

Contents

Preface	15
Biographical sketch of the Author	17
Chapter I: <i>The Saint's Call to Arms</i>	23
I. THE CHRISTIAN'S CALL TO COURAGE	24
<i>Cowardice vs. Courage</i>	25
<i>Sources of Christian Courage</i>	27
1. An established knowledge of God's truth	28
2. A heart set in the right direction	29
II. THE CHRISTIAN'S CALL TO SERVICE	29
<i>Directives Issued</i>	29
1. Renounce your bosom sins	30
2. Conform your life to Christ	31
3. Sidestep stumbling blocks	32
4. Trust God in every circumstance	32
5. Stay on course to the end of your life	33
III. AN ADMONITION TO 'BE STRONG IN THE LORD'	33
<i>The Source of the Saint's Strength</i>	33
<i>The Significance of God's Strength</i>	36
1. The nature of the saint's conscience	36
2. The character of the conscience	37
3. The nature of God's plan	38
4. The nature of God	40
<i>A Solemn Warning</i>	41
	[5]

IV. AN ADMONITION TO APPROPRIATE
‘THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT’ 42

What Is ‘The Power of His Might’? 42

Appropriating God’s Power 42

Three Reasons for Trusting God’s Power 43

1. His past record 43
2. Your present dilemma 44
3. His eternal desire 45

The Fivefold Bond Securing God’s Power 47

1. His near kinship to the saints 47
2. His dear love for the saints 48
3. His everlasting covenant 49
4. His self-imposed obligation 49
5. His interceding Son 50

Occasions for Using God’s Power 50

1. When weighed down by sin 52
2. When overpowered by temptation 53
3. When oppressed by Christian duty 54

Four Reasons Why God’s Power Is Sometimes Hidden 55

1. You may have overlooked God’s power 55
2. God may have purposely delayed His power 56
3. The cause of hindrance of the blessing may be in yourself 57
4. God may call you to persevere in the face of overwhelming odds 58

Chapter 2: *First Consideration: The Saint’s Armour* 59

I. THE CHRISTIAN MUST BE ARMED 59

The Armed Saint – His Divine Provisions 60

1. Christ as armour 60
2. The graces of Christ as armour 60

The Unarmed Sinner – His Dim Prospects 60

1. Alienation from God 61
2. Ignorance 62
3. Impotency 63
4. Friendship with sin and Satan 63

The Enemy – His Diabolical Plan 64

1. The natural inclination of man’s soul 64
2. The supernatural malice of Satan 65

The Armour – Its Creator 66

1. God is the sole designer of His saints’ armour 66
2. God makes His saints’ armour and trains them in its proper use 68

The Armour – Its Various Parts 69

1. All the parts together cover the whole saint, soul and body 70
2. Each piece has a special function 70
3. Each piece is complete and perfect 74

Our Graces – Why We Must Perfect Them 74

1. Because our graces can sustain injury 74
2. Because Satan is still perfecting his wrath and skill 75
3. Because we fulfill God’s purpose when we grow in grace 75

The Armour – Its Proper Use 76

1. The armour must be put on 76
2. The armour must be kept on 76

The Armour – Its Proper Place 80

Final Exhortation 80

II. WHY THE CHRISTIAN MUST BE ARMED 81

<i>The Danger if Unarmed</i>	81
<i>Satan as Tempter to Sin</i>	82
1. Satan chooses <i>when</i> to tempt	83
2. Satan chooses <i>how</i> to tempt	85
3. Satan chooses <i>what</i> or <i>whom</i> to use as the instruments of temptation	89
<i>Warning</i>	93
<i>Precautions</i>	95
1. Ask God for counsel	95
2. Know your heart	95
3. Read God's Word attentively	95
<i>Satan as Accuser of Sin</i>	96
1. Satan accuses the saints of his own wicked thoughts	97
2. Satan exaggerates the saints' sins	98
3. Satan appoints himself both judge and jury to try the saints	100
4. Satan tries to rob the saints of their covenant promise	101
<i>The Saint's Proper Reaction to Satan's Accusations</i>	103
1. Let his accusations make you more careful	103
2. Let them make you more humble	103
3. Let them show you the fallacy of his logic	103
<i>God's Perfect Response to Satan's Accusations</i>	105
1. God uses Satan's own schemes to make His saints wise	105
2. God uses Satan's tricks to make His saints thankful	107
3. God uses the devil's wiles to make His saints wary	107
<i>The Saint's Fortification</i>	108
1. Beware of Satan as a seducer	108
2. Cling to God's promise of justification	109

3. Avoid entrapment	109
4. Maintain assurance of salvation	111
<i>The Assurance of Victory if Armed</i>	113
<i>Satan's Damnation</i>	114
1. The curse that lies upon Satan	114
2. The limits God places upon Satan	115
<i>Satan's Intentions and God's Intervention</i>	116
1. Satan's intention: to defile the saint's conscience	117
2. Satan's intention: to defile other saints	118
3. Satan's intention: to defile the saint's relationship with God	119

Chapter 3: *Second Consideration: The Nature of the War and the Character of the Enemy* 124

I. THE NATURE OF THE WAR 124

<i>Why Saints Must Wrestle</i>	124
1. The sharpness of combat	124
2. The universality of combat	126
3. The duration of combat	126
<i>How Not to Wrestle</i>	128
1. Do not wrestle against God's Spirit	128
2. Do not wrestle against God's providence	129
3. Do not wrestle by your own rules	130
<i>How to Wrestle</i>	131
1. Enlist God as your second	131
2. Stay in training	132
3. Use your advantage wisely	132
<i>A Word of Encouragement to Wrestlers</i>	133

II. THE CHARACTER OF THE ENEMY 134

<i>The Saint's Minor Assailants: 'Flesh and Blood'</i>	134
--	-----

1. Our inner corruptions	134
2. Human beings	136
<i>The Saint's Chief Assailants: Evil Spirits</i>	141
1. Their system of government	141
(a) Satan's claim to his throne	143
(b) God's present concession to Satan's claim	144
(c) How to test your true allegiance	146
2. Their powers	151
3. Their kingdom ('the darkness of this world')	161
(a) Why sin is described as darkness	166
(b) Why those in darkness are under Satan's rule	168
(c) Warning to beware of Satan's tricks	170
(d) The blinding power of ignorance	172
(e) Warning to beware of ignorance	174
(f) The way to knowledge	181
4. Their nature ('spiritual wickedness')	186
(a) The importance of understanding the nature of devils	193
(b) Spiritual wickedness in the saints: the cause and the cure	195
(i) Sin in the heart	196
(ii) Sins about spiritual topics	201
Errors involving spiritual principles	201
Pride	205
(c) A final thought on spiritual wickedness	223
5. The grounds of war ('in high places,' or 'for heavenly things')	225
(a) The saint's heavenly calling	225
(b) A call worth fighting for	228
(c) A word of caution to those who desire	

a heavenly prize	231
(d) A practical note – on the folly of pursuing earthly things	234
(e) A final word about our heavenly prize	238

Chapter 4: *Third Consideration: A Second Exhortation to be Armed* 240

I. THE EXHORTATION AND THE IMPLICATION 240

<i>First Observation: The Implications of a Repeated Admonition</i>	240
Imperative truths	241
<i>Second Observation: The Need to Inspect and Repair Your Graces</i>	245
1. Why your graces must be kept in good repair	245
2. Who suffers when your grace diminishes	247
3. How to know whether or not your grace is declining	250
4. How to recover from declining grace	254

II. REASONS FOR THE EXHORTATION 258

<i>The Hour of Battle</i>	258
1. The nature and quality of evil and the 'evil day'	260
2. The certainty of an evil day	263
3. The necessity of armour to withstand the evil day	265
4. Directions for preparing for the evil day	267
<i>The Requirements for a Happy Outcome of the War</i>	269
1. The necessity of perseverance	271

2. The necessity of divine armour to persevere	272
3. Why the unregenerate cannot persevere	273
4. The certainty of persevering if armed	276
5. The promised result of perseverance	281
Chapter 5: <i>Fourth Consideration: The Position to be Maintained in the Fight</i>	285
I. STAND – DO NOT FLEE OR YIELD	285
<i>Scripture Expressly Commands it</i>	286
<i>God Supplies Armour Sufficient for the Battle</i>	287
<i>The Christian's Safety Lies in Resisting</i>	288
<i>The Enemy Is Overcome Only by Force</i>	289
1. Satan is a cowardly enemy	289
2. Satan is an encroaching enemy	290
3. Satan is an accusing enemy	291
II. STAND IN YOUR OWN PLACE – DO NOT USURP ANOTHER'S	291
<i>Five Considerations to Persuade All to Stand</i>	294
1. You lose God's approval when you leave your appointed place to work outside your calling	294
2. You lose God's protection when you ignore His restrictions as to place and calling	295
3. God does not hold you accountable for another man's work	297
4. You suffer needlessly when you bear burdens God never intended you to carry	297
5. A flighty spirit usually carries men out of their place and calling	298

III. STAND – DO NOT SLEEP	301
<i>Why the Christian Must Remain Wakeful</i>	302
1. The Christian's work is too important and demanding to be done while half asleep, or in a half-hearted fashion	302
2. Watchfulness reaps advantages for the Christian	303
<i>How to Stand and Watch</i>	304
1. Watch constantly	304
2. Watch universally	306
3. Watch wisely	307