

Combat Christian: Day Six

Mission Training: Unit One

Pre-flight Inspection 101

Survival Equipment Check

I remember, in the early days of my naval career, learning a very valuable lesson at someone else's expense. A combat aircrew returned to Naval Air Station Home Port from a routine training flight. As soon as they had shut down the engines and exited the aircraft they were swiftly captured by a security team and whisked away for a little impromptu survival training. For two days they would have to survive in the wilderness with only the equipment contained in the survival vest they were wearing. By the time they finished they fully comprehended the importance of each item and the potential effect if absent or damaged.

As believers, we must be conscience of the fact that we are in a battle. Going into combat without a helmet or flack jacket is a great way to become a casualty. Yet, how often do we enter into a new day sans armor (without armor)? Hence, we find that the Apostle Paul had good reason to exhort us to put on God's armor.

Key Verse:

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." (Eph 6:10 NIV)

So What!

I have heard a great many sermons on the need to put on the armor of God. However, not one of these teachings ever broached the subject as to how to accomplish this feat. I found the answer while driving back to a conference facility after dropping off some of our membership at the airport. One of my longtime friends and brother in the faith had given me a tape to listen to on the trip. There was a particular song by the group "Harvest" that really struck me when I heard it. The first verse went: "Are we walking into the enemy's camp laying our weapons down, shedding our armor as we go leaving it on the ground, we've got to be strong in the power of His might to prove to the enemy, we are the army of the Lord and we've won the victory." Can you imagine going into battle and removing your armor and dropping your weapons? This is contrary to everything a warrior has been taught. Then the light came on! In order to put on the armor of God I must first take of my own!!!! I must be naked of all of my own defenses in order to wear the armor of light. I must trust Christ to be my defense! How do I take off my own armor? As always Paul has answered the question ahead of time in chapter 4.

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." (Eph 4:22-23 NIV)