see the Lord was all to David, who said, 'I know the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and the right of the poor.'

Therefore, as the apostle said to the Thessalonians, 'let us who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breast-plate of faith and love, and for a helmet, the hope of salvation.' 1 Thes 5:8. This was the children of light's heavenly armor and defense, which they had from God, and Christ, and not out of smith's shops [for carnal weapons]; for such will not defend them from the devil.

George Fox