
Tonight, we are on the final section in this letter to the Ephesians and the Spirit turns our attention outside of this physical dimension and opens our eyes to the fantastic, to the spiritual dimension where wars are fought with unseen beings and world affairs (from the mundane to the bizarre) are decided. I know for many of you this spiritual reality is still far too surreal and seems like a fanciful tale. But if you are going to live as sons of God, then you have to understand that you are always in the midst of a huge battle which directly impacts and controls your entire life in this physical world.

And, although you may be largely unaware, this spiritual struggle ensues all around you all the time. It is a battle against demonic forces that are poised against you in an attempt to crush, marginalize, or pollute what God desires to do through you in this world. By the way, this struggle impacts every part of your existence; just because you cannot see what is going on does not mean that you are somehow exempt from this war. In fact, the more unaware you are of this constant spiritual battle, the more success the forces of evil have had in sneakily wrapping themselves all around your life. In this instance, what you don't know can and probably is hurting you.

With that said, the good news is that because we have been seated with Christ in the heavenly places (**2:6**)—which means that upon us has been bestowed Christ's power and authority over these dark forces—their only real weapon against us is the lie. But don't be fooled, it may not seem as much but throughout time the lie has been all they have needed to successfully crush, marginalize and pollute the lives of unsuspecting believers.

Before we get to our passage, I want to give you a basic Biblical framework for

understanding how the spiritual dimension impacts and controls our world. Now, the enemy's strategy is to trick believers into thinking that their life is about success in this world and Christianity is about trying to do it right so they can get God to do for them, or give them, what they think they need. For instance, how many of you have been raised in the religious culture that sets forth a whole timeline for your life: at this age you go to school, get your degree, get a job that allows you to advance, get married, have babies, get involved in the church, and so on? It is western ideology where everyone tries to live the dream. But this way of living keeps us obsessed on ourselves and blinds us to the fact that we are front-men in this epic battle in the unseen world against dark wicked demonic spirits. We need to wake up from this dream and see what is really going on:

The spiritual forces are behind world leaders, nations, and kings. Global politics, the economy, wars, and so on are all influenced by the will of God and the unseen realm. However, make no mistake, the Lord, reigns supreme over the affairs of men as He rules the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone He chooses (***Daniel 4:17***). Whereas the enemy is often just a tool used to accomplish the Lord's will—the direct agent through which disaster and judgment comes.

1 Samuel 10:9, 11:6, 15:1-3: God changed Saul's heart and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon Saul and used him to settle accounts (or go to war) with the nations for having opposed Israel when they came out of Egypt.

1 Samuel 16:14, 18:10, 19:9: upon rejecting the authority of God, the Spirit of the Lord left Saul, and the Lord sent a tormenting demonic spirit that filled him with depression and fear and caused Him to rave like a madman.

1 Samuel 19:18-20:1: raving like a madman, Saul hunted David to murder him.

Saul received a report of where David was hiding and he turned his troops toward the town to attack but God interceded to protect David. Suddenly the Spirit of the Lord came down on Saul and he lay on the ground all day and all night prophesying in the presence of Samuel which gave David the opportunity to flee.

1 Kings 22:10-28: Micaiah saw the Lord sitting on His throne and all the armies of heaven (good and bad) around him. And the Lord said: who can entice King Ahab to go into battle against Ramoth-gilead so that he can be killed there? There were many suggestions, until finally a spirit approached the Lord and said, "I can do it." How will you do this? The Lord asked. And the spirit replied, "I will go out and inspire all Ahab's prophets to speak lies." "You will succeed," said the Lord. "Go ahead and do it." Micaiah said: "as you see the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouths of your prophets for the Lord has determined disaster for you."

1 Chronicles 21: Satan rose up against King David and caused David to take a census which displeased the Lord.

2 Chronicles 11:1-4, 21:16, 28:16-21: God inspired armies to war against other nations to bring judgment.

Daniel 10: As Daniel was praying to understand a vision, the angel Gabriel appeared and told him that from the first day he began to pray he was sent with the answer but for 21-days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked his way. Then Michael (an arch angel) came to help and he picked up the fight against this spirit prince. Gabriel told Daniel that he had to return and fight the spirit over Persia and then the spirit prince of the kingdom of Greece.

Acts 4:23-31; Psalm 2; John 12:31; Ephesians 1:21, 2:1-2: those leaders who

opposed John and Peter for preaching the gospel were referred to as those “rulers of the earth” who gather together against Jesus; and we know that the “ruler of this world” is none other than Satan who was behind these so called rulers.

The spiritual forces are even behind plagues and natural disasters.

2 Samuel 24: an angel from the Lord caused a plague that killed 70,000 people and as this angel was posed to destroy Jerusalem the Lord told the angel to stop.

2 Chronicles 7:11-22: The Lord brings drought, natural disasters and plagues in order to bring judgment against unbelieving people.

Job 1-2: The Lord allowed Satan to wreak havoc on Job’s life: foreign armies stole his cows and donkeys and killed his farmhands; fire came down from heaven burned up Job’s sheep and shepherds; another band of raiders stole his camels and killed his servants; a powerful wind collapsed the house of Job’s children killing all of them; a terrible plague of boils inflicted Job’s body from head to toe.

The Spiritual forces are behind false religion.

1 Corinthians 10:19-21: Those who worship other gods offer their acts of worship to demons and not to gods. This is why in **2 Kings 19:17-19** the Assyrians threw the gods of the nations they conquered into the fire and burned them because they were not gods at all—only idols of wood and stone.

The demonic spirits are the force behind false prophets and preachers.

2 Corinthians 11:12: Satan disguises himself as an angel of light so it is no wonder his servants can do the same thing by pretending to be godly ministers.

The demonic spirits own unbelievers.

2 Corinthians 4:4: Satan has blinded the minds of unbelievers so they are unable to see the glorious light of the good news that shines upon them.

Angelic beings protect God's people from enemies.

2 Kings 6:8-23: The king of Aram tried to kill Elisha for prophetically relaying to the Israelite kings the war plans of Aram. One night he sent a great army with many chariots to surround the place where Elisha was staying. Early the next morning Elisha's servant saw the army and freaked. Elisha on the other hand was not worried at all. He prayed that God would open up his servant's eyes to the spiritual realm and when the servant looked again he saw that the hillside around them was filled with horses and chariots of fire. The army protecting Elisha was greater than the one posed against him.

Are you getting the picture? I went through all of this (and believe me there is so much more) so we could believe the truth: we live in a world controlled by unseen forces (both good and bad) and our true life is played out in that realm. Please, make no mistake, as God's chosen ones we are smack dab in the middle a battle that has eternal consequences; and, as we get closer to the end-of-days, this battle will become more tangible as the two dimensions merge together and the spiritual will be made visibly manifest to all.

Ephesians 6:10-12

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 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.

This passage provides the final message which springs from the command in **5:18** to let the Spirit continually fill us up. And, as with everything else in our experience with God, we must be filled with the Spirit in order to have sustained victory over the unseen forces. First we are commanded to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Now, I don't want you to get confused here, especially all of you who have an abundance of testosterone flowing in your body. This is not a command for you to be strong as if you are able, on your own, to muster up enough courage and tenacity to go out and fight the enemy. That is not how this works.

It should not surprise you that the command to be strong is in the passive tense which means it should read: Finally, let the Lord be strong in you in the strength of His might. It's just another way of saying that you must be filled with the Spirit. The idea is that we must be so filled with the presence of the Lord that He will cause us to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. This is why all that we have studied about letting Jesus into every room within the corridor of our souls is tantamount to being able to resist the enemy. Besides, as we have come to understand God's power and His might are unstoppable as He has the power to do as He pleases among the angles of heaven and with those who live on earth. No one can stop him or challenge Him (**Daniel 4:35**).

What keeps us protected from the enemy's attacks is the full armor of God (which we will get into in detail), but note that all that is required of us is to stand

firm against the schemes of the devil. We are not commanded to go out and fight or build our own strategies for warfare. We are just required to be clothed in God's armor and then to stand. The fight will come to us for sure.

I love this about our walk with God and our living as sons of God. All we really need to be responsible for is to cling to Jesus in everything and let ourselves be filled with the Spirit. He does the rest through us. For instance, "put on" is a command in the aorist middle voice which means that we are to choose to put on God's armor and it is always to be our ongoing condition. We are never to be without our protection. However, "be able" is in the present passive tense and "stand" is in the aorist active. So if we cling to Jesus and choose to believe both who He is and who we are (which is how we put on the armor), then He will make us always and continually able to stand against the schemes of the devil. Remember, standing our ground is all we are required to do against the devil and I caution you to avoid any form of teaching that instructs you otherwise.

Let's talk about these "schemes." The enemy plots and plans ways to destroy humanity and keep them from coming to the light. Even our most recent national history (and those of other western nations) gives us clues as to how he operates in lies and deceit: from drug and free love culture of the 60's and 70's which tore apart families and created generations of youth that had to learn to just survive, to the greed and selfishness of the late 80's and early 90's which oppressed many.

However, I never saw this more up front and personal than a few years ago when someone very close to me was struggling with anorexia which was manifested in all sorts of destructive psychological and physical behaviors. But in the midst of this struggle I happened to watch a program of an interview of a

teenage girl (I think it was in London) who to my shock was saying the very exact same words and phrases and exhibiting the same destructive behavior as the person with which I was dealing. I remember thinking that it was impossible. It was as if someone had given her a queue card or was speaking into her ears—word for word, expression for expression, it was exactly the same; yet she was in another country and culture altogether. Yes, the enemy strategizes globally to sweep away whole generations of people. We are to stand against these schemes and let them have no place in our lives or the lives of other believers.

Who exactly are we battling? The direct attack against our lives comes practically through people (flesh and blood); but what we have to understand is that if we make our fight against people we are going to have limited success. People are just the vehicle through which the enemy brings the attack to our doorstep (remember the story of Saul and Job). Keep in mind, as we studied in **4:17-19**, even believers who are not filled with the Spirit can be a tool of the enemy. And what is scary is that those who are being used by the enemy often do not even know it. Because they have given themselves to their *old sinful nature*, they are easy to manipulate (even if they have wrapped their *old sinful nature* with religious clothing and so called righteous deeds).

But our true enemy is the demonic forces behind the people and circumstances which are thrust upon our lives. Look at the description of these demonic spirits: rulers, powers, world forces of this darkness, and spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. It sounds pretty scary. The Bible refers to these beings as “glorious ones” because they are so powerful (**Jude 8**). Even Michael, one of the arch angels, battled Satan over the bones of Moses and refused to utter any

accusation against him but merely said “the Lord rebuke you.” This is why we must be clothed with God’s armor and let Him be strong in and through us.

In this description we also get a picture of how the demonic forces are organized in ranks and power. There are rulers, which seem to have authority and operate in our immediate vicinity (see **Mark 5:10-12**), then there are powers above them which probably are responsible for a greater territory on the earth or they might just be more powerful, then there are world forces of this darkness which are behind the political systems of man (see **Daniel 10:12-21**), and finally spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places who seem to have access to the throne room of God to bring both their accusations against believers and their plans to effect God’s purposes (see **Job 1-2**; **1 Kings 22:10-28**; **1 Chronicles 21**; **Revelation 12:10**).

I have not had much experience with world forces, but I do want to tell you a story about the rulers and powers that work together to destroy people. When Sarah was a little girl her family moved into this house and shortly thereafter this little impish demon used to come out of her closet and speak to her and try and get her to engage in conversation and be her friend. And, as if that was not scary enough, every time he showed up there was another deep dark presence in the corner of her room. She could see it for sure but it would not move and it would not say one word; it would just be there. I’m pretty sure that if Sarah would have opened herself up to this impish demon and became its friend that she would have been possessed by both spirits; but the true power would have been this dark silent being. I say that because of the experience I had when God once used me to cast out 15 demons from a girl. The first couple of demons that were cast

out were very mouthy, boisterous, and fairly easy to remove (they were impish); but as we went through the ranks it was harder and harder to cast them out. The final 3 were the most powerful and took the most time to cast out. The last one was the worst. It was a silent beast rooted deep within her soul and had the greatest control over her life. It took a lot of prayer, fasting, and time to cast it out.

I want to go back to **6:12** and address this world “struggle.” In the Greek this literally means to wrestle. This gives us a better picture of how personal this battle is and how “hands-on” things can get (very “mano y mano”). This is not a battle that is fought at a distance; for a wrestling match is never fought without a mangling of bodies in a very real and intense way. It’s a real fight.

Ephesians 6:13-17

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. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Knowing the kind of fight we are into, we must do all that we can in order to stand firm; in other words, we are to always take up and always be found in the

full armor of God. We can never leave a piece lying on the floor as we travel through this world of darkness. If you are at all afraid of what we are dealing with and discussing, don't be. You do not have to fear as long as you are found clothed in the armor of God, for Jesus will make you able to resist the enemy. It is His battle to fight not yours; you just have to be willing to always stand in His protection! This truth should comfort your hearts.

So let's talk about this metaphor of the armor of God. Clearly Paul is drawing on imagery that would have been very real to his readers as they lived in Roman territory occupied by Roman soldiers who were walking around in full garb. Here is a picture of a fully clothed soldier [\[image 1\]](#). Let's go through the apparel.

We are to always have our loins girded with truth or in the ESV have fastened on the belt of truth (from *Isaiah 11:5*). [\[image 2\]](#) I have heard many descriptions of this belt as if it was intended to hold together all the other armor. But looking at it I cannot see how it could do that. It really just looks as if it is intended to protect the groin—the area that if successfully attacked would drop a person defenseless to their knees.

Do you remember back a couple of weeks where I said that God just wants us to know Him as personally and intimately as He knows us? I think that captures the essence of being guarded with the truth. Since Jesus is the truth (*John 14:6*) are protection is found when we know Him. This is definitely one of the areas where the enemy tries to kick us in the groin. He loves to twist the truth about God, about us, and about everything so that our wrong belief—our error—results in unbelief and we drop to the ground unprotected.

For example, this is the area where the enemy tried to tempt Jesus into wrong belief by giving Him as much of the truth as possible with ever so slight twists in words or meaning (**Matthew 4:1-11**). I don't know who he was trying to fool, but the temptations fell powerless to the ground because Jesus knew His Father, knew the truth, and could not be captured in the enemy's trickery. Similarly, we need to know Jesus and we need to know our Father and all that God has freely revealed to us. This is one of the reasons we need to be in the scriptures and know how to apply them so we can understand how God does things, why He does things, and be so familiar with Him that the enemy's tricks fall powerless before us.

We are to always be found clothed in the breastplate of righteousness (from **Isaiah 59:17**). **[image 3]** Obviously from this picture you can tell the breastplate covers the soldier's vital organs which if penetrated would, over time, result in sure death. The idea here is that we need to stand in the truth that our **new self** (the **new creation**) has been made in the image of God, righteous, holy, and true (**4:24**). If we would really believe this we would not have to waste so many years being bound by our guilt, failure and all our sin. Rather, we could set it all aside and actually live as a **new creation** in Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:17**). The enemy has crippled so many believers by constantly reminding them of their sin; even though from God's perspective He has thrown it as far as the East is from the West (**Psalms 103**). What a waste of time and energy.

[image 4] Our feet are to always be shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace (from **Isaiah 52:7**). A soldier's shoes were studded which allowed him to dig in and, when necessary, change directions, push off, and move forward with assurance. Often when this passage is taught I have heard it said that we must be

prepared to go forth with the gospel; and, that may be, but I am not sure that understanding fits the metaphor. The picture we have here is that of a warrior who is standing their ground not one where he is invading foreign lands.

The gospel of peace is captured in two ideas. First, in **Roman 5:1** we are assured that we have perfect peace with God and nothing divides us. Our **new self** is made in His image (**4:24**), which is why in **1:4** we are told that we are holy and without fault in His eyes. This is good news and is the reason why we can always come boldly into His presence of God and be assured of a glad welcome (**3:12**). The enemy always tries to tell us that our sin is this huge problem and God is tired of it; but that is just a lie. He longs to hear our voice and is overcome by one glance of our eyes (**Song of Songs 2:14, 4:9**). Second, according to **2:11-18** he has united both Jew and Gentile in peace and made us one in Him.

Therefore, in this battle we are to take a stand and dig in with our feet knowing that no matter what the enemy throws at us we have peace with God and peace between believing Jews and Gentiles. We are one with each other and one with Him all in accordance with Jesus prayer in **John 17:21**. Therefore, we must always be prepared with this truth.

We are also to always be found with our [**image 5**] shield of faith and the helmet of salvation (from **Isaiah 59:17**). First, let's talk about the helmet [**image 6**]. One of the fastest ways to end a battle is to take off your combatants head. There is simply no way to recover from such a blow; it is deadly. If the enemy can get us to doubt our salvation or believe that it can be lost, he will have ongoing victory and domination over your life. Your ability to live from the **new self** will be snuffed as you will be so busy trying to do it right for God that you will never get

to know Him or enjoy Him; you will be so stressed out worrying about failing that you will never know how to let yourself be filled with the Spirit. Remember, only God is good; as such, you can never be good enough for God—so get over it. He gives you new life, He has made you holy, and He calls you His son, so rest in these truths. He has given you eternal life and, guess what, according to Jesus that eternity starts the moment you receive Him (**John 5:24**).

We have gone over this issue of the assurance of our salvation many times and the scriptures are clear and easy to understand so I won't dive into them again, but you need to. You need to go home and study **John 10:25-30; 17; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 John 5:13; Titus 3:7; Romans 8; Colossians 1:11-14, 20-23** and learn what God clearly says about this issue.

Besides, if we have peace with God, no sin could ever separate us. We are His holy people (**1:1**). We were chosen before the foundations of the world to belong to Him (**1:3**). His unchanging plan was to always adopt us into His own family as sons (**1:5**) and we belong to His beloved Son (**1:6**) who purchased our freedom and our sins are forgiven (**1:7**). Furthermore, because of Christ we have received an inheritance from God (and as some translations read we are His inheritance) for He chose us from the beginning and all things happen just as He decided long ago (**1:11**). And you have heard the good news that God saves you and when you believed in Christ He identified you as His own by giving you the Holy Spirit who is God's guarantee that He will give us everything He promised and that He has purchased us to be His own people (**1:13-14**). God gave us life and saved us and raised us from the dead along with Christ so He can point to us as examples of His kindness and grace which He has shown through Christ. Besides we cannot take

credit for our salvation, it was a gift from God for we are His workmanship created new in Christ Jesus (**2:4-10**).

Pretty amazing! It is not a difficult thing to keep our head. Just put on the helmet of salvation which is so simple to understand. What part of these truths would ever lead you to conclude that you just might be able to lose your salvation? Honestly, given the abundance of assurance, I believe this is one of the lamest attempts by the enemy to deceive us (sadly pretty much every one of us has taken a blow or two in this area). Besides, the difficult verses in the Bible which cause people to doubt these truths are difficult; and, as good Bible students, we know that we are to never interpret the easy by what is difficult, but the difficult by what is easy. Furthermore, when understood in context those difficult verses are not a problem and are not even dealing with the issue of a believer's salvation. It's a ruse from the enemy that produces fear and not peace.

Now let's talk about our shield of faith [**image 7**]. If you notice this shield is big enough to cover the soldier's entire body. It is not one of those baby shields which are just intended to be used to defend oneself in a sword fight. This is full on body protection. If you continually hold up this shield you will be protected from the attacks of the enemy. Faith is your protection. As you know, a lot of people have knowledge of God and even ardently believe things about God, but still are not protected by faith. Faith is birthed when you choose to bet your life on all that is true about God and make decisions for your life based on this truth regardless of your circumstances, what you might feel, what happened to you in the past, or what anyone else (including the devil) might tell you. Faith develops as you let Jesus into the rooms within the corridor of your soul and trust yourself to Him

completely without reservation. For if you are filled with the Spirit, He will make you strong in the power of His might and you will be protected as you watch the enemy's lies drop powerless before you.

It is an amazing thing to think about how much damage the enemy has done to humanity just armed with the lie. That is it; the lie. In this passage they are referred to as flaming arrows and, as most of us have experienced, you know that they sometimes come one at a time but often they come like a sky of arrows raining down on our lives. I don't understand how it works, but for some reason the enemy has access to speak into our minds even though they don't know what we are thinking and cannot read our minds. But they sure can fill our minds with all sorts of thoughts and ideas that burn us from the inside out.

You have to be aware that these flaming arrows of lies are always flying your direction and you must be prepared. It helps if you learn how God speaks into your *new self* and recognize the peace that comes with His voice. Everything else, well let's just say, it is not God—it is your own mind, the voice of those in the world, or the voice of the enemy. Either way, you need to be willing to snuff out those thoughts and those voices as they never leave us with peace (**2 Corinthians 10:3-6**). We need to know our God so well that when He speaks to us we know it and are therefore able to instantly identify the false voice that condemns us, scares us, tempts us to rely on our own wisdom, entices our flesh, and so on.

We are also to always have ready the sword of the Spirit [**image 8**], which is the word of God. I have talked to so many believers who have been so burned out by religion that they have actually stopped spending time in the Word of God. They are sick of the confusion and the way everyone believes they know the truth.

I understand why they feel this way and can connect to their sentiments but at the same time I think they are crazy. They are in a battle and do not have an offensive weapon. The enemy is equipped and they are not; to me this is foolishness. The sword used by the Romans was very short as their style of warfare was upfront and personal. It was a very close hands-on battle. This is how it is for us; the enemy is always in our face and always wrestling us with his lies and we need to have our weapon available. We need to know the Word of God and know how to use it in this battle. It is a very effective weapon that can stop the attack and cause the devil to flee from us (**James 4:7**).

Ephesians 6:18-20

With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

In this battle we need to always pray in the Spirit and watch out for our brothers and sisters in the Lord for we are in this battle together. In addition, we need to continue to pray for others—to persevere—no matter how long it takes God to finally move on their behalf. First of all, let me state the obvious. You must be filled with the Spirit so you will know how you can pray in the Spirit; for

according to **1 John 5:14-15** it is only when you pray according to the will of God, which is only discerned in the Spirit, that you can even have confidence that God hears us and answers your prayers. This is why you cannot dismiss all that we have talked about with regard to letting Jesus into the rooms within your soul; it is vital for every part of your spiritual existence.

Second, protecting one another in prayer is a critical part of our battle. We are to be like watchmen always alert as to what is going on with others and then like a trained warrior continue to pray and pray and pray until we see God move His hand. For example, I know that many people have become exhausted praying for me. I am sure many have stopped out of sheer disappointment and frustration. Yes, God has made me some awesome promises but His fulfillment is slower than any one of us (especially me) likes and the practical consequences are (in the eyes of the physical) unnerving. But He does not want you to wane in your desire for me. He wants you to continue to pray until He moves and relents and bursts forth rivers in the desert, stops the storm, and leads me to my desired haven.

Did you notice that Paul asks the Ephesians to continue to pray for Him so that God will always give Him the words to speak whenever he opens his mouth. This is awesome; Paul only wants to say what God gives Him to say, nothing more and nothing less. He knew he had been appointed as an ambassador of the gospel, but still he was unwilling to jump in and say anything which God did not specifically lead. This is how we are to live. We are to be filled with the Spirit so that we will only do what the Father asks us to do, say what the Father asks us to say, and go where the Father wants us to go; that is it! We are not to take it upon ourselves to boldly throw ourselves at those in the world in an attempt to conquer the enemy,

to take over his territory, or to save the world. We are only to do what the Spirit specifically leads us to do when He leads us to do it.

Pretty amazing stuff this world we live in. The kingdom of God has invaded this world of darkness and we are His ambassadors of light who are engaged (whether we know it or not) every moment of every day in a battle with Satan and his demonic hordes. We have been given everything we need for victory and there is nothing missing. But it is our battle to win. We just need to let ourselves be filled with the Spirit and cloth ourselves fully with the armor of God.

We must never forget that we are warriors and our life is about this spiritual battle with the unseen forces that are moving in and around every physical aspect of this life. And despite how real this physical world may seem, it is just the field upon which the spiritual drama is played out. Remember, we are sons of God and He wants us to live accordingly even if it means that like Paul we spend time in chains. We cannot let our physical existence and demands of this world blind us to our true spiritual life. Let's close this study by reading the final greetings penned by Paul.

Ephesians 6:21-24

So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts. Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus

Christ with love incorruptible.

It is a beautiful and comforting thing to live in a community of believers, even when there is physical separation. We can always build up and encourage each other and take strength in being a part of what God is doing with our extended family. I love hearing what is going on with Ashley, Linda, Tabbi, Morgan, Yanna, Brian, Jonna, Seth, Nate, Alan, Lesley, Eric, Louise, Ann and so many others and I know they love when we keep them informed of all the things that God is doing here. Like Paul, we are privileged to be part of a great family. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

In two weeks we will be starting a new study in the book of Hebrews. I am so excited for it, but I am also excited to hear Ian teach next week and Sarah the week after. Keep them (and me) in your persistent prayers as they are on the front-lines and the enemy is going to try and mess with them. We are not going to let that happen, are we?

Let's Pray

Image 1



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4

The Armor of God



Shoes



Romans 5:1 – Peace with God
Ephesians 4:2; 1:4; 3:12
Song of Songs 2:14; 4:9
Ephesians 2:11-14 – peace between Jews and Gentiles
John 17:21

Isaiah 52:7

Image 5

The Armor of God



Shield



Helmet

Isaiah 59:17

Isaiah 59:17

Image 6

The Armor of God



Helmet


*John 5:24 – eternal life now
John 10:25-30; 17;
1 Peter 1:3-5;
1 John 5:13;
Titus 3:7;
Romans 8;
Colossians 1:11-14, 20-23*

Isaiah 59:17

Image 7

The Armor of God

Shield



Isaiah 59:17

Faith is birthed when you choose to bet your life on all that is true about God and make decisions for your life based on this truth regardless of your circumstances, what you might feel, what happened to you in the past, or what anyone else (including the devil) might tell you


You must snuff out thoughts not from God *2 Corinthians 10:3-6*

Image 8

The Armor of God



Sword



The Word of God that can cause the enemy to flee
(James 4:7)