



July 20, 2008

He Took Them Off

By Teresa Hampton

King Saul was *trying* to help. He clothed young David with his own bronze helmet, coat of mail, and sword, thinking it was what he needed to face Goliath. David quickly realized he couldn't walk clothed in the king's armor. He hadn't practiced using the sword. So, what did he do, even at risk of offending the king?

With uncharacteristic wisdom for one so young, David took them off. He used the small defensive weapon he was familiar with when he protected sheep, but he recognized it was just a tool to display God's power and might, not his own. He shouted to the giant, "*You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand...Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands*" (1 Samuel 17:45-47).

We need to be like David. There are things that weigh us down. We tend to rely on our own ingenuity or resources when we face life's struggles. In order to cope, survive, and prosper in this life we place our trust in popularity, knowledge, beauty, riches...whatever. The world tells us we *need* these things, when, in fact, our trust in them makes us fall.

Truthfully, we need to take them off, cease relying on them, even if we offend or puzzle our friends. The thing we need to rely on when we're engaged in a battle of any kind is what the young shepherd relied on. He trusted in the strength of his Lord. In this we, too, have great confidence. The source of our strength is the Commander of the Army of the Lord, Jesus Christ. And as it was with young David, the battle is not ours, but the Lord's.

Today's Verse: "*The Lord is my light and my salvation: Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident*"
(Psalm 27:1, 3).

Today's Challenge: Identify things in your life that you rely on.

If you would like to subscribe to **Wellspring**, send e-mail to wellspringforwomen@hotmail.com and type the word **subscribe** in the subject line.

Previous **Wellspring** articles have been archived at <http://www.TheBible.net/wellspring>