

A low-angle, close-up shot of a person's legs and feet as they run on a rocky, grassy trail. The person is wearing dark running shoes with red accents and light-colored socks. The ground is covered in dry, brown grass and small rocks. The background shows a hazy, overcast sky and a distant hillside.

# Running To Win...

Even When it Seems like “Something” Is Working Against You

## The Bible Calls Us All To Be Like ...

- 2 Timothy 2:1-7
- 2 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to **teach** others also. 3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good **soldier** of Jesus Christ. 4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. 5 And also if anyone competes in **athletics**, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. 6 The hardworking **farmer** must be first to partake of the crops. 7 Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

- Farmers
- Athletes
- Soldiers
- Teachers

# We Don't Get to Choose

The Season of Life Creates A Certain Challenge



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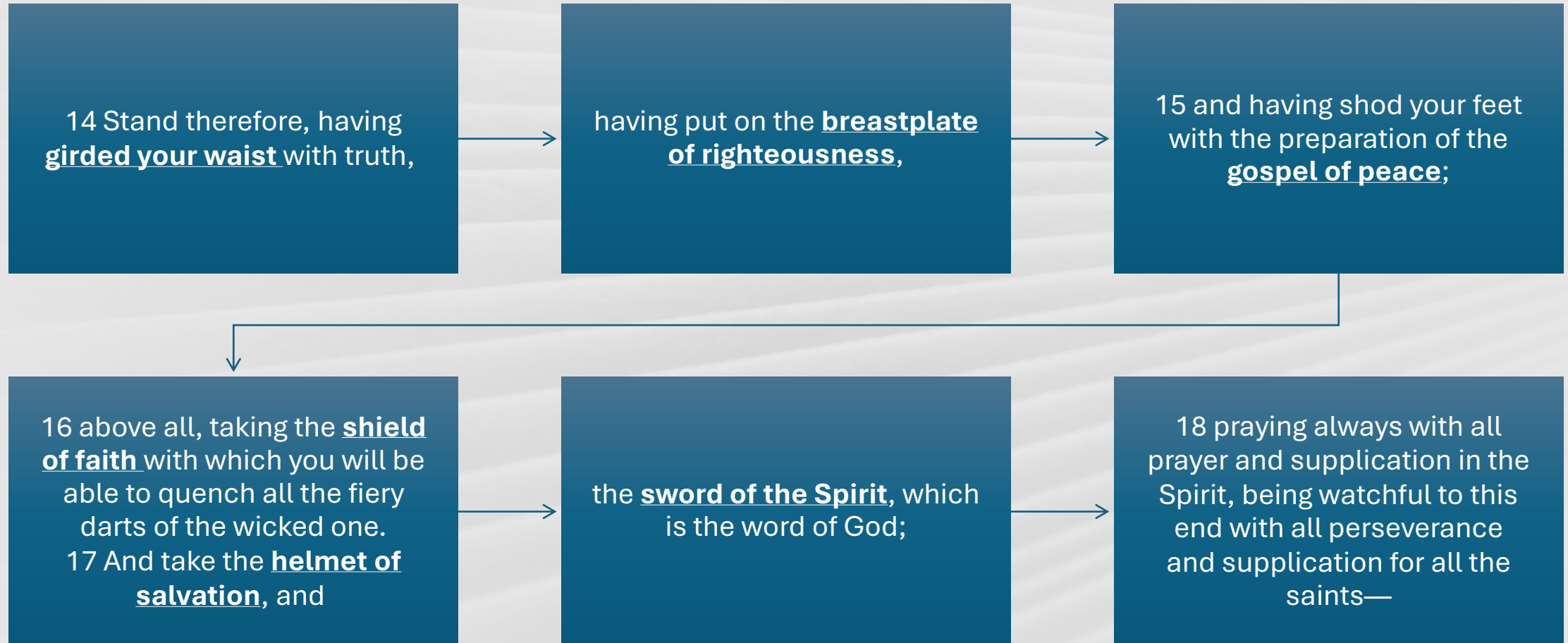
# Ephesians

## 6:10-13

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- 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

# Ephesians 6:14-18



## Ephesians 6:10-18

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12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.* 13 Therefore take up the **whole** armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having **girded your waist** with truth, having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the **gospel of peace**;

16 above all, taking the **shield of faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

17 And take the **helmet of salvation**, and

the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God;

18 *praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—*

# What is Being Described In Detail ?

## V12. The Opposition

## V.14-17 The Armor

## V.18 The Mission

# The Devil is “in” the Details

- **What Is The One Thing Not Described In Detail?**

All The Firey Darts ...

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- having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**,
- 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the **gospel of peace**;
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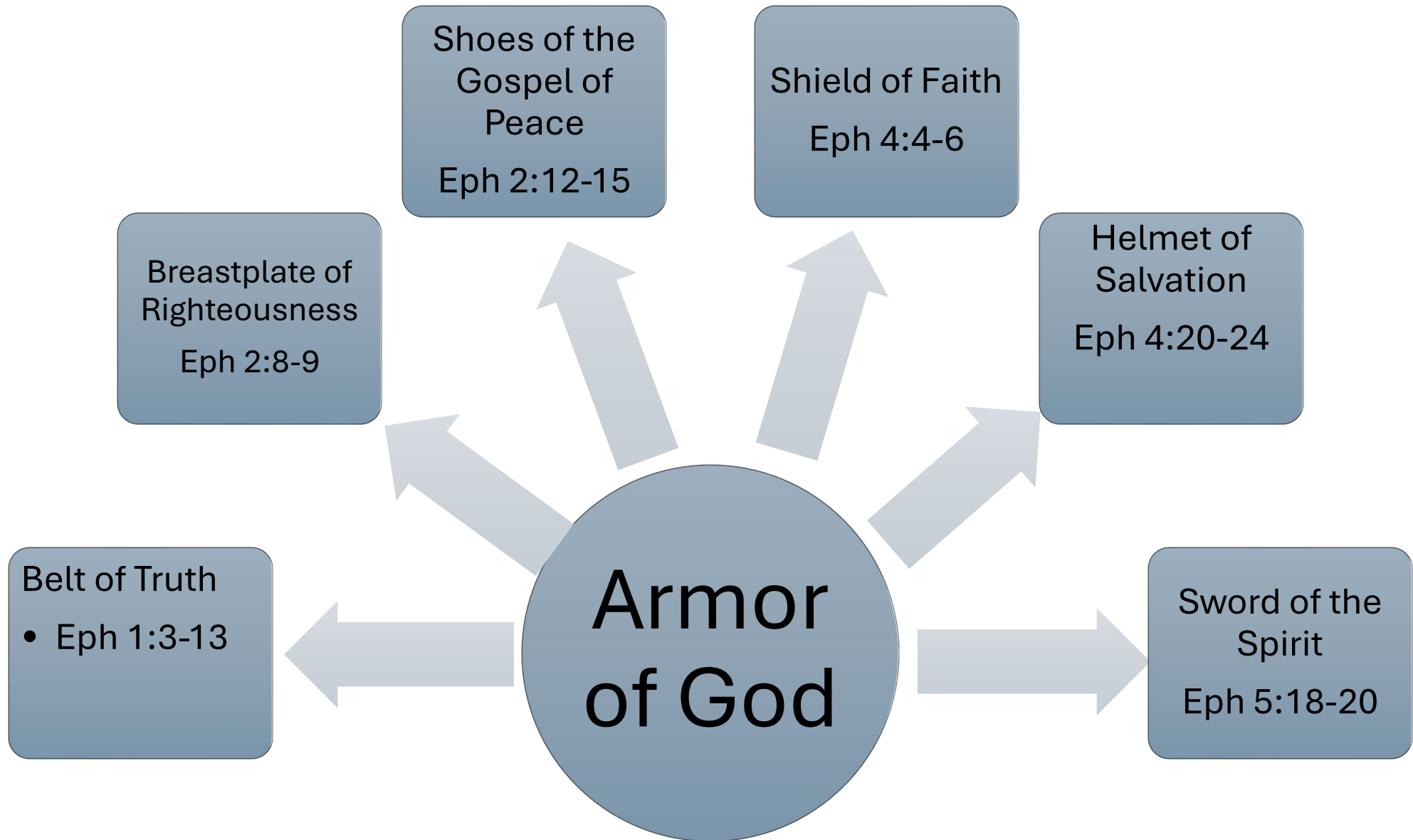


## The Devil is “in” the Details

Satan’s aim is never arbitrary; he is always targeting specific aspects of our belief.

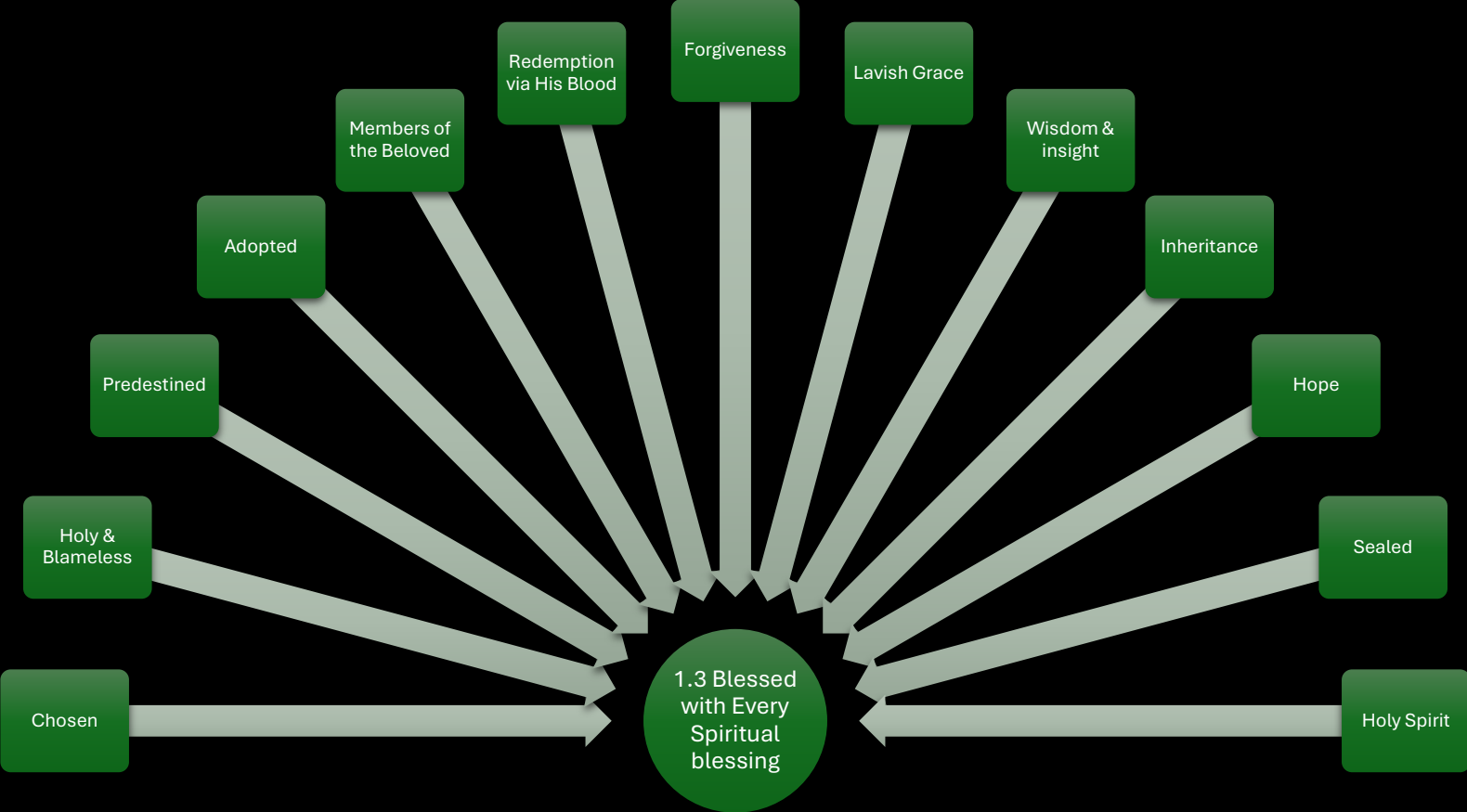
Satan’s never creates anything; he always offers a counterfeit, or corrupted version of something God has already made.

# If Satan Is Aiming At Specific Aspects Of Our Beliefs Then We Want To Be Vigilant At Protecting Those Beliefs



# Truths of Ephesians

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“Lest anyone  
should boast”

“...We Don't have a  
righteousness of  
own”

8 For by grace you have been saved through  
faith, **and that not of yourselves**; it is the gift of  
God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

(Eph 2:8–9).

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# The Gospel of Peace

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- 12 that at that time you were without Christ, **being aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel **and strangers** from the covenants of promise, having **no hope and without God** in the world.  
13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- 14 **For He Himself is our peace**, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,
- The New King James Version (Eph 2:12–15). (1982). Thomas Nelson.

# One Faith ...

4 There is  
one body and  
one Spirit,

just as you were called in one hope of  
your calling;

5 one Lord,  
one faith,  
one baptism;

6 one God and Father of all, who is above  
all, and through all, and in you all.

- The New King James Version (Eph 4:4–6). (1982). Thomas Nelson.

# A Renewed Mind

- 20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness
- The New King James Version (Eph 4:20–24). (1982). Thomas Nelson.

# Filled With the Spirit

- 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; **but be filled with the Spirit,**
- 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
- singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,
- 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
  
- The New King James Version (Eph 5:18–20). (1982). Thomas Nelson.

# The Firey Darts

