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We are commanded in Eph.6 to **put on** the whole armor of God. ...This denotes a willful choice and action. But

why armor? Why a shield and sword? We are given all the authority and might of the Name of Jesus (Mk.16:17,18). Why? Authority for and over what?

God's Word is called the Sword of the Spirit. *For what purpose?'*

As painfully sensitive as this discussion can be, I believe it is vital. Each of us to one extent or another has faced agonizing moments in the struggle that life can sometimes be (and I certainly don't minimize those times). There is, however, great danger in my immediately attributing every struggle to God's sovereign plan and thus releasing myself from related responsibility.'

A couple evenings ago watching TV, Karyn and I listened to the powerful ministry of a young lady who spoke with a refreshingly compelling passion for the Lord. Amidst her thoughts though, she briefly recounted the heartrending dilemma (similarly faced by many others) of a friend's painfully tragic loss of her 2 month old baby—having struggled for years to conceive. She spoke of becoming resigned to Gods sovereignty and to providence as the only bearable

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answer to their inevitable “why” questions.

I refer to this event cautiously and only generally, in no way meaning to specifically address its issues and admittedly knowing nothing of its details. **I do not, however, believe the “God is sovereign” discussion can be complete unless accompanied by recognition of my own degree of responsibility.** We know we have a spiritual enemy whose sole mission and job-description is to steal, kill, destroy (Jn.10:10) and devour (1Pe.5:8) while Jesus came that we may have abundant life.

God has provided spiritual “armor” to shield you and me from a deadly adversary and I fear we often fall short of the promise and provision. With that provision, came the command to put on that armor. There must be a process of willful application. Though I’ve been given a shield of faith—“*above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one,*” (Eph.6:16 NKJV) I must raise, I must employ that shield. It remains my responsibility to be vigilant, focused and to steadfastly resist!

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Jim

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