

## GET BACK UP.



You see the knight in the picture? Wounded, thrashed by the enemy, debating with himself about continuing the fight? That has been me, many, many times.

Yes, I completely agree with the Apostle Paul's encouragement in Ephesians chapter 6 that in the midst of spiritual warfare, we are to **STAND** in the full armor of God.

This armor (readiness to witness, the righteousness of Christ, firmness in truth, confidence of one's salvation, Word the God on our lips, prayer in the Spirit, and **ABOVE ALL**, faith in Jesus Christ) is **GOD'S ARMOR** given to us.

God's armor is **COMPLETELY** able to make us victorious in the fight against the hosts of evil. When the battle is over, and the dust settles, the enemy flees, and **WE REMAIN STANDING**.

I praise God for this armor. I've had any number of victorious spiritual battles because of it.

But to be completely honest, I've had any number of battles where I have been beaten up, smacked around, knocked to the ground in failure.

**THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH THE ARMOR.** The problem is me.

I'm always surprised to hear about proud Christians. Failure has been a pretty good means of demolishing my pride.

I often tell my congregation, "When you see me getting on my high horse, don't worry. It's just a matter of time, and I will be back on the ground to learn another lesson in humility."

**SO YOU HAVE BEEN WOUNDED IN THE BATTLE.** In other words, you have failed.

The devil is now busy reminding you what a terrible person you are. How God is really tired of your repeated failures, and tormenting you with the question, "How could you possibly call yourself a Christian?"

There are times you just have to say to the devil, "**SHUT-UP!**"

It also helps to remember that Jesus came into your life when you were a sinner. **BEFORE** you were his follower. You were no garden of roses then. You are not a whole lot better now, but at least now you love him and are his **FOLLOWER**.

Jesus knew what he was getting when he chose you. He is not surprised by your failure. So having come into your life **THEN**, would he now change his mind about you **NOW**? Of course not.

Jesus said, “I give my sheep eternal life and they shall never perish. No one can snatch them out of my hand” (John 10:28).

Does the wounded knight remind you of you? Well, let me say to you what I say to myself in those times of failure.

**GET BACK UP AND FIGHT!**