

ARMOR OF GOD





ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

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by Daryl Kyle



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SPIRITUAL BOOT CAMP

Soldiers in God's army are truly warriors of Christ. The difference between soldiers and warriors is profound when considered deeply. Anyone trained in warfare and the use of its weapons is a soldier. Many soldiers are also mercenaries who will fight for the highest bidder. Soldiers are also known to get drunk after duty, party hard and carouse the red light districts, and they are often guilty of raping and pillaging. Warriors on the other hand are honorable, and they are never off duty. Think of the Samurai or knights in shining armor. They only fought against military targets. They held a strict code to protect the weak, the peasants, the women and children. They were protectors of the fatherless, the widows, the citizens in their jurisdiction and their king. In essence they held fast to proper rules of engagement never breaking ranks or undermining a superior's authority. Only after being well trained in weapons, warfare and through demonstrating impeccable character are they are ready for service and battle. Before getting armor and weapons of war, we must first acknowledge that such equipment is only given to soldiers. At this point we must count the cost of being a soldier and decide if we want to be more than soldier or even a good one, rather we must decide in fact to be a warrior of Christ.

Discuss What These Points Mean

1. A soldier willingly detaches self from worldly things in order to please his Commander.
2. Must be willing to face hardship and expect it.
3. Never join if not going to fight a soldier's primary concern is being a warrior.
4. On duty 24-7, embracing a warrior's mentality and proper rules of engagement.
5. Integrity: *honest, incorruptible, firm adherence to a code of spiritual and moral excellence, the quality or state of being complete or undivided, to be upright.*
6. Share in others burdens; a team player concerned about reaching the goal for the glory of God and the good of the whole, even at the cost of one's own life.
7. Loyal and untouchable; not a mercenary; can't be bribed or bought off.
8. Pursuit of Christ's righteousness understanding that all training is for life against death.
9. Stay in shape training daily (exercising of gifts keeps armor crisp and sharp).
10. Disciplined teacher of others, while remaining teachable.
11. People fall off when they don't understand Jesus or trust Him (Isaiah 55:6-9). We must perform in the job He has given to us individually and not seek to be in another's position. Peter denied Christ when he stood in his own strength, and not in the Lord's.
12. Like the U.S. military, Christ's army is totally voluntary; however, enlistment is for life.

"For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ" (Gal. 1:10).

[illegible]



CHARACTER

2Timothy 2:3-4

(v.3) ENDURE HARDSHIP *kä-ko-pä-the'-ō G2553*, to suffer (endure) evils (hardships, troubles), to be afflicted, something hard to bear, lack of comfort, constant toil or danger

SOLDIER *strä-tē-ō'-tās G4757*, a champion of the cause of Christ, one who endures hardship in the cause of Christ

(v.4) ENGAUGED *strä-tyü'-ō G4754*, a military expedition, leading soldiers to war in combat or to battle, to make war serving as an active soldier in spiritual conflict

WARFARE *strä-tā'-ä G4752*, a military expedition or campaign

ENTANGLES *em-ple'-kō G1707*, to in-weave, get caught up in

AFFAIRS *prä-g-mä-tā'-ä G4230*, **prosecution** of any affair, business, or occupation

➤ *Prosecute: to follow to the end, to bring legal action against or the purpose of making reparation for a wrong; pursuit of punishment for a crime or violation of the law, to institute legal proceedings and/or carry out a legal suit*

Jesus said of the Pharisees in **Mt. 5:20** that our righteousness must exceed theirs, and again in **Lk. 11:39** that they cleaned the outside of the cup while the inside remained filthy. By this we know outwardly the law can be kept, yet Christ said sin begins in the heart. So to get caught up in legalism focuses on my outward appearance while ignoring the condition of my heart. This also includes vengeance rather than mercy and forgiveness

ENLISTED *strä-to-lo-ge'-ō G4758*, to gather, collect, or to sign up in the army of the commander

Matthew 11:12

At first glance this verse is quite troubling for one reason isn't heaven supposed to be a place of peace and rest? Furthermore, who are these violent that take it by force? Doesn't this contradict Peter's rock-solid foundational statement of faith in Matt. 16 when Jesus pointed to Himself and said, "*On this Rock I will build My church*" Jesus continues with, "*and the gates of Hades (hell) shall not prevail against it*" (Mt. 16: 13-18)

What a contradiction, or is it? Now pay attention, we the church age saints along with the holy angels are the violent that take it by force in spiritual warfare for such is the realm of the kingdom of heaven. Furthermore, Satan will not prevail against Christ's bride the church, although he will prevail against the tribulation saints after the church has been raptured to heaven **Dan. 7:21-22 and Rev. 13:7.**

[illegible]



ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

ATTITUDE
Hebrews 10:38-39

(v.38) DRAW BACK hü-po-ste'l-lō G5288, to drawback, let down, withdraw, of those who from timidity hesitate to avow what they believe, to be unwilling to utter from fear, of lacking force in holding to the truth; to shrink from declaring, to conceal, dissemble (to give a false or misleading appearance to; conceal the truth or real nature), this means not obeying or willing to endure standing in the faith

(v.39) WHO DRAW BACK hü-po-sto-lā' G5289 the timidity of one stealthily retreating (lacking in Christ centered-assurance), courage, or bravery; characterized by fear,

PERDITION ä-pō'-lā-ä G684, utter destruction which consists of eternal misery in hell, ungodly men, enemies of the Cross of Christ men persistent in evil

BELIEVE pē'-stēs G4102 the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ, a strong and welcome conviction or belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God, primarily, "firm persuasion," a conviction based upon hearing, in the spiritual sense, of one connected by the tie of the Christian faith

SAVING pe-rē-poi'-ā-sēs G4047 salvation in its completeness,

SOUL psü-khā'/psyche G5590 the soul as an essence which differs from the body and is not dissolved by death (distinguished from other parts of the body) the seat of the feelings, desires, affections, aversions, the vital force which animates the body and shows itself in breathing



NOTES AND REFLECTION-(ATTITUDE)

8



ACTION

Galatians 6:1-5

(v.1) OVERTAKEN **pro-läm-bä'-nō G4301** surprise, detect [to discover or catch (a person) in the performance of some act: to detect someone cheating]. To take one by intercepting or oppose successfully by action" overtaken" in any trespass, **Gal 6:1**, where the meaning is not that of detecting a person in the act, but of his being caught by the trespass, through his being off his guard (see **Gal 5:21** and contrast the premeditated practice of evil in **Gal 5:26**).

TRESPASS (FAULT) **pä-rä'p-tō-mä G3900**, a lapse or deviation from truth and uprightness, sin, or misdeed

ARE SPIRITUAL **pnü-mä-tē-ko's G4152**, one who is filled with and **governed** by the Spirit of God

RESTORE **kä-tär-tē'-zō G2675**, ethically: to strengthen, perfect, complete, make one what he ought to be

GENTLENESS/MEEKNESS **prä-o'-tās G4235**, gentleness, mildness, meekness

MEEK **prä-ü's G4239**, Meekness toward God is that disposition of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting. In the OT, the meek are those wholly relying on God rather than their own strength to defend them against injustice. Thus, meekness toward evil people means knowing God is permitting the injuries they inflict, that He is using them to purify His elect, and that He will deliver His elect in His time **Isa. 41:17, Lk. 18:1-8**.

Gentleness or meekness is the opposite to self-assertiveness and self-interest. It stems from trust in God's goodness and control over the situation. The gentle person is not occupied with self at all. This is a work of the Holy Spirit, not of the human will **Gal. 5:22-25**.

Gal. 6:2 is the law of Christ which is the law of love **Phil. 2:1-4**. The verses of **Gal. 6:2** and **5** seem to contradict, but **v.2** means to share in one another's troubles. In battle soldiers carry the wounded to safety where they can be restored or made new again. Verse 5 however means as each soldier carries his own pack, and weapons, so we too must bear our own cross.

CONSIDER **sko-pe'-ō G4648** to give careful attention, take heed to thyself, implying mental consideration

TEMPTED **pä-rä'-zō G3985** in a bad sense, to solicit to sin, to test one maliciously, craftily to put to the proof his feelings or judgments, to seek to influence or incite to action, especially unlawful or wrong action (the temptations of the devil)



NOTES AND REFLECTION-(ACTION)

10



BATTLE FRONTS 1 AND 2 2Corinthians 10:3-6

This passage reveals the battle on the first two fronts, the first being self. The second, being the carnal way (mindset) of other people and systems in the world.

(v. 3) WALK *pe-rē-pä-te'-ō* **G4043**, the state in which one is living, to conduct one's self, to make one's way, progress

FLESH *sä'rks* **G456**, the sensuous nature of man, with cravings which incite to sin, the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence,

(v. 4) CARNAL *sär-kē-ko's* **G4559**, governed by mere human nature not by the Spirit of GOD, with the included idea of depravity

PULLING DOWN *kä-thī'-re-sēs* **G2506**, a pulling down, destruction, demolition

STRONGHOLDS *o-khū'-rō-mä* **G3794**, a fortress, anything on which one relies, the arguments and reasoning by which a disputant endeavor to fortify his opinion and defend it against his opponent.

Strongholds are where people retreat to for safety. Imagine an ancient battle where the enemy is trying to break through the city wall. When the attacking army penetrates the wall the people inside the city will try to plug the hole with dead bodies, garbage, debris and anything they can. When God penetrates our defenses, we try to keep Him out and justify our positions, attitudes, and behaviors with any kind of garbage excuse we can come up with so that we do not have to look at self and change.

(v. 5) CASTING DOWN *kä-thī-re'-ō* **G2507**, to take down with force the *subtle* reasoning of opponents in spiritual violence; to refute, demolish, and destroy

➤ *Subtle: crafty, elusive, obscure, shrewd, cunning, wily, sly, wise; difficult to perceive or understand; having keen insight and ability to penetrate deeply and thoroughly*

ARGUMENTS *lo-gē-smo's* **G3053**, imaginations, thoughts or reasoning such as is hostile to the Christian faith

HIGH THING *hū'-psō-mä* **G5313**, thing elevated, height, of space, elevated structure, barrier, rampart, or bulwark

EXALTS *ep-i'-rō* **G1869**, to lift up, raise up, raise on high, to be lifted up with pride, to exalt one's self

CAPTIVITY *ikh-mä-lō-tē'-zō* **G163**, to capture one's mind, to place sinful thoughts and desires under arrest

OBEDIENCE *hüp-ä-ko-ā'* **G5218**, observing the requirements of Christianity in obedience, compliance, submission

(v.6) PUNISH *ek-dē-ke'-ō* **G1556**, to protect, defend, one person from another, to avenge

DISOBEDIENCE *pä-rä-ko-ā'* **G3876**, a hearing amiss, disobedience

FULFILLED *plā-ro'-ō* **G4137**, to be obeyed as it should be so that nothing shall be wanting, in full measure. Think in terms of sobriety being a punishment to addiction or as kindness is punishment to anger.



NOTES AND REFLECTION (BATTLE FRONTS 1 AND 2)

[illegible]



BATTLEFRONT 3 Ephesians 6:10-13

This passage reveals the third battle front (demonic), and the sowers of seed resulting in the root of sin, and denial. Unfortunately, when we haven't completely surrendered to God we create a fourth front in fighting Him. We then find ourselves at war with God, self, others, and Satan. This should never be, in spite of stumbling, complete surrender means accepting and loving God's way alone, yet still trusting Him and staying on His side even when we do not understand.

(v 10) BRETHREN ä-del-fo's G80, a fellow believer in Christ
POWER Krä'-tos G2904, force, strength, mighty with great power and dominion
MIGHT ē-sküh's G2479, ability, force, strength

(v. 11) ARMOR, pä-no-plē'-ä G3833, complete full armor, armor: includes shield, sword, lance, helmet, greaves (knee and shin guards), and breastplate
STAND hē'-stā-mē G2476, to stand ready or prepared, to be of a steadfast mind, one who does not hesitate, does not waiver
WILES me-tho-dā'-ä G3180, cunning arts, deceit, craft, trickery; to lie in wait

(v. 12) WRESTLE pä'-lā G3823, a battle between two in which each endeavors to throw the other and the victor is decided when able to hold his opponent down with his hand upon his neck
PRINCIPALITIES är-khā' G746, rule, magistracy of angels and demons
POWERS eks-ü-sē'-ä G1849, The right to exercise power of authority or influence
RULERS ko-smo-krä'-tör G2888, prince of this age the devil and his demons
DARKNESS of the "evil powers that dominate the world,
SPIRITUAL HOST pnyü-mä-tē-ko's G4152, the angelic hosts, lower than God but higher in the scale of being than man in his natural state, are 'spiritual hosts
HEAVENLY PLACES ep-ü-rä'-nē-os G2032, the heavenly regions or domain
WICKEDNESS po-nā-rē'-ä G4189, depravity, iniquity (premediated sin), malice, evil purposes and desires bad and worthless, evil is plain to see, wickedness weaving evil into the good to appear righteous in order to bring about a destructive end

(v. 13) EVIL po-nā-ro's G4190, **DAY** hā-me'-rā G2250, a time full of peril to Christian faith and steadfastness; brought on by Satan causing pain and trouble **DAY**-metaphor., "the day" is regarded as the time for abstaining from sinful indulgence, the days of his life.
 Our reward for enlistment is our **guaranteed** eternal salvation in heaven, walking hand in hand and talking face to face with our Lord in the cool of the day.

Adam in **Gen. 3** lost man's place in paradise through sin, and was kicked out of the garden **Gen. 3:23**. Then the Lord placed an angel and a flaming sword at the entrance of the garden **Gen. 3:24** signifying that it would cost man his life if he ever wanted to return to paradise and perfect fellowship with the Lord. Jesus said in **Mt. 10:34-39/ Lk. 14:25-33** that our life is exactly what it would cost us to be with Him.

[illegible]

**SWORD AND SHIELD**

By faith (pē'-stēs) we understand that the worlds were framed by the word (rhā'-mā) of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible (Heb.11:3). The sword and shield are both offensive and defensive weapons. One is able to block the enemy's attack move with one piece, while in the same motion strike with the other.

HEBREWS 12:1-2

v. 1 Speaking of the saints who over came by faith in Hebrews chapter 11, the writer now directs us to set aside, or drop every burden and sin that we compromise the truth and our obedience to God with. We must set aside the affairs of this world so we can run the race that Christ has given to each one of us in life for His purpose in steadfast consistency.

v. 2 We look to Jesus concerning our faith. Our faith begins with God the Creator, and ends in God the Savior. So, looking to Jesus as Author and Finisher is to say the Beginning and the End, the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Creator and the Savior. This is who Jesus is. With great pleasure He embraced the mission that was set before Him by going to the cross delightfully, for it pleased the Father for Him to do so.

Refusing to be put to shame by being crucified He openly put Satan to shame instead. *And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it (Col. 2:13-15).*

Now this; He sat down at the right hand of God does not mean there are two chairs on the throne of God. It is a metaphor. In ancient times the king held his scepter in his right hand. He wore his signet ring on the right hand. He signed laws and decrees with his right hand. All judgment and power was executed from the right hand of the throne. *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel (good news) of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek" (gentile) Romans 1:16.*

The good news of Christ is God the Creator became a man in the person of Jesus Christ, died upon the cross for our sins, and then rose again from the dead on the third day. The high priest never sat down because his work was never finished, but Jesus the ultimate High Priest has sat down because He completed all the work needed to be done upon the cross, therefore He proclaimed with all power, "It is finished!" (Jn. 19:30).

The armor of God is not a step-by-step product to produce the whole, but rather one organism, living, breathing, and all powerful, in truth the Armor is Christ. For the purpose of this lesson, we will examine two pieces at a time, as they work hand in hand. Although we will study in this fashion it is not a prescribed order, in fact, we must stay fully armored at all times. *The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force* God is never on the defense; therefore, contrary to popular teaching that claims the sword is only offensive weapon, every piece of the armor is an offensive weapon.



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**SWORD OF THE SPIRIT- Eph. 6:17**

SWORD mā'-khī-rä G3162 a short sword or dagger, just 18 inches long, as distinguished from a large sword. The Roman short two edged sword cut both ways while rapidly stabbing allowed for close penetration instead of having to take much slower wide swings requiring distance.

SPIRIT pnyü'-mä G4151 the third person of the Triune Godhead, the Holy Spirit, coequal, coeternal with the Father and the Son, "the wind" to breathe, blow, also "breath;" especially "the Holy Spirit," which, like the wind, is invisible, immaterial and powerful.

WORD rhā'-mä G4487 that which is or has been uttered by the living voice, the spoken word (actual sayings of God) The significance of rhema (as distinct from logos) is exemplified in the injunction to take "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God," Eph 6:17; here the reference is not to the whole Bible as such, but to the individual scripture which the Spirit brings to our remembrance for use in time of need, a prerequisite being the regular storing of the mind with Scripture.

GOD the-o's G2316 spoken of the only and true God, the Trinity, God the Father, the first person in the trinity, Christ, the second person of the trinity, Holy Spirit, the third person in the trinity

What this verse is telling us if you can imagine; the Holy Spirit is a warrior engaged in close quarters combat with a dagger, the handle is you in His hand, the blade is the Word of God, tearing down strongholds, arguments, demons and anything that lifts its self against God.

There is another Greek word LOGOS which is also translated as "word" Logos is found in Jn. 1:1. Logos is the entire word of God, all the Scriptures in the Bible and everything He actually said. However, it also encompasses the very idea of who God is, it is also Christ who became flesh and dwelt among us as a Man.

We will apply both in this study, because all Scripture is of God and whatever verse He brings to mind for us to speak and operate upon is His sword. The two-edged sword could be used to pierce in a stabbing or thrusting motion, or cutting both ways, God's Word strikes and pierces some with conviction and conversion, and others (those who reject) with condemnation. Spiritually for those who receive the Word, the Spirit cuts with correction, and returns ministering with edification (Isa. 55:11).

WORD lo'-gos G3056 as embodying a conception or idea of the entirety of God, Old Testament prophecy given by the prophets, the moral precepts given by God, doctrine, instruction, teaching, Scripture. In John, denotes the essential Word of God, Jesus Christ, the personal wisdom and power in union with God, His minister in creation and government of the universe, the cause of all the world's life both physical and ethical, which for the procurement of man's salvation put on human nature in the person of Jesus the Messiah, the second person in the Godhead, and shone forth conspicuously from His words and deeds.



NOTES AND REFLECTION (Sword)

18



These passages contain both the logos and the exercising of the rhā'-mä.

2 Tim. 2:15

DILIGENT (STUDY) spü-dä'-zō G4704, to hasten, make haste to exert one's self, with the whole heart in earnestness accomplishing, promoting, or striving after anything

PRESENT pä-rē'-stā-mē G3936 to stand by or near, to be at hand" to place one's self before God as an offering or gift for acceptance,

APPROVED do'-kē-mos G1384 pleasing, acceptable, "In the ancient world there was no banking system as we know it today, and no paper money. All money was made from metal, heated until liquid, poured into molds and allowed to cool. When the coins were cooled, it was necessary to smooth off the uneven edges. The coins were comparatively soft, and of course many people shaved them closely.

In one century, more than eighty laws were passed in Athens to stop the practice of whittling down the coins then in circulation. But some money-changers were men of integrity, who would accept no counterfeit money; they were men of honor who put only genuine, full-weight money into circulation. Such men were called dokimos, and this word is used here for the Christian as he is to be seen by the world." (Donald Grey Barnhouse, Romans: God's Glory, p. 18.)

WORKER er-gä'-tās G2040 God's fellow workers belonging to and serving God; with God

RIGHTLY DIVIDING or-tho-to-me'-ō G3718 to make straight and smooth, to handle aright, to teach the truth directly and correctly, handling aright. What is intended here is not "dividing" Scripture from Scripture, but teaching Scripture accurately in word, in conduct, in attitude and deed. In life or daily living this is a walk of spiritual maturity on display in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

THE WORD lo'-gos

TRUTH ä-lä'-thā-ä G225 the absolute truth of God as taught in the Christianity opposing alike to the superstitions of the Gentiles and the inventions of the Jews, and the corrupt opinions and precepts of false teachers even among Christians



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Heb. 4:12-13

WORD logos G3056

POWERFUL en-er-gā's G1756 effectual, active, full of power in action to achieve intended results.

SWORD mā'-khī-rä G3162

PIERCING dē-ē-k-ne'-o-mī G1338 is used of the power of the Word of God to go through, penetrate

SOUL psyche OR psü-khā' G5590 the vital force which animates the body and shows itself in breathing, the soul as an essence (mind, will, emotions, conscience), which differs from the body and is not dissolved by death and distinguished from physical parts of the body, the soul regarded as a moral being designed for everlasting life (either heaven or hell)

SPIRIT pnyü'-mä G4151

DISCERNER krē-tē-ko's G2924, relating to judging, fit for absolute pure in truth judgment, skilled in judging

THOUGHTS en-thü'-mā-sēs G1761, a thinking, consideration, things brought to mind, revolve in mind, ponder, meditate, to think, to deliberate

INTENTS e'n-noi-ä G1771, the act of thinking, consideration, meditation a thought, notion, conception, plans of the mind, understanding, will, manner of feeling, and thinking

HEART kär-dē'-ä G2588 the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors of the understanding, the faculty and seat of the intelligence of the will and character the soul as the seat of the sensibilities, affections, emotions, desires, appetites, passions. The word came to stand for man's entire mental and moral activity, both the rational and the emotional elements because sin is a principle which has its seat in the center of man's inward life, and then 'defiles' the whole circuit of his action.

On the other hand, Scripture regards the heart as the sphere of Divine influence, Rom 2:15; Act 15:9. The heart, as lying deep within, contains 'the hidden man,' 1Pe 3:4, the real man. It represents the true character but conceals it. In this distinction we're speaking of the new man vs. the old natural man Ezek. 36:25-27, 2 Cor. 5:16-17, Eph. 4:20-24.

The Holy Spirit uses the Word to separate the soul from the Spirit in order to show us who we are, what we think, and how we feel, in contrast to who He is. Then we have to decide to either trust and obey the Lord and His will or to go with me and my self-will, my emotions, my thoughts and my best ideas.



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**2 Tim. 3:16-17**

INSPIRATION the-o'-pnyü-stos G2315, inspired by God; the contents of the scriptures, spoken, breathed by the Holy Spirit of the one and true God, refers to the things of God, His counsels, interests, things due to Him, whatever can in any respect be likened unto God, or resemble Him in any way, God's representatives were moved to write what God said, God breathed out as of the wind the Scriptures which is distinct from non-inspired writings.

Like a contract God breathed out the Scriptures and put them in writing by the hands of men He chose specifically. Although humans were the writers, the Holy Spirit is the Author. As a result, what they wrote was of God yet, their individual styles, characteristics and personalities were not overcome like robots, but rather used.

(v. 16) DOCTRINE dē-dä-skä-lē'-ä G1319, teaching, instruction teaching, that which is taught, doctrine, teachings, precepts, written unchangeable rules of worship and moral conduct

REPROOF e'-len-khos G1650, proof, that by which a thing is proved or tested, conviction as in to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives

CORECTION ep-ä-no'r-thō-sēs G1882, restoration to an upright or right state, or improvement of life and character

INSTRUCTION pī-dā'-ä G3809, the whole training and education of children which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals. It also includes the training and care of the body, and cultivates the soul by correcting mistakes and curbing sinful passions, instruction which aims at increasing virtue by way of chastisement, or chastening (4x in Heb. 12)

RIGHTEOUSNESS dē-kī-o-sü'-nā G1343, the doctrine concerning the way in which man may attain a state approved of God, integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking feeling, and acting

(v. 17) COMPLETE ar'-tee-os G739, thoroughly fitted and perfect having "special aptitude for given uses"

THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED ex-ar-tid'-zo G1822, to furnish perfectly and complete, special emphasis in the sense of "complete, competent, able to meet all demands."

2 Peter 1:20-21

PRIVATE/ē'-dē-os G2398 pertaining to one's self, one's own, belonging to one's self

INTERPRETATION e-pē'-lū-sēs G1955 a solution, explanation, or unloosening, lit., "a release" the writers of Scripture did not put their own construction upon the "God-breathed" words they wrote

MOVED/fe'-rō G5342, to bear, carry," is rendered "being moved" in 2Pe 1:21, signifying that they were "borne along," or impelled, by the Holy Spirit's power, not acting according to their own wills, or simply expressing their own thoughts, but expressing the mind of God in words provided and ministered by Him.



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ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

2 Tim 4:1-5

Given as a directive or a command, like Timothy, we are to preach the word (logos) of God in truth. Being ready 24/7 we will remain fully armored; therefore, we will never have to get ready. In this battle the Spirit has commanded us to rightly divide the word in truth to rebuke those things that exalt themselves against the knowledge of Christ, to open up and unfold the word of God in full display like a flower bursting forth in bloom. Therefore, rightly dividing the Word in truth goes beyond study and teaching. It is displayed in every area of a warrior saint's life. By doing this in patience, with love, we will be able to convince or silence those who oppose God in the power of His might.

The time has come when people prefer the lies that allow them to worship and feel good in doing so. These are those who turn away from the true solid teaching of the word of God. Why? It is because solid teaching brings conviction, and they prefer to feel good in their sin. So then, we must evangelize the sinner; bring encouragement, conviction, and the challenge that will change the lukewarm Christian, and stay vigilant to protect the ministry Christ has given to each one of us personally.

This was not a problem that began with the New Testament. In the Old Testament God spoke through the prophet Isaiah, *"Now go, write it before them on a tablet, And note it on a scroll, That it may be for time to come, Forever and ever: That this is a rebellious people, Lying children, Children who will not hear the law of the LORD; Who say to the seers, "Do not see," And to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits. Get out of the way, Turn aside from the path, Cause the Holy One of Israel To cease from before us" (Isa. 30:8-11).*

The Bible speaks of three beginnings, Gen. 1:1, Mk. 1:1, & Jn. 1:1

Gen. 1:1 with Col. 1:15-20

Gen. 1:1

Speaks of the beginning of all creation; that is everything in the spiritual realm of heaven, and angels which is outside of time, then the temporal or natural realm of time, space, and man in which we live.

Col. 1:15-20

IMAGE ā-kō'n G1504 to Christ on account of his divine nature and absolute moral excellence the word involves the two ideas of representation and manifestation

BEGINNING ār-khā' G746 the active cause by which anything begins to be, the origin

FIRSTBORN prō-to'-to-kos G4416 from prō'-tos G4413, first in time or place in any succession of things or persons first in rank influence, honor, chief, or principal, of Christ, the first born of all creation

PREEMINECE prō-tyü'-ō G4409, to be first, to hold the first place

RECONCILE ä-po-kä-täl-lä's-sō G604, bring back a former state of harmony



NOTES AND REFLECTION (Sword)

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ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

Speaking of Jesus being the firstborn over all creation, which is to say He has priority, not that He was created. In fact, the scripture says in **v. 16** that Jesus is the Creator of all things for His purpose and glory, and that He (Jesus) is the visible tangible image of God **v. 15**, and that all of who God is was poured into the body of the Man (Jesus) **v.19**. The Man whom God became paid the price in full for our sins, with His spilled blood He sacrificed His life so that we may have eternal life and peace with God.

The Greek word, **‘prototokos’**, translated **‘firstborn’**, doesn’t speak of chronology but of priority, as in the “first lady”. Col. 2:9 declares, “For in Him (Jesus) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily”

Godhead theh-ot’-ace G2320 Deity, the state of being God, permanently in a human body

Mk. 1:1 with Heb. 1

We have covered Christ as the Creator from the beginning of creation and time in Gen.1:1 and Col. 1:15-20. In Mk. 1:1 we turn to Jesus beginning His time on earth preaching and teaching as a Man. Jesus began His ministry at the age of thirty, Lk. 3:23. The Lord commanded Moses in Nu. 4:1-3 was that a priest was not allowed to serve in his official public ministry until the age of thirty, the age of maturity; therefore, Jesus kept this command.

Hebrews 1

The general statement made in Mk. 1:1 is broken down into specific terms in Heb. 1. A Mormon missionary once asked me to pray and ask God if Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God. Well, I knew he was a false prophet, yet I prayed in earnest and the Lord sent me to Hebrews chapter 1. “Christ’s High Priesthood; needed qualifications; must be a Man; must not have assumed this dignity Himself, but have been appointed by God the Father” Matthew Henry.

Must be a man not just a man, but the perfect Man born without sin. A perfect man born without sin is impossible because sin entered the world through man Gen. 3:6-7. Sin did not enter the world through the woman. Scripture clearly reveals that when she ate the fruit nothing happened, but when the man ate sin entered the world and their eyes were opened, “*Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned*” (Ro. 5:12).

For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression (1 Tim. 2:13-4). Everyone conceived and born has come through the fallen seed of Adam; Eve herself was taken out of Adam. Since Adam was God’s perfect representative of all mankind, including Eve, and we are all the seed of Adam, we also are all born from the seed of sin, Gen. 5:1-3.

Three people entered the world in a unique manner. The first being Adam who was formed from the dust of the ground, Gen 2:7. The second being Eve who was formed from the rib God took from Adam’s side, Gen. 2:21-22. The third being Jesus the Christ, conceived and born without a natural (human) father, Isa. 7:14-15/Mt. 1:18-23/Lk. 1:26-35.



NOTES AND REFLECTION (Sword)

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It would seem to be the seed of Adam's sperm carries with it the seed of sin; therefore, in the absence of sperm the absence of sin. Adam was created perfect and given dominion, yet in his choice to sin he forfeited dominion of the world to Satan. God being God all by Himself and refusing to share His glory with another Isa. 42:8 appointed Christ as Savior in Gen. 3:14-15 this also signified the virgin birth.

Now a created thing could not save creation only the Creator. Therefore, God Himself had to come as the perfect Man to redeem what the first perfect man **forfeited**. *FORFIET: to lose the right to by some error, offense, or crime; something deposited for making a mistake and then redeemed on payment of a fine*

And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. 1 Cor. 15:45-46

Jn. 1:1 and 14 with Phil. 2:5-11 and 1Tim. 3:16

Jn. 1:1 speaks of the beginning before the beginning; God has no beginning for He has always been. The Word (lo'-gos) being God and the Word (lo'-gos) "with" God literally means face to face. **WITH pros G4314** literally being one with, looking towards face to face

That is to say each person of the Trinity throughout eternity moves in perfect harmony, every thought, emotion, or desire, happens at the same time in perfect un-broken fellowship. Trying to grasp this will cause a brain blowout, so take it in faith.

Philippians 2:5-11

FORM morphē G3444 the external appearance or the form by which a person or thing strikes the vision. *An excellent definition of the word is that of Gifford: "morphe is therefore properly the nature or essence, not in the abstract, but as actually subsisting in the individual, and retained as long as the individual itself exists..."*

Thus in the passage before us morphe Theou is the Divine nature actually and inseparably subsisting in the Person of Christ...For the interpretation of 'the form of God' it includes the whole nature and essence of Deity, and is inseparable, it does not include in itself anything 'accidental' or separable, such as particular modes of manifestation, or conditions of glory and majesty, which may at one time be attached to the 'form,' at another separated from it

As the holy angels of God covered their faces in the presence of God, because His beauty and glory were too awesome to behold, the Lord stood up, His train filling the temple, His Word rejoicing before Him, the angels crying out to one another," Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God almighty!" He covered His glory in the flesh of a man. Then gave Himself as the perfect sacrifice, to please the Father, "For God will provide for Himself the Lamb" (Gen. 22:8). Now Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of God, and every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is God!



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ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

Jn. 1:14

What more can be said, God the Word (lo'-gos) became flesh and dwelt among us in the person of Jesus Christ.

BECAME gē'-no-mī G1096 to come into natural existence, begin to be, to arise, appear in history, come upon the stage

BEGOTTEN mo-no-ge-nā's G3439, single of its kind, viewed in relation to parents, used of Christ, denotes the only begotten Son of God, **WITHOUT EQUAL**, the anointed One conformed to the will of God the Father, sent to go forth to a place or proceed to or toward something (the cross), go forth with purpose or for result (full payment of sin by Christ – God the Savior)

We can only rightly understand the term “the only begotten” when used of the Son, in the sense of un-originated relationship. “The begetting is not an event of time, however remote, but a fact irrespective of time. The Christ did not become, but necessarily and eternally is the Son. He, a Person, possesses every attribute of pure Godhood. This necessitates eternity, absolute being; (Moule).

NOTE: It was not God the Father nor God the Holy Spirit who became flesh, it was God the Son.

To sum it up in a nut shell 1 Tim. 3:16 states, *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory!*

“Is not My word like a fire?” says the LORD, “And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? (Jer. 23:29)



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**SHIELD OF FAITH- Eph. 6:16**

SHEILD *thü-re-o's G2375*, a shield, a large oblong, four cornered shield

➤ **DOOR** *thü'-rū G2374*, a door, used of any opening like a door, an entrance, way or passage into, in a parable or metaphor the door through which sheep go in and out, the name of Him who brings salvation to those who follow His guidance "an open door" is used of the opportunity of doing something, the door of the kingdom of heaven, **denotes the conditions which must be complied with in order to be received into the kingdom of God**

ALL *pä's G3956* each, every, any, all, the whole, everyone, all things, everything to the highest degree," the maximum of what is referred to,

FIERY *pü-ro'-ō G4448*, to set on fire, kindle, to be on fire, full of fire, fiery, ignited, of darts filled with inflammable substances and set on fire

DARTS *be'-los G956*, a missile, dart, javelin, arrow

The shield as we will see is truly an offensive weapon as much as it is a defensive weapon. Some commentators seem to think it was only used in defense. Let's imagine a Roman soldier on the battle field who has suddenly found himself disarmed of his sword. To think he would not strike out at his foe with his shield is absurd.

The particular shield described in the text is not the small round one, but rather a large oblong, four cornered shield that could protect the whole body. The soldiers could lock them together in such a way that they would cover their heads and the front of their bodies. They would then advance in complete safety on the enemy. In modern times we call such a weapon a tank.

The Greek word *Thureos* (*THOO-REH-OS*) translated as shield stems from the Greek root word *Thura* (*THOO- RAH*) which means door. The text reads, "**above all** taking up the shield of faith" A running back's shield is his offensive front line, in faith he follows behind them, as they blow holes in the defense, doorways are created for him to pass through and score. Scripture tells us the battle is the Lord's and that it is He who goes before us.

Jesus said in **Jn. 10:7-9** that He is the only Door, scripture also tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God **Heb. 11:6**. The breast-plate securely protects the vitals; but with the shield we turn in every direction. The shield was overlaid with a special piece of linen and a thick layer of leather that acted as a retardant which would extinguish the enemy's darts.

Ps. 91:1-4/Na. 1:7/Ps. 18:1-3/Ps. 34:7-10/Hab. 2:4/Heb. 11:6

"For whatever is not from faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23c)



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

**Heb. 5:9-6:12**

In this passage we will see that once saved always saved is true. Those who fear losing their salvation base that on their emotions, and not the love of God nor His nature and power. God cannot lie, learn, change, fail, sin, or make a mistake; therefore, having to break a promise He could not keep.

The question is not, “Can you lose it?” but rather, “Did you ever have it?” *“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.”* (1 Jn. 2:19).

All of the sins committed by those believers prior to Christ’s first coming were committed before the cross. They looked in faith towards the future for the Savior before Christ’s crucifixion, and their faith justified them. Since the crucifixion every sin that has been committed by those who truly believe and received God’s gift of salvation has been committed after the crucifixion, and the just still must live by faith in all that Jesus has done and in Him alone. Never are we called to walk by convenience, feelings or works,

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, And you can’t take credit for this; it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Eph. 2:8-9).

“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” (Rom. 1:17), For whatever is not from faith is sin. If you still feel you can lose salvation, don’t do anything you think would force God to take it back.

To understand Heb. **6:1-12** we must begin at **Heb. 5:9**. The writer of Hebrews has up to this point shown the superiority of Christ and His work above all things. Then he mentions Melchizedek, but tells them that they were not ready to understand that He is Jesus and that Jesus being God and the Great High Priest has put an end to the priesthood and its sacrificial system because they were **dull of hearing**.

These Hebrew Christians wanted to return to the sacrificial system of righteousness to find grace with God. Animal sacrifices are works and cannot produce righteousness; *“But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”* **Gal. 3:11** Our righteousness comes from Jesus sacrifice and faith in Him alone *“...This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me,” Says the LORD.”* **Isa. 54:17**.

To walk in faith means moving in obedience, to endure affliction and pain in order to look like Christ, when we avoid the faith walk due to the pain of death to self, we will search for a way around it and try to still feel right with God. The pressure these Christians felt to return to the old system of animal sacrifice in order to still be accepted by the Jews was too great, so they went back rather than suffer the persecution of moving forward and forsaking OT temple worship.



THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

NOTES AND REFLECTION (Shield)

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ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

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They were unable to teach others to walk by faith because they were not doing it themselves, *“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”* (2 Cor. 5:7). We all understand that if a person falls back into sin (adultery, drugs, lying, etc.) that they are out of obedience with Christ and doing wrong. However, the one who turns to the sin of self-righteousness through works is deceived into thinking he’s right with God based on his own merits. **Galatians 3:1-3, 5:4.**

In both cases they have sinned by straying from resting in grace, *“but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. As it is written: “Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”* (Rom. 9:31-33).

v. 5:11 DULL nō-thro’s G3576 slow, sluggish, indolent, dull, languid (indolent): having or showing a disposition to avoid exertion, preferring a walk that causes little or no pain, languid ☹ (lacking in vigor or vitality from weakness)

Heb. 5:12-14

v.14 Our senses are exercised (trained by practice and habit) to discern both good and evil (doctrinally, not morally). How are our senses exercised? Plainly, by reason of use. When we decide to use discernment, we mature.

- v. These Christians demonstrated immaturity by both their lack of discernment between good and evil and in their contemplation of giving up with Jesus. The mature Christian is marked by their discernment and by their unshakable commitment to Jesus Christ.
- ii. The ability to discern is a critical measure of spiritual maturity. Babies will put anything in their mouths! Babies are weak in discernment, and will accept any kind of spiritual food. Guzik

v. 6:1-2 Therefore now that you have accepted Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, let us move on pass the grade school teachings of reasons for getting baptized, (or the various washings according to Jewish cleansing rites), the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. Let us move pass the need of a Savior from *our* dead works that could never save our souls on to walking forward in maturity according to faith in God.

v. 6:3 This is a statement of hope and dependence on God, the Amplified Bible reads, “If indeed God permits, we will [now] proceed [to advance teaching]”. *This should not be taken as implying that God may not want them to go on to maturity, past those basics common to Christianity and Judaism. Instead, it expresses the believers’ complete dependence on God; when we do press on to maturity, we realize that it only happens at God’s pleasure* (David Guzik).

We know that the writer of Hebrews wrote to saved believers in Christ. It also may appear that in verses 4-6 that the writer was communicating to them that a saved person can lose their salvation. How do we know the writer is speaking of the saved? The words...

[illegible]



ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

ENLIGHTENED fō-tē'-zō G5461, to bring to light, render evident, to cause something to exist and thus come to light and become clear to all, to enlighten, spiritually to infuse with saving knowledge, and truth together with the spiritual purity associated with it, that which is exposed to the view of all, openly, publicly, and the power of understanding esp. moral and spiritual truth.

PARTAKERS me'-to-khos G3353, sharing in, partaking, fellow, partner.

That is to say, v. 4 "It is impossible for those who were once saved and having tasted the heavenly gift of forgiveness through salvation, and been filled with the Holy Spirit v. v. 5 and having tasted the good word of God in Spirit and truth, plus having tasted of the power of God's coming kingdom,

v. 6 if they fall away into sin and backsliding to return to the cross for removal of sin and the gift of salvation, because they would re-crucify for themselves Jesus Christ, therefore making His first and only sacrifice inefficient and He would be found both a liar and a failure giving Satan the glory to mock and putting Christ to open shame.

The term "**fall away**" is to commit apostasy not being an apostate. Scripture says ... "*If any one draws back My soul has no pleasure in him*" **Heb.10:38** yet Christians draw back all the time in many ways but we are not of those who draw back to perdition (hell), because He who began a good work in us will be faithful to Himself to complete it.

FALL AWAY pä-rä-pē'p-tō G3895, to slip aside, to deviate from the right path, turn aside, wander, to error (this word is used only one time in the Bible)

Paul addressed these same problems with the Gentile believers of Galatia when the Judaizers told them that they had to keep the law to truly be Christians. "*O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?*" **Gal. 3:1-3**

"And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us. For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised, but faith working through love. You were running the race so well. Who has held you back from following the truth? This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. This false teaching is like a little leaven. A little leaven leavens the whole lump." **Gal. 5:3-9**

Ezekiel 36:17-38 shows all the work is done by God and it is unconditional because of His great names sake. Our deceiving hearts cause us to doubt God's nature and our emotions cause us to believe He is like we are; flakey, that is why the ten spies doubted God's promise.



NOTES AND REFLECTION (Shield)

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ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

When we believe our security depends on our own performance, we will never have the courage to go beyond the box of safety we create for ourselves. Why? Because we fail and mess things up, also believing one can lose their salvation produces self-righteousness.

The self-righteous person cannot admit to sinning because to sin means the loss of salvation, but confession of sin and repentance through a humble, broken and contrite heart is fellowship with the Lord. God cannot fail even when we do, and His strength has no end just as eternity has no end; therefore, our salvation depends on His strength not ours **1 Pe. 1:3-5**. He is the same yesterday today and forever.

We know that Jesus rejected being put to shame by obtaining the victory, the clear evidence was His resurrection; neither death nor the grave could hold Him. In fact, having nailed all our sins to the cross and the penalty required of them along with Satan's deceptive power and his claim over us we read, *"Having wiped out the hand writing of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (Jesus put Satan to open shame) Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it"* (Col. 2:14-15).

V. 6:8 burned/ kau'-sēs G2740 burning up

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire." **1 Cor. 3:11-15**

Burned kā-tā-kī'-ō G2618 to burn up, consume by fire

Root word is **kio/burned G2545**, burning to set on fire, light, burning, to burn, consume with fire, is used metaphorically of the heart *"And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing"* **1Cor.13:3**

v.9 confident of better things concerning you & things that accompany salvation: These statements are like coming home and seeing your kids and their company jumping on the furniture, to your own kids you say "I know you know better and I expect you to act like you got some sense whether I'm here or not" These three things accompany salvation:

v.10 love/agape G25

v.11 hope/elpis G1680: joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation

v.12 faith/pistis G4102: the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ with the included idea of trust and holy fervor

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6).



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**Heb. Chap 7 & 9:11-14**

Furthermore, it is the Lord who pursues us when we don't even want Him. However, after He has gotten our attention and we have received Him and tasted of His goodness; when we do turn away in broken fellowship, His love, absolute truth, and the goodness of who He is and all that He has exposed us to, will cause us to return and begin to pursue Him. One could liken our pursuit of God to that of a salmon's instinctive drive to get back to its place of birth. At all cost it will swim up stream over rocky narrow paths, through every danger and shadow of death. Is not Christ the place of our rebirth? Since it is so, let us now swim against sin's tide even as the salmon swims upstream.

Ex. 17:1-6

Believing the word in which the Lord had spoken to him, Moses in faith obeyed His command and struck the rock so the people could drink of its water of life **Ex. 33:12-13/Ps, 103:7**. Moses knew Christ **Heb. 11:23-27**, and that the Rock was Christ **1Cor. 10:1-4**. He also knew in faith looking forward to the cross that Jesus (the Rock), would be also be once stricken for our sins **Heb. 9:24-10:12**, so that the Holy Spirit's living water of salvation could flow to those who believe. *"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"* **Jn. 14:6**. The first Christian's were also known as children of the Way **Acts 9:1-2**.

Nu. 20:1-13

God's chosen nation of Israel; after being delivered from bondage, the children of Israel returned to Egypt in their hearts and sinned against the Lord. They had been faithless to the Lord, yet He remained faithful to Himself, never leaving nor forsaking them. Some thirty-eight years earlier Moses in faith struck the rock in order for the living waters to flow. This time the Lord commanded Moses to speak to the rock in order for them to be blessed with the living water. In scripture water often refers to the Holy Spirit, Christ was once stricken for all of our sins past, present, and future. When we do sin, we break proper fellowship (not lose our salvation), with God. In order to restore right fellowship with God we need only to speak to God and confess our sin. He then is faithful and just to forgive us and restores the Holy Spirit's living water flow of fellowship *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."* **1 Jn. 1:8-10**.

Because Moses miss-represented God before the people as if God were a liar, making the sacrifice His Son would make incomplete; he died without ever setting foot in the promise land **Heb. 3:16-29**. *"And this is the promise that He has promised us-eternal life. These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you"* **1Jn. 2:18-26**

1 Cor. 15:1-8/Heb. 10:1-18/Eph. 1:13-14, Phil. 1:6/2 Tim. 2:11-13/Ps. 138:1-2/Josh. 1:8-9



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BELT AND BREASTPLATE BELT OF TRUTH Eph. 6:14

GIRD *pe-rē-zō'n-nü-mē* **G4024**, to fasten garments with a girdle or belt, to gird one's self with truth as a girdle, to equip one's self with knowledge of the truth, to encircle or bind with a flexible band, surround, provide, equip, to prepare oneself for action,

We will look at what it is, and how to stand when we cover the sandals. For now, we will see that our belt of truth is Christ, and we must abide in Him, Jesus said, *"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."* Jn. 8:31, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"* Jn. 14:6.

The Roman soldier would first need to center all of his loose clothing and bind it to his waist; he then could strap on the rest of his armor, and secure it all in its place. With everything girded or anchored, he would have the freedom of movement necessary for battle.

For us to be rooted and grounded in the center of God's will is to be girded in Truth. God desires truth; that is our sincerity for His will in the inward parts, **Ps. 119:60, Jn. 17:15-19**. *"This is the strength of our loins; and it girds on all of the other pieces of our armor, and therefore is the first mentioned"* Matthew Henry.

Jn. 15:1-8

(v.2) TAKES AWAY/ *ī'-rō* **G142** to raise from the ground, to raise upwards, elevate, lift up, to lift the soul, hoist up or suspend (as a lifeboat to the ship)

PRUNES/PURGE *kä-thī'-rō* **G2508** to cleanse, of filth impurity, etc, to prune trees and vines from useless shoots, metaph. From guilt, to **expiate**

Expiate: To extinguish the guilt of by sufferance of penalty or some equivalent; to make complete satisfaction for; to atone for; to make amends for; as, to expiate a crime, a guilt, or sin

(v.3) CLEAN *kä-thä-ro's* **G2513** clean, purified by fire, in a similitude, like a vine cleansed by pruning and so fitted to bear fruit, in a Levitical sense, free from corrupt desire, from sin and guilt, free from every admixture of what is false, sincere genuine, blameless, innocent, unstained with the guilt of anything

(v.4) ABIDE *me'-nō* **G3306**, to live in reference to our condition in Christ, not our position in Christ. To remain as one, in reference to a place of being or existing in, not to depart, to continue in and to be present with, to remain as one, not to become another or different

(v.6) CAST OUT/ *bä'l-lō* **G906 & G1854** to throw, hurl or let go of a thing without caring where it falls



NOTES AND REFLECTION (Belt)

46



ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

If/ei G1487 (1st class condition) since and it is so, or since this is true, “If You are the Son of God” (Mt. 4:3)

If/ei (2nd class condition) if this is true but it’s not, “If you had believed Moses, you would believe Me” (Jn. 5:46).

If/ean G1437 (3rd class condition) if this is the case then this is also the case, like saying “I hope” that is “maybe it will happen or maybe it won’t” If he comes to you, receive him” (Col 4:10). Go here for Biblical Greek “IF” phrases http://www.biblestudymanuals.net/if_then.htm

(v.7) If/ean G1437 Jesus is the truth and the life source of our salvation and fellowship with God. When we break fellowship, or fail to produce the fruit He desires of us, he takes us away or lifts us up. When a grower of grapes (vinedresser) examines his vineyard, and finds a particular branch that is weak and not producing fruit he does not cut it off because takes far too long for grape vines to grow. The vine and all of its branches are of great importance, so with great care the farmer will lift the weak branch out of the dirt and prune it. He then will bind it to the trellis that it may grow sturdy and strong, producing much more fruit. It cost Christ far too much to ever remove, forsake, leave, or let us wither and die, so He lovingly chastises and prunes us that we may bare much to more fruit. The branches that are not truly grafted into Christ are not His and will be burned *“You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ”* Rom. 8:9 NIV. Those who are His and walk with hearts pursuing obedience will receive from the Lord His desires and when we want what He wants for us, His answer is always “Yes” when we ask.

Jer. 18:1-6

1. The first thing Jeremiah noticed was the clay in the center of the potter’s wheel.
2. The potter’s hands were in constant contact with the clay.
3. The potter maintained the perfect speed in which the clay needed to be in.
4. The potter continuously applied water to keep the clay pliable.
5. In spite of the clay’s objections and attempts to form its self, the potter, smashed it down and pounded it into willing submission, cut, trimmed and shaped it into the form of the beautiful vessel he envisioned when he chose that particular lump of clay from the mound of clay in his shop.
6. Instead of complaining about the hand you have been dealt in life, be thankful for the Hands you are in.

To be girded in truth is to abide in the center of God’s will which is found in His Word, the result is the fruit of the Spirit, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law”* (Gal. 5:22-23).

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (Jn. 4:24).

“I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name” (Ps. 138:2).

Ezek. 47:1-12/Jn. 17:14-19



NOTES AND REFLECTION (Belt)

48

**BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS – Eph. 6:14**

BREASTPLATE *thō'-rāks* **G2382**, the breast, the part of the body from the neck to the navel, where the ribs end, a breastplate or corset consisting of two parts and protecting the body on both sides from the neck to the middle.

Having been properly secured and centered, within the Belt of Truth, a warrior's attitude and freedom of movement is firmly established in righteousness. The Lord's righteousness is represented as the Christian's breastplate. The breastplate protected the most vital organs of the soldier including his heart. Spiritually speaking the Breastplate of Righteousness does not protect our heart because our heart is wicked, deceitful, and filthy

"Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" Gen. 6:5 "...the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth..." Gen. 8:21 "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? Jer. 17:9 & "But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; (used menstruation rag) We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away" Isa. 64:6.

Our own righteousness is only capable of producing the fruit of the flesh, *"Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery(drugs, witchcraft, control over others), hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries (wild parties), and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Gal. 5:19-21.*

The Breastplate of Righteousness is Christ, and He replaces our heart with that of His own, *"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them" Ezek. 36:25-27.*

With our emotions now centered in truth and our heart now that of the Holy Spirit's we have from the core (root) of our being only the fruit of the Spirit *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there."* Gal. 5:22-25.

Notice: the flesh is all emotions (self-centered) and the actions that flow from them are emotionally driven. However, the Spirit does not consist of a single emotion but the results are of Christ centered righteous attitudes and thoughts put into action. **Notice the order:** the flesh says, "me first, others second, and God last". In contrast to the flesh the Spirit says, "God first, others second, and self is last."



NOTES AND REFLECTION (Breastplate)

50



Philippians 4:4-8

(v. 4) **REJOICE** khī'-rō G5463, to rejoice, be glad, to rejoice exceedingly, to be well, thrive, in salutations, hail!

(v. 5) **LET** gē-nō'-skō G1097 to become known, to understand completely, perceive, to know by experience and observation have knowledge of, such "knowledge" is obtained, not by mere intellectual activity, but by operation of the Holy Spirit consequent upon acceptance of Christ. A Jewish idiom for sexual intercourse between a man and a woman, intimate knowledge,

GENTELNESS e-pē-ā-kā's G1933/**MODERATION** e-pē-ā'-kā-ä G1932, seeming, suitable, **equitable**, fair, mild, gentle, mildness, it expresses that considerateness that looks "humanely and reasonably at the facts of a case;" "sweet reasonableness" in contrast to contentiousness; (AGAPE LOVE)

➤ *EQUITABLE: to deal fairly with lovingly, having all concern*

KNOWN gē-nō'-skō G1097

(v. 6) **ANXIOUS/CAREFUL** me-rēm-nä'-ō G3309, to be worried, to be troubled with cares, characterized by extreme uneasiness of mind or **brooding** fear about some **contingency**

➤ *BROODING: to be in a state of depression or gloom*

➤ *CONTINGENCY: an event that may but is not certain to happen, something liable to happen or possibly could happen as a result of something else, likely but not certain to happen, subject to chance, circumstances not completely foreseen, without having full knowledge of*

"**be anxious for nothing**" is a command that we are to be presently active in not doing at all times. Being anxious is violating the first Commandment and placing one's self on God's throne.

PRAYER pros-yü-khā' G4335, addressed to God the ONE who helps, set apart or suited for the offering of prayer

SUPPLICATION de'-ā-sēs G1162, need, want, a seeking, asking, **entreaty** to God, to want, to desire, long for, to ask for the usual necessities of life (can include comforts), make supplications

➤ *ENTREATY: to make an earnest request, to plead with, to ask urgently*



NOTES AND REFLECTION (Breastplate)

[illegible]



THANKSGIVING yü-khä-rē-stē'-ä G2169 the act of giving thanks; grateful acknowledgment of benefits or favors, especially to God, a public celebration in acknowledgment of divine favor or kindness, set apart for giving thanks to God.

REQUESTS ī'-tā-mä G155 that which has been asked for, petition, the act of asking for something to be given or done, especially as a favor

(v. 7) PEACE ā-rā'-nā G1515 of Christianity, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is, the harmonized relationships between God and man through the Gospel

SURPASSES hü-per-e'-khō G5242 to hold above, to excel, to be superior, better than, to surpass

MIND nü's G3563 the natural mind, comprising alike the faculties of perceiving and understanding and those of feeling, judging, determining

The peace of God which goes far beyond all human understanding will guard and keep your emotions from falsehood and keep your thoughts in His truth through Christ Jesus.

(v. 8) TRUE ä-lā-thā's G227 of things, "true," conforming to reality

NOBEL sem-no's G4586 of persons or deeds, honorable character "The word points to seriousness of purpose and to self-respect in conduct, honest what inspires reverence and awe,

JUST dē'-kī-os G1342 of things that were in accordance with right whether by the Divine standard, or according to human standards, used of him whose way of thinking, feeling, and acting is wholly conformed to the will of God, and who therefore needs no rectification in the heart or life.

Justice in the biblical sense means: approved of or acceptable to God as innocent, faultless, and guiltless, in other words, that which is right with God

PURE häg-no's G53 free from defilement, not contaminated, pure motives, pure from carnality-from same root word as holy

LOVELY pros-fē-lā's G4375 acceptable, pleasing, characteristics having a great moral or spiritual beauty that appeals to the heart or mind as well as to the eye

GOOD REPORT yü'-fā-mos G2163 Speaking, uttering words or sounds of good

VIRTUE ä-re-tā' G703, a beneficial quality or power, potency, conformity to a righteous standard, a virtuous course of thought, feeling and action moral goodness, any particular of moral and spiritual excellence, as modesty, purity, chastity

PRAISEWORTHY e'p-ī-nos G1868 deserving of praise or commendation



NOTES AND REFLECTION (Breastplate)

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ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

MEDITATE lo-gē'-zo-mī G3049, to reckon, compute, calculate, count up or weigh the reasons, to deliberate, to consider, take into account, to suppose, deem, judge, to determine, purpose, decide, to care for, attend to carefully, to think deeply on, to chew the cud, used of the Greeks of the meditative pondering and the practice of orators and rhetoricians, to ponder and put forth thoughts. **This word deals with reality and facts not feelings**

So then with all things in God's proper priority meditate on these things.

Psalm 37:3-4

DWELL shä·kan' H7931, to abide, reside, to settle down, set, establish, fix, to cause to dwell or abide

DELIGHT ä·nag' H6026, be happy about, take **exquisite** delight, to make merry over, to be highly pleased, complete satisfaction, complete joy, great pleasure

➤ **EXQUISITE:** *marked by flawless craftsmanship or by beautiful, ingenious, or elaborate execution, accomplished, perfected*

These verses are often used by some to say that the Lord will give you whatever you ask for, or that we can command that God give us whatever we want. Nothing is further from the truth. The Lord is simply stating that when we take delight in whatever He says or is doing, He will give us what to want, not what we want. So then; because the desire comes from Him, He answer is "yes" when we ask and He is delighted to give it to us when we ask.

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us (1 Jn. 5:14).

With our minds trusting the heart Christ has given to us, we will do good through obedience. We will rest securely in the land He has given to us, both in this life and in eternity. No matter where we may be, it will be His faithfulness that sustains us.

When we take great joy and pleasure in all of His ways, He won't give us what we want, but rather He will give us what to want, therefore He will give us whatever we ask for because it will be His will for us in our lives.

Isaiah 59:15-19

God took notice of man's weakness and wickedness. Even when a person tried to live right he was still unrighteous before God. The only way for righteous restoration to come to man God had to bring it Himself, plead our case and save us.

The enemies of the LORD will never triumph over Him or His children. Whenever the enemy comes at you like an unstoppable flood, the Lord Himself raises a battle standard against him that makes him scatter in fright and disappear.



NOTES AND REFLECTION (Breastplate)

56



ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

In righteousness you shall be established; You shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; And from terror, for it shall not come near you. Indeed they shall surely assemble, but not because of Me. Whoever assembles against you shall fall for your sake. "Behold, I have created the blacksmith Who blows the coals in the fire,

Who brings forth an instrument for his work; And I have created the spoiler to destroy. No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me," Says the LORD. (Isa. 54:14-17)

HERITAGE *nakh·al·ä'* **H5159**, to share, to take possession, inherit, to have or get as a possession or property, to divide the land for a possession, to acquire, to divide for a possession, to give as a possession, to cause to inherit, give as an inheritance, to be allotted, be made to possess, inheritance, portion

It is God who is in absolute control of all, including the evil spirits and the wicked people who devise weapons to destroy us. Though we will not escape every trap set for us in this life, we shall rise in judgment in eternity over those who persecute us therefore ultimately no weapon formed shall prosper. Our heritage is to reign throughout eternity with Christ and our righteousness is from Him.



NOTES AND REFLECTION (Breastplate)

58



HELMET AND SANDALS HELMET OF SALVATION – Eph. 6:17

HELMET pe-rē-ke-fä-lī'-ä 4030, the protection of the soul (mind) which consists in the sure hope of salvation (i.e. justification, sanctification, and glorification)

As we examine the helmet we will see where the heat of the battle rages. The helmet of salvation is designed to keep our minds on the Blood of Christ, the Cross of Christ, and the sacrifice He made. The cross forgave us for whom and what we are, that is we were unsaved sinners. His Blood continually washes us of our sins forgiving us for what we do and have done. We do not become sinners because we have sinned; we sin because we are born sinners, and the Cross delivers us from our sin nature (who and what we are) by putting it to death with Christ.

The sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf cost the Son being separated from the Father and the Holy Spirit. For lack of words to better explain it, the penalty for our sins did the impossible. The payment for our sins did what had never be done, it caused a separation within the eternal Trinity, the Godhead. *“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matt. 27:46).* With all that Christ suffered fresh in and on our minds the less likely we will to be to dwell on fear, doubt, and other sinful thoughts.

We know God as God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, this is the One Whom we call the Trinity Jesus said, *“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me”* Jn. 15:26. Man was created in the image of God, also in a trinity Spirit, soul, and body on the sixth day, *“God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness... So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them* Gen. 1:27-28.

The Spirit and soul were separated from each other as God promised when Adam sinned, *“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; “but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die”* Gen. 2:16-17. So when Adam and his wife did eat of that fruit, *“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”* Gen. 3:7 this was the first death resulting in us being born Spiritually dead as sinners because Adam now possessed a new fallen nature of his own, *“And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. After he begot Seth, the days of Adam were eight hundred years; and he had sons and daughters* Gen. 5:3-4. Before being born again and saved we are body and soul, after getting saved and born again we are body, soul, Spirit.

Yet God wrote His Truth on all of our hearts (souls) *“because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them”* (Ro. 1:19). The Spirit is with everyone Jn. 14:7, this is why everyone instinctively knows what is right and what is wrong like stealing, marital cheating, lying, and murder are not right but wrong Ro. 2:11-15.



THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

NOTES AND REFLECTION (Helmet)

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ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

Now when an un-saved person dies the Holy Spirit ‘with them’ returns to heaven and the soul goes to hell to spend all eternity in torment separated from God Ecc. 12:7. When we get saved the Spirit indwells us forever never to be separated again. When a saved person dies both soul and Spirit go to heaven. The first birth is the natural one when we leave the womb. The second birth, the spiritual, one is when we invite Jesus into our heart the Holy Spirit then comes to dwell within our soul for all eternity, never to be separated from God again. Jesus said, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Jn. 3:3, 5 & 6.*

A person who is born only once (natural unsaved) will die twice, the first death will be the natural one, and this is when the soul leaves the body. The second and final death will be upon the soul leaving the body; the soul will then be separated from even the Truth of God written on it Rev. 20:10-15 & 21:8. A saved person will only experience the natural death of the soul leaving the body, *“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” 1 Thess. 5:23. “We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord” 2 Cor. 5:8. It is truly safe to say,” Born once die twice, born twice die once”.*

BODY sō'-mä G4983 (temporal, mortal created in time with beginning and an end) natural, physical, flesh, bone, blood, organs, sensual, decaying, dying

SOUL ounte/psü-khā' G5590 (immortal created with a beginning but has no end) the soul as an essence which differs from the body and is not dissolved by death, the will, mind, thought, conscience, self-awareness, the seat of the feelings, desires, affections, aversions (our heart, soul etc.) the life in the machine (body), animals do not have souls God breathed life, eternal life only into man Gen. 2:7 and man became a living soul.

SPIRIT pnyü'-mä G4151, (eternal Creator no beginning no end) the third person of the Triune God, the Holy Spirit, coequal, coeternal with the Father and the Son, absolute in truth, unconditional in love, the Life and Light in the life (soul) in the machine (body).

There are two kingdoms at work; the true kingdom of God, and the counterfeit kingdom of Satan. There is a major difference between fake and counterfeit. Fake is obvious at a closer glance, such as the plastic fruit on granny's table one can tell it is fake. Now counterfeit is subtle it looks like the real thing, smells like the real thing, feels like the real thing, taste like the real thing, yet has no nutritional value at all and is full of poison, Terrell Fletcher.

God did not remove our sin nature when we were saved; He made us partakers of His Holy nature in order to war with and put to death our sin nature and consider it dead, Isa. 11:2-3, 2 Pe. 1:2-4, Ro. 6:11, 7:14-25 & 8:5-9. The soul can mimic (counterfeit) the Spirit so close that it will deceive us, many sinners and religious folk believe that they are saved and are not, and often we believers feel that we are obeying the Lord but are not; however, the Word of God will reveal the truth and expose the lie Jer. 17:9-10.

[illegible]



ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

“There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death” Prov. 14:12 Apart from God we are all psychotic

➤ *PSYCHOTIC: fundamental derangement of the mind, the inability to test whether one's thoughts and emotions are true*

The mind is where Satan attacks. It is here that the believer decides who he will serve either God or the devil, *“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”* (Ro. 6:16).

The un-saved haven't a leg to stand on, but we who are saved have the Spirit of the Living God dwelling inside us to reveal all things. We need only to submit to Him. For the saved individual Satan can do nothing to stop the soul from going to heaven, but he can make a saint non-effective by enticing them to trust his lies and their own feelings.

When this happens, the saint will be working for Satan and not living righteously and building up other believers, nor will they be actively winning souls over to Christ for Him to save. Salvation is the changing of the heart. With the new Heart of Christ leading us we will experience **repentance** which should lead us to pursue the renewing of our mind.

REPENT me-tā-no-e'-ō G3340, Repentance (*metanoia* G3340, 'change of mind') involves a turning with contrition from sin to God; the repentant sinner is in the proper condition to accept the divine forgiveness.” To return unto, go back, come back to spiritual relations, to turn away from evil and back to God, to change one's mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins, a change of mind as it appears to one who repents of a purpose he has formed or to care about something he has done

When our minds are in agreement with our new heart that Christ has given to us and we are willing to conform our behavior to the will of God we will walk in truth. Remember it is the Word of God that makes the separation between the Spirit and the soul in order for God to clearly show us who He is in contrast to who we are who we are and what we need to do to get on or stay on the same page with the Lord.

Salvation is our helmet and this salvation has three parts, justification, sanctification, and glorification. The first part justification happens at the point of conversion. When we are born again by the Holy Spirit in Christ, we are saved meaning justified. Justification is being made right with God by God.

The second part of our salvation is sanctification. After being born again we still have life to live. From the moment we are born again till the moment we take our last breath we are in sanctification. To sanctify means to set apart. We chose how we will live out our set apartness towards the Lord.



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

The third and final part of our salvation is glorification. Glorification is when we are in the presence of God for all eternity. In glory we are complete in Christ without sin, without the struggle against temptation, without sorrow, sickness, or death. It is forever Christ's glory.

Remembering our running back from the "shield of faith", our salvation is just like a running back. A running back does not score every time he touches the ball. Sometimes he gets a first down, other times he gets stops at the line of scrimmage. Still other times he loses yards by getting stopped in the backfield.

Sometimes he fumbles, or drops a pass. However, whatever the case may be, no matter how he may get turned around and knocked down, the running back's heart and mind are always stayed on the goal. So, they get back up for the next play always heading towards the goal to score.

As believers, our salvation is like a running back's game. Justification puts us on Christ's team, our sanctification is the game. Reaching the endzone is our justification, and like a running back we play hard with all we have till the final whistle.

Rom. 12:1-2.

(v. 1) BESEECH **pä-rä-kä-le'-ō G3870** to encourage, strengthen, teach, instruct, or to advise and earnestly caution

PRESENT **pä-rē'-stā-mē G3936** to place a person or thing at one's disposal

ACCEPTABLE **yü-ä'-re-stos G2101** well pleasing

REASONABLE **lo-gē-ko's G3050** agreeable to reason, rational, the sacrifice is to be intelligent, in contrast to those offered by ritual coercion and one that is irrational or contrary to one's will; the presentation is to be in accordance with the spiritual intelligence of those who are new creatures in Christ and are mindful of "the mercies of God."

SERVICE **lä-trā'-ä G2999** any service or ministry in the service of God

(v.2) CONFORMED **sü-skhä-mä-tē'-zō G4964** signifies to conform one's self (i.e. one's mind and character) to another's pattern, "to fashion oneself to that which is unstable, to be outwardly "conformed" to the things of this age is contrasted with being "transformed" (or transfigured) inwardly by the renewal of the thoughts through the Holy Spirit's power

TRANSFORMED **me-tä-mor-fo'-ō G3339** lays stress on the inward change, describes believers as being "transformed into the same image and character" of Christ in all His moral excellencies, the change being effected by the Holy Spirit.

To change in character or condition, convert into a different thing, implies fitting something for a new or different use or function. The obligation being to undergo a complete change which, under the power of God, the inner change will be revealed in the outward expression of character and conduct.



NOTES AND REFLECTION (Helmet)

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ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

RENEW ä-nä-kī'-nō-sēs G342/G341, to be new, repair, to renew, make anew, to renew oneself, grow up, to go on from, to come on anew, to change, alter, change for better, renovate, to cause to grow up, to make new, a new strength and vigor is given to one, to be changed into a new kind of life as opposed to the former corrupt state, a renewal, renovation, complete change for the better, to renew in the mind, recently made fresh, unused, unworn, of a new kind, unprecedented, novel, uncommon, unheard of, to surround, to crown, give a crown

Here we see the soul willingly conformed to the Spirit and the body presented as holy in the eyes of God and displayed before the world. A living sacrifice that is reasonable to God is in direct contrast to those who kill themselves and others in the name of some god. Jesus said "... yes, *the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me.* **Jn. 16:2-3**

Mt. 13:24-30/Mt. 13:36-43

Although this parable is speaking of saints and sinners operating side by side in what appears to be identical motives. We will for the purpose of this lesson apply it to ourselves personally and the battle that rages within.

Here we see two farmers at work. God the Holy Spirit of Truth has planted His heart in the believer forever protecting it in His breastplate of righteousness. In spite of the heart having been replaced from filth to holiness, the mind (soul) is still free to have its own will be done or to have Christ's will be done.

We have the free will God gave to us to choose to let our new heart lead, guide instruct, and govern us, or we can do the opposite and choose to let our own mind (heart/soul) lead us. The seeds of sin are sown in the mind when we are not being vigilant **v. 25**. All day every day the Sower of Righteousness and the sower of unrighteousness seek to harvest fruit from us.

Mt. 21:18-22

Spiritualizing this passage for personal application, we see a fig tree, a counterfeit fig tree. Had the Lord planted this fig tree it would have yielded good fruit at Christ's coming. We as saints must be true fig trees in spirit ready to produce the fruit of the Spirit at all times for God be it in season or out of season in order to feed the Lord's sheep.

When we ask in faith, with no doubting, for wisdom from the Lord to reveal the seeds, roots, crops, and fruits of sin in our hearts we can cast those mountains of sin into oblivion. At harvest time Satan should receive nothing to dead dried up withered crops. So then from the Heart Christ has given let this mind be in you...

1Cor.15:3-4/Phil. 4:8/1Thes. 5:8-11/Pr. 28:26/Ps. 100:3



NOTES AND REFLECTION (Helmet)

68

**SANDALS (GOSPEL OF PEACE) – Eph. 6:15**

SHOD hü-po-de'-ō **G5265**, to under bind, fasten, to lock, to bolt, to shoe, to furnish with sandals, **GREAVES** mits·khä' **H4697**, leg armor for the shins

PREPARATION he-toi-mä-sē'-ä **G2091**: Readiness, the Gospel itself is to be the firm footing of the believer, his walk being worthy of it and therefore a testimony in regard to it.

Therefore My people shall know My name; Therefore they shall know in that day That I am He who speaks: 'Behold, it is I.' "How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" (Isa. 52:6-7)...

Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God (Matt. 5:9). The Son of God brought peace between man and God, as peacemakers we are to bring His terms of surrender to the world so that they may have peace with God.

The Roman sandal with greaves was so revolutionary in design that the combination enabled the soldiers to move with swiftness on the battlefield unseen in any other army. Long marches at incredible speed were deciding factors in surprising the enemy. Sharp sticks and traps that would hobble other armies were of no hindrance to the Roman soldier.

The sandal would ensure the soldier of firm footing when running, climbing, or when planting his feet in order to stand and fight. Because the sandal was thickly studded with sharp nails the soldier could climb rough terrain having a sure grip. The nails could also deliver the deadly blow needed when crushing the enemy's head **Gen. 3:15, Rom. 16:20**.

With the Heart of Christ leading your mind, the feet must follow and go where He has commanded. It was on feet prepared and shod that Christ shared the gospel of peace with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, **Lk. 24:13-27**.

Salvation brings with it the Holy Spirit's power to boldly witness for Christ. Those who have ears to hear and a heart to receive the message of the Gospel shall break forth in singing at the coming of the Lord's beautiful saints fulfilling the Great Commission, **Isa. 44:22-23**.

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (Matt. 28:18-20).

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8).



NOTES AND REFLECTION (Sandals)

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ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) ...

For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” (Rom. 10:13-15).

“For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am compelled by God to do it; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!” (1 Cor. 9:16) ...

“Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever” (Dan. 12:3) ...

Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples (Ps. 96:1-3).

“Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations. ”Then said I: “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth. ” But the LORD said to me: “Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’ For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you,” says the LORD. Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant”(Jer. 1:1-4)

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged. ” Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me” (Isa. 6:6-8).

Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Cor. 5:18-21).



NOTES AND REFLECTION (Sandals)

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**Praying Always With All Prayer – Eph. 6:18**

Let us now turn our attention to the greatest part of our armor and the most vital in our relationship with the Lord, intimacy through prayer. It would be impossible to cover every specific type of prayer in this lesson, but we can cover some in general terms from worship, praise, thanksgiving, supplication, intercession, and forgiveness. Jesus left us with a wonderful example prayer as a plumb line in Matthew 6.

By the Lord's grace we will learn to pray systematically and personally. We will also learn how to pour our hearts out to God in selflessness, while bringing our personal supplications to Him, and interceding for others as we glorify Him thankfully. You will be able to *"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise..."* (Ps. 100:4).

Our intention is to rise from prayer fuller, richer, and changed from boldly having entered the presence of God and throne room of the Lord's grace by the blood of Christ. Your prayer life should be intimately enhanced rather than the same words mouthed automatically without thought conviction, challenge and change.

Now let's turn to Matthew 6:9-13 – (All Prayer)

v. 9a Our Father: Declare your personal relationship with God. It is not Sir, Mr. or far away Master, but Abba that is to say "Daddy" **Mk. 14:32-36/Ro. 8:14-17/Gal. 4:6-7**

v. 9b in heaven hallowed be Your name: Proclaim His position, glory, power, and holiness **Neh. 9:5-6/1Sam. 2:1-10/Lk. 1:46-55/1Chr. 29:11-13**

v. 10a Your kingdom come: His return, **Isa. 12/Rev. 22:12-21**

v. 10b Your will be done: His desire fulfilled in our hearts with perfect completion in absolute willingness, **Ps. 119:9-16/Ps. 119:33-40/Jn. 14:15-17/Gen. 5:21-24**

v. 10c On earth as it is in heaven: His desire fulfilled in our lives in complete worship that is well pleasing to the Father, every thought, word or deed.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (Ja. 1:17-22)

Psalms 19:12-14



NOTES AND REFLECTION (Prayer)

[illegible]



ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

v. 11 Give us this day our daily bread: Our provision of food daily natural and Spiritual...

“For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you (Mt. 6:32-33).

Two things I request of You (Deprive me not before I die): Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches—Feed me with the food allotted to me; Lest I be full and deny You, And say, “Who is the LORD?” Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God (Pr. 30:7-9).

“Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers. “And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. “So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD (Dt. 8:1-3).

v. 12a And forgive us our debts: In this order, **Repent**, confess your sins, ask for and **receive** God’s forgiveness and a clean renewed heart.

Repent/me-tä-no-e’-ō G3340: *to change one’s mind and actions for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one’s past sins, turning with contrition from sin to God... “to change one’s mind or purpose, involving a change for the better... true repentance places us in the proper condition to accept the Lord’s forgiveness.*

Receive/de’-kho-mī G1209: *to take hold of, embrace, make one’s own, approve, not to reject or doubt*

Remember confession is not the same as repenting. We can confess wrongs without a change of heart; therefore, confession with meaning can only follow repentance. Repentance is not simply sorrow or remorse. Remorse is regret over the outcome, but repentance is agreeing with God that something is wrong and turning from it towards Him.

Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner... For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death” (2 Cor. 7:9-10).

There are two basic reasons that hinder people from receiving God’s forgiveness. The first reason is when an individual does not believe God’s word when He states that they have been forgiven due to the way they feel. The result is having feelings and thoughts of shame and guilt accompanied with fear which hinder them from moving forward in the Lord.



NOTES AND REFLECTION (Prayer)

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ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

The second reason a person cannot receive God's forgiveness is when this person does not truly believe they are at fault; therefore, they can neither ask for nor receive forgiveness. The reason being is that they feel and believe within their own-self that they have not done anything wrong.

However, that is according to their personal standard of righteousness rather than God's. The result in this person's attitude and lifestyle will reveal pride, self-righteousness, legalism, bitterness, vindictiveness, unforgiveness and the condemnation of others.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us (Jn. 1:8-10).

Psalm 32:5

Acknowledged/yada H3045, to confess, to declare, make oneself known, reveal oneself, to recognize, admit, acknowledge, (same word for sexual intercourse Gen. 4:1). We must own our sins for they are one with us, but God can and will separate them from us as far as the east is from the west and then remember them no more.

Sin/chatta'ath H2403, a miss, miss step, slip of the foot, defiling, progressive-sin is an old English archery term meaning the archer's aim was off and they missed the mark (bull's-eye). The type of sin means that our intent and desire is to hit the bull's eye by doing the right thing, but we missed the mark. Therefore, repentance, confession and apologies are the proper response.

Iniquity/avon H5771, Primarily, it denotes "not an action, but the character of an action" crookedness, perverse, willfully determined to do wrong, rejecting what is right (premeditated) involves numerous sins to accomplish just one sin

Confess/yada H3034, to throw, shoot, cast out with the hand extended, to admit or declare one's self guilty of what one is accused of-taking full ownership with no excuses

Transgression/pasha H6588, trespass, rebellion, to pass over, to go beyond one's right in place or act; to over step the limit or boundary of a published law or rule out of ignorance or deliberately, to injure another; to do that which annoys or inconveniences another; works of the flesh catching one off guard (taking sin's opportunity though not planned-reveals the heart's true desires)

James 1:13-16/Jer. 3:13/Ezra 9:6/Ps. 25:7-11

So right here on page 77 after the verses above; we have the Divine response of grace to those who have come to Him genuinely with a heart in broken repentance, confessing and acknowledging their sin all before praying about forgiving those who have wronged them.

Ps. 103:8-14, Ps. 32:6-9, Micah 7:18-20, Joel 2:12-14, 2 Chron. 7:14, Heb. 4:14-16, Zeph. 3:15-17, knowing the Lord has done all this for me/us we are now ready to pray....



NOTES AND REFLECTION (Prayer)

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ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

v. 12b As we forgive our debtors: Ask for the loving Spirit of God to give you the same heart of forgiveness in which He forgives you **Eph. 4:29-5:2/Jn. 8:2-12/Ps. 103:8-14/Lam. 3:21-26/Isa. 43:25**. Even though you may feel someone has sinned against you, all sins are against God alone **Ps. 51:1-4**.

Now let's consider deeply what verse 12 is literally saying, *and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us*. Asking the Lord to be forgiven by Him as I have forgiven others is asking to receive from God exactly what I give to others.

We know the Scripture teaches that love keeps no record of wrong; yet people often proclaim, "I forgive you but I haven't forgot" Well ask yourself how would you feel if Jesus were to say "I forgive you but I haven't forgot?"

Keep in and take this fully to heart, no offense that you have suffered compares to the sins you have committed against God. With this understanding you will then be able to intercede on behalf of others. **Job 42:7-10, Ex. 32:9-14/Eph. 3:14-21/1Cor. 13:3-8/Phil. 1:3-5/1Tim. 2:1-4/Ro. 1:8-9**.

Pray for enemies, bless those who curse you, and do good to those who spitefully mistreat you. Keep no record of any wrong done to you. The cornerstone of Love is forgiveness and the key to forgiving is choosing not to remember.

No one ever said we were to forget the wrongs we have suffered, but in order to forgive we must choose not to remember **Ro. 12:17-21**. When we choose to remember we choose to bring up every thought, emotion and deed multiplied by 20/20 hindsight.

Forgiveness is also the only part of this prayer that Jesus re-emphasizes, "*For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 'But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses'*" (Mt.6:14-15).

In Matt. 18 Jesus told a parable about an unforgiving servant who had just been forgiven by his master a debt he could never repay him. Yet he went out and imprisoned his fellow servant for a debt of a few dollars. When his master found out he said,

"You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 'Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' 'And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. 'So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses'" (Mt. 18:32-35).



NOTES AND REFLECTION (Prayer)

[illegible]



ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

In these passages when the Lord speaks of not forgiving those who will not forgive others, and delivering unforgiving people to the torturers, He is not speaking of eternal salvation. He is speaking of leaving one turned over to a life of bitterness, misery, and contentiousness until they repent and obediently forgive others. Forgiving is a choice of obedience to the Lord **Acts 7:59-60/Lk. 23:33-34**. Therefore, we must choose our master **Jn. 8:31-36 and Ro. 6:16**.

The Lord never says He'll forget our sins; He simply and emphatically declares that He chooses not to remember them *"I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins..."* *"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more"* (Isa. 43:25 and Heb. 8:12).

Often people will ask, "Do I have to forgive someone who has not repented?" The quick short answer is, "yes". Or they will ask, "How can I forgive someone who has not changed?" These questions stem from confusing forgiving someone with being reconciled with someone.

Reconciliation goes beyond forgiveness; to be reconciled is to win over to friendliness; cause to be at peace, and bring back to a former state of harmony. There are circumstances in which the people we have forgiven do not repent and that can be discouraging or even offensive.

But we have to remember we are commanded to forgive others without conditions, not walk out someone else's repentance. Never in Scripture are we taught to withhold our forgiveness until the other party does the right thing first.

If the other person's wrong attitudes and toxic behaviors persist, we must still forgive them. In doing so, we will be at peace with them, ourselves, and most importantly God through obediently forgiving them as the Lord has commanded.

However, because they have not repented our relationship is no longer in harmony. Remember, forgiving is not the same as reconciling. Reconciliation goes beyond forgiving and it is the final step in our pursuit of the law of Christ which is the law of love.

Question, "Since He has given you this command to love one another as He loved us, plus given His own life as an example, on top of giving you His Spirit to carry out His desire and you choose not to forgive, is your standard greater and higher than that of the Lord Jesus?"

v. 13a And do not lead us into temptation: The Lord will not tempt us with evil, though He will test our faith in order to grow us and increase our dependence upon Him. Lead us not into temptation is to say Lord I am weak to my flesh keep me from my own understanding **Josh. 1:7-9/Pr. 8:15-21/Pr.8:32/ Pr. 3:5-8**.

v. 13b But deliver us from the evil one: Lord give me a sensitive heart to hear and obey so that I will be ever wise to the deceptions of my own desires and the schemes of the devil, nor let my enemies rejoice over me **Ps. 13:3-6/Ps. 91:1-6/Ps. 18:16-19/Job 22:25-30/Pr. 2:10-16**

[illegible]



ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

THE WARRIORS OF CHRIST

v. 13c For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. He is God all by Himself and He will not share His glory. **Isa: 42:8/Isa: 43:10-13 Amen**

CONCLUSION

Finally, to add some further things concerning the gift and ministry of intercessory prayer, ask the Lord to give to you an understanding of others and their struggles as if they were your own. Pray for the healing and comfort for the people you have sinned against. Also pray for the angels who protect and minister to us **Ps. 103:20-22.**

When we pray for others to bless the Lord we are actually praying for their complete willingness, obedience, and strength in Him. Call prayer lines from time to time, not to receive prayer, but for the sole purpose of praying for that intercessor.

They have answered the Lord's call to stand in the gap for us never seeking or asking for their own private cares and concerns to be met. Praying for them is a wonderful thank you and encouragement. Pray for the peace of Israel.

In closing, there are four basic parts to a plant; the seed, the root, the actual plant or tree, and the fruit. These four parts look nothing alike. Satan knows this, so he will try to keep our focus on the fruit which is the sinful deed.

With our focus on the fruit, we will never lay the sword to the root thereby doomed to keep repeating the matter. Ask the Lord for wisdom to see the root and the faith to pluck it up. As for the seeds of sin we know Satan is the great counterfeiter so he only perverts the way of God. In the parable of the Sower, Jesus said the birds represent Satan as he snatches away the seeds of God. Pray therefore, that the Holy Spirit will immediately snatch away the seeds Satan tries to sow **Mt. 13:3-9 and 13:18-23.**

Joshua the great general of Israel, whom God raised up to fill the shoes of Moses was called to continue in carrying out the Lord's plans for Israel. As he stood before the Lord, Joshua called for God to get on his side **Josh. 5:13-15.** This is one of the strongholds Christians have the most trouble with. God will never get on our side, why would you want a god that weak?

No, in fact we **must stop** trying to get God on our side and do all that we have to do to get on His. After being fully armored and waging war in the battles the Lord had given to him, through faith, obedience, and prayer, Joshua no longer sought to get God on his side but was able to declare:

"Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! "And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you now dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:14-15) NKJV.



May the Lord richly bless, strengthen and settle you my beloved warrior of Christ, that you will walk worthy of your calling, thoroughly equipped in the Spirit by Christ our Savior for every good work of God our Father! Amen.

NOTES AND REFLECTION (Prayer)

[illegible]