

PUT IT ALL ON

SCRIPTURE:

Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm (Ephesians 6: 11-13).

MATERIALS LIST:

- (1) Safety Helmet
- (1) Glasses
- (1) Pair of Work Boots
- (1) Tool Belt

MAIN MESSAGE:

It is important to be prepared for whatever job a Christian may encounter. We also need to demonstrate an equal balance between the the tools and the safety equipment.

SONG: "Soldiers of Christ Arise"

LESSON:

After noticing a busted pipe spraying water on the ground for who knows how long, I set out to tackle a job of digging and capping a pipe. Since I'm not a plumber, I had no idea what tools and equipment I needed for the job. A busted pipe is not like assembling a set of shelves or a swing set in the backyard. Those jobs come with a set of instructions and a tool list, this one did not. I grabbed the shovel from the garage and started to dig.

Not long into the job, I had to go back and get an ax to cut some roots out of my way. This proved to be a bad idea as the pipe could have been cut. Furthermore, I did not have any safety glasses so mud sprayed all over my face and in my eyes after only the second swing. Going back to get a hack saw and glasses was my third trip to the garage.

After I dug the hold and cut the roots away, I discovered a rusty pipe. With mud up to my elbows, I started to cut the pipe, only to succeed in cutting my hand because I had failed to grab some work gloves from the garage. After cutting my hand, I noticed how cutting the pipe was not even necessary as it simply screwed into the main line and required a simple "lefty loosey" to unscrew the pipe. After a quick trip to the hardware store and a threaded pipe cap, the busted pipe was capped.

The whole process took hours longer than needed because of my failure to gather all the tools and safety equipment necessary to complete the job. If we put on and never take off the full armor of God we will always be ready for what ever Satan has to throw at us. Just as a plumber would have known how to best repair the pipe, a good Soldier of God knows how to use the Sword of the Spirit. We must remember that the successful Solider of God is not complete with just the Sword of the Spirit but needs the benefit of the protective elements of rest of the armor.

PRAYER: That we all put on and keep on the full armor of God.