

Spiritual Warfare Part 3
Pastor Wilson's Notes
Wednesday August 27, 2014

Key Verses

Ephesians 6:12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers; against the rulers of darkness of this world; against spiritual wickedness in high places.

2 Cor 10:3-5

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but **mighty** through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Armor of God

Eph 6:10-17

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on **the whole** armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. 13 Wherefore take unto you **the whole** armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 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, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

The Belt of Truth

Eph 6:14

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth,

In the days in which the Bible was written and before; the belt, or girdle about the waist, was used to hold together all of the soldier's garments—garments which other wise might prevent free movement, or inhibit the soldier from acting or reacting freely in combat. In more modern usage, we might say that the belt not only

holds important things like a water canteen, extra ammo and survival items; but it also keeps the soldier's pants up!

Honesty

Eph 4:17-25

17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, **18** Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: **19** Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. **20** But ye have not so learned Christ; **21** If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: **22** That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; **23** And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; **24** And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness **25** Wherefore putting away lying, **speak every man truth** with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

But if we want to be protected from the enemy when he attacks us WE MUST BE TRUTHFUL ONE WITH ANOTHER!

The Truth of the Word of God

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of **truth**.

God doesn't just want us to just point to the truth; God doesn't just want us to simply give passing acknowledgement to the truth, He wants us to wear the truth like a belt, and have it wrapped about us! We must study to show ourselves approved unto God, we must love the truth, we must hide the truth in our hearts; hold fast to the truth and guard against the spirit of error—because if we're not careful, the devil will sneak up behind us; and yank our belt of truth off of us! And you can't be an effective soldier if your pants keep falling down!!!

Breastplate of Righteousness

Eph 6:14

...and having on the breastplate of righteousness

The breastplate is an important piece of defensive equipment because it protected the area of the front torso, which houses our vital organs, and protects us from mortal wounds that can KILL US spiritually!

2 Cor 5:21

For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Gal 3:27

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
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for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Wearing the breastplate is always in conjunction with the robe of Jesus' righteousness! The only way we can experience victory and an overcoming life is if we know that we know that the righteousness of Christ is covering us and that we are forgiven.

Our own righteousness is as filthy rags; we have no legal standing in Christ's kingdom on our own. But as many of us who have been baptized INTO Christ, have put ON Christ! As many of us who've gone down in the watery grave of baptism, with a preacher calling over us the ONLY NAME by which anyone can be saved; Only after we have taken upon us His name; and submitted ourselves to the cleansing blood, through the waters of baptism in Jesus' name; ONLY THEN can we have full confidence that we have been clothed with the righteousness of Jesus Christ!

Feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace

Eph 6:15

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

The ultimate goal of spiritual warfare is that sinners would accept the terms of peace that God extends to the world.

2 Cor 5:19

To wit, that God was in Christ, **reconciling** the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of **reconciliation**.

Jesus Christ, who was the Almighty God manifested in the flesh; overcame the world and was victorious over death, hell and the grave. Jesus has bought the right with his own blood to dictate the terms of our surrender to God in this warfare. He is entitled to lay down the specifications and qualifications that must be followed if we are to be reconciled (or brought into fellowship) with God. He has all authority to state what the conditions of peace must be.

Eph 2:11-18

11 Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the

flesh made by hands; **12** That at that time ye 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 ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. **14** For he is our **peace**, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; **15** Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making **peace**; **16** And that he might **reconcile** both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: **17** And came and preached **peace** to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. **18** For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

The first person Jesus revealed the terms of reconciliation to was a Jewish ruler named Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a religious leader who came to Jesus privately at night, and Jesus shared with him the terms of the gospel of peace.

John 3:5-8

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. **6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. **8** The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

A little later, Jesus gave the “keys to the kingdom” to the Apostle Peter who then turned around after the death, burial and resurrection of Christ and used those keys to deliver the gospel of peace to both the Jews and the gentiles. The 2nd chapter of Acts shows us how the Apostle Peter used his authority to interpret the gospel of peace:

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

These are the terms of peace with God. These are the conditions of reconciliation for anyone wanting to be in right standing with God. These are the stipulations, specifications, provisos, qualifications or details for anyone wanting to enter into the kingdom of God. The loser, or the vanquished doesn't get to dictate their own terms. We must accept the terms of the victor.

Shield of Faith

Eph 6:16

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Satan and his minions relentlessly fire flaming darts of fear, doubt, discouragement and depression at us. All of these darts and more continually come our way on a regular basis and they create uncertainty in our lives and in our minds; especially when we're out of work or going through a family transition or a family crisis.

It is in these times, more than ever, when we **MUST** take up the shield of faith. It's our protection against fear, doubt, discouragement, depression and uncertainty. The shield of faith is fortified by our trust in God. Faith gives us certainty in the promises of God when Satan comes at us with the uncertainty his fiery darts. Faith convinces us of the truth, and certainty of God's promises, even when the manifestation of that truth isn't present in our lives at the moment!

Daniel 3:17-18

If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.

We need to have faith in God, and trust God no matter what we see, hear, or feel about the world around us! We must raise up, and cling tightly to the shield of faith-in-God, and profess loudly that no matter what comes, or what goes; I'm going to trust God, for I know in whom I have believed; and I know he is able to keep that which I've entrusted unto Him!

The "Tortoise" formation

One more thing about the shield of faith. This is from one website I read: The Roman military had an inventive and very effective tactic that made use of their large shields. When enemies would begin firing arrows and other projectiles at the army, the soldiers would close ranks into a rectangular array—called the *testudo*, or "tortoise," formation—and those on the outside would use their shields to create a wall around the perimeter. Then those in the middle would raise their shields over their heads to protect everyone from airborne missiles. The result was a formidable human tank.

We have to remember that we aren't alone in this battle. This battle is waging in lives of your brothers and our sisters as well. We are a lot stronger together than we are separately. If we strengthen one another with our faith; if we build each other up and serve one another, we can become an unstoppable force. If we join our shields together; stand shoulder to shoulder, and put our faith in God; we can take on any challenge.