

# The Ministry of the Armorbearer

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## 1. What Is An Armorbearer?

In the Old Testament, an armour-bearer was a soldier who assisted the leader (king, general, etc.) by carrying and caring for his armor and weapons. The armorbearer went into battle beside his leader and offered protection, assistance and encouragement.

Some definitions for the Hebrew word *nacah* are “to lift, to raise, or to hold up.”

Some definitions for the Hebrew word *keliy* are “an implement; utensil dress, vessel, or weapon.”

## 2. Old Testament Examples of Armorbearers:

1. Abimelech, Judge of Israel slain by his armorbearer- (Judges 9:50-54).
2. Jonathan and his armorbearer were invincible in battle- (1 Samuel 14:6-15).
3. David’s first royal duty was as King Saul’s armorbearer- (1 Samuel 16:17-21).
4. The loyalty of Saul’s armorbearer (1 Samuel 31:2-6).

*Consider:* From reading these passages of Scripture concerning armorbearers, what prominent characteristics did one need in order to fulfill that role?

## 3. Who were the New Testament equivalent of the Old Testament armorbearers?

### Deacons - (Acts 6:1-4)

Although in the NT church, those who are called to walk alongside the leaders are sometimes called “armorbearers,” their service is sometimes more a spiritual one than their OT counterparts. The assistant should be a person who is ready to provide physical service, yet he or she is also called to be a person of integrity and spirituality. Associate ministers can also fall into this category.

*Consider:* The call of an armorbearer can sometimes be a test of one’s willingness to serve in seemingly menial areas before being released to a higher level of service. Therefore, because of the humility and integrity that the position calls for, not everyone can be an armorbearer. Why?

## Practical Tips for Armorbearing:

- Always stay within sight of your leader. Know where he or she is at all times. Insure that the leader can see you, as well. Be there, but be quiet and discreet.
- Be careful not to do or say anything that would bring embarrassment upon yourself, your leader, or the ministry. This includes manner of dress as well as social behavior. (Don't let your leader see you with a "do" rag on in service).
- Be prayerful and spiritually prepared. Like Jonathan's armorbearer, you are following your leader into battle. When your leader is ministering, he/ she should *feel* your prayers!
- When you know that your leader has to minister, give him/her the gift of silence. Speak as little as possible- keep answers to questions brief. Be conscious of your leaders needs- sometimes he or she does not need an answer- he or she just needs to talk, and have someone there to listen.
- Don't be a know-it-all. Even if you *are* smarter or more talented, etc. than your leader. He or she does not need to know it. Use wisdom. As a matter of fact, if you are a person who likes to talk, you may not be a good fit for the task of armorbearing- ask God to help you to learn how to **shut up!**
- Do not overburden the leader with your problems. Be encouraging.
- Learn to see armorbearing as a privileged and dignified position. Know that it is an honor to serve, and that many of the blessings that God has for you will come through accompanying and serving leadership. Lose all hidden agendas, and cultivate a desire to serve and glorify God in all that you do. Get a spirit of excellence!
- Learn to understand protocol. Sit where you are told to sit. Remain in your proper place. In meetings, service, etc., **turn cell phones off. Remove Bluetooth devices. Never "play" with your cell phone while your leader is ministering, and especially not in the pulpit. LOSE THE "GHETTO SPIRIT!!"**
- Learn to address other leaders properly, and without familiarity. Be respectful and courteous. Address others as you would want to be addressed.
- When caring for the leader's property and equipment, treat them as you would your own. **Don't be careless!** Find out how the leader likes his/her stuff.
- Discreetly inspect your leader before service, and (again) discreetly help him/her to correct deficiencies (tie askew, button unbuttoned, etc). Care about how your leader looks in public.
- Dressing your leader is a high honor and a spiritual duty. Two of the most important things to have when doing so are clean hands and a closed mouth. Be aware that there is such a thing as transference of spirits. Any behavior, either righteous or sinful, that you have been indulging in may be transferred to your leader by the laying on of hands. This is why the armorbearer must be a person who loves God, his/her leader, and the Kingdom enough to consecrate him/herself for service.