

Behind the Hymn: Soldiers of Christ, Arise

John and Charles Wesley's Methodist movement was highly controversial in its day. Active opposition, even violence was common. Thus a call to put on "The Whole Armor of God" (the poem's original title in 1742) was highly relevant.

The hymn was based on Ephesians 6:10 and following. Thus when I was drawn to write a hymn on the full armor of God, I went back to Charles' hymn. But when I printed off the full text of the hymn from the internet, I found that he didn't deal with the various pieces of armor in any detail. Instead, much of his hymn deals with the Ephesians 6:18ff verses on prayer. That was further than I wanted to go with my hymn. I wanted to focus on the armor.

So I adapted his first four lines, then waited to see what other portions of his hymn might be useful for mine. As it turned out, nothing else was. I finished my hymn on June 9, 2016.

Father, help me to arm and protect myself with the full armor of Jesus Christ: His truth, His righteousness, His gospel, His faith, His salvation, and His Word.

--Ken Bible

Hymn: [Soldiers of Christ, Arise](#)