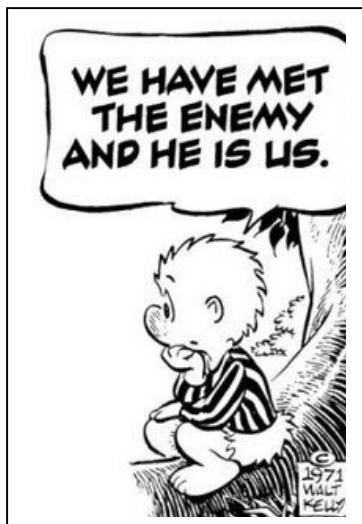


### 32-Putting on the Armor of God

If you are a fan of Walt Kelly, the creator of the comic strip Pogo, then you have heard the phrase “We have met the enemy and he is us”. This phrase captures our life before we accepted Christ. Satan had a field day directing our behavior. The “Enemy” was the only voice we heard. Once we accepted Christ we began to hear a new voice--- the Holy Spirit! Unfortunately, the devil does not just walk away from us when we accept Christ. My experience was that the devil attacked fiercely because he wanted me back in his control. He continues his attack to this day because he knows that men who hear the Gospel will stop listening to the devil. They will become leaders in their families and present a threat to the devil’s secular kingdom. So how do we fend off the devil’s attacks? **We put on the armor of God!**



As members of God’s army, we follow in the footsteps of naval hero Oliver Hazard Perry who coined the phrase that Kelly made into a parody. When Perry defeated the British at the Battle of Lake Erie in 1813 he sent the message “We have met the enemy and they are ours”. We know that in the book of Revelation the army of God meets the devil’s army and the army of God is victorious! God’s army is alive and well today - it is an army of believers who stand up to evil every day. We can meet and defeat the enemy every day just as Perry defeated the British! Each day I begin my walk by putting on the armor of God. Charles Stanley is the author of the following prayer:

Dear Lord, as I get out of bed today, I know I'm stepping onto a battlefield. But I also know you’ve given me everything I need to stand firm. So in the power of Your Holy Spirit, I put on **the Armor of God:**

First, I **place the helmet of salvation on my head.** Protect my mind and imagination. Guard my eyes, allowing no sin to creep in. Focus my thoughts on the things of God.

**Let the breastplate of righteousness keep my heart and emotions safe.** I pray that I won't be governed by my feelings, but by truth.

**Wrap Your Word around me like a belt.** And safeguard me from error.

I **put on the sandals of peace to guide my steps.** Plant my feet in your truth. Empower me to stand firm against attack.

Next, I **take up the shield of faith.** Protect me from satan's fiery arrows. Place me shoulder to shoulder with Your army to oppose the devil's schemes.

Finally, I **take up the sword of the Spirit, Your Word.** Help me to read the Bible in a fresh, exciting way so I will always be ready to deflect attacks and pierce hearts with your truth.

I encourage you to add this prayer to your daily quiet time. This prayer has helped me enter each day prepared and confident that God has equipped me to defeat the devil.

Verse:

**Ephesians 6:13-18** outlines God’s armor. Take a few minutes to read the Word.

**Personal Reflection:** Have you ever pondered the need to put on the Armor of God? Can you see how God wants to protect you from yourself?

**Group Discussion:** Share where you believe you are vulnerable to attack. Develop a prayer list to provide specific hedges of protection for each group member.