

EPHESIANS SESSION 7

Review: Last week we went through the first half of chapter 6. Paul wrote that children should obey and honor their parents and that fathers shouldn't provoke them to wrath (bring them to resentment). He also wrote that servants should serve their masters as though they were serving Christ and masters should treat their servants with kindness and respect because they have a master that sees all. Paul then admonishes the readers to put on the whole armor of God. The armor of God is spiritual because the warfare is spiritual. He writes that our enemy is not flesh and blood, but that we wrestle with principalities and powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and with spiritual wickedness in high places.

Most of our time last week was explaining what is meant by principalities and what they do. Principalities are fallen angels in Satan's kingdom that have been given rulership over different territories on the earth (Daniel 10:1-20, Ezekiel 28:11-19, Psalm 82:1-8). The spirit world has influence on the natural world so even though we only see the natural fruit, there is a spiritual root. Since the root is spiritual then the only way to combat it is spiritually.

Examples: Job 1:12-17 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath *is* in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD. And there was a day when his sons and his daughters *were* eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them: And the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. While he *was* yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. While he *was* yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. *The Sabeans and Chaldeans were the physical enemy that raided Job's property and slew his servants BUT they were stirred up and directed by Satan.*

1 Chronicles 21:1-3 And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel. And David said to Joab and to the rulers of the people, Go, number Israel from Beer-sheba even to Dan; and bring the number of them to me, that I may know *it*. And Joab answered, The LORD make his people an hundred times so many more as they *be*: but, my lord the king, *are* they not all my lord's servants? why then doth my lord require this thing?

why will he be a cause of trespass to Israel? **1 Chronicles 21:14-15** So the LORD sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men. And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it: and as he was destroying, the LORD beheld, and he repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed, It is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite. *God was angry with David for numbering the people because it showed lack of trust in God and was a demonstration of pride. Taking a census could be a way of boasting about the size of the kingdom and military and would move confidence away from God. But the scriptures let us see the spiritual root...Satan opposed Israel and provoked David to do it. Why was Satan moved to do this? The answer is found in the previous chapter - 1 Chronicles 20:4-8* And it came to pass after this, that there arose war at Gezer with the Philistines; at which time Sibbechai the Hushathite slew Sippai, that was of the children of the giant: and they were subdued. And there was war again with the Philistines; and Elhanan the son of Jair slew Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, whose spear staff was like a weaver's beam. And yet again there was war at Gath, where was a man of great stature, whose fingers and toes were four and twenty, six on each hand, and six on each foot: and he also was the son of the giant. But when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea David's brother slew him. These were born unto the giant in Gath; and they fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants. *The giants were the serpent's seed on the earth, and David and his men wiped them out. That's why Satan tempted David to number the people because he knew that it would move God to anger.*

*****THE GREATEST TACTIC OF THE ENEMY IS TEMPTING US INTO SIN SO THAT THE LORD IS MOVED AGAINST US*****

Born again people are in covenant with God whereby we are His children, and He is our Father. A covenant acts like an umbrella in that it provides a covering because of God's promises. We are in the protection of God and Satan cannot just do whatever he wants to us. Satan cannot do anything against us without the permission of God (Job 1,2 & Luke 21:31,32) so the attacks of the kingdom of darkness is to provoke us into sin and disobedience so that we open a door for them to have access to us. Examples:

- **Balaam** – Balaam wanted to curse Israel for the king of Moab so he could gain riches and honor. God would not allow Balaam to curse Israel, so he taught the king of Moab to tempt Israel into idol worship and committing fornication. That act of sin committed by Israel moved God to destroy 24,000 Israelites.
- **Delilah** – Samson's strength was spiritual. He had problems keeping his eyes off the enemy's women, so the enemy used a woman to seduce him to reveal the source of

his strength. The enemy subdued Samson by cutting his hair and severing his vow. The Lord departed from Samson, and he didn't even know it.

Now that we have established this, let's go through the armor: Ephesians 6:13-18

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

- **The evil day** – that's the time that what the enemy has been planning against you goes into effect.
- **Your loins girt about with truth** – is referring to the belt that holds everything together on a soldier's uniform. When a Roman soldier went to war, he tucked his clothing into his belt and fastened it securely for mobility in battle. The devil is a liar, and his warfare originates in lies! If we are going to win the battle, it starts with us knowing the truth. The only way to defeat lies is with truth (Jesus in the wilderness). We need to ask the Lord to reveal what lies we have believed that are hurting us such as: "You're not really saved" "You are worthless to God" "You are unworthy of God's love" "God can't use you because of your faults and failures" "No one struggles like you do" "God doesn't care about you" You are all alone"
- **The breastplate of righteousness** – The breastplate guards your heart. The enemy has plans to poison, steal or harden your heart. Your heart can be poisoned by bitterness if the enemy can get you offended. Wounds that aren't healed become infected and only get worse. If the enemy can't poison your heart, then he tries to steal it by getting you to love something else more than Christ which is idolatry. The enemy also tries to harden our heart by making disobedience seem harmless. If we hear His voice but we disobey, it hardens our hearts. The breastplate is of righteousness. Righteousness is a right standing with God and that was imputed to us by faith in Christ.
- **Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace** – Roman soldiers wore sandals with cleats built in to help them keep their footing and to stand their ground under attack. Regardless of external turmoil, the gospel has given us peace with God and given us access to the peace of God. The enemy will always try to frighten you and fill you with anxiety because we're manipulated by fear. **2 Timothy 1:7** For

God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

- **Take the shield of faith** – Faith is taking God at His word. Taking God at His word also means obeying it. Whatever temptations the enemy fires at us, we can overcome him by believing God's word and acting on it.
- **Take the helmet of salvation** – The helmet protects the mind. Most spiritual warfare takes place IN OUR MINDS! The enemy will always provoke us to act on our fleshly emotions...what feels good in the moment. The helmet of salvation is the act of renewing the mind because how we think determines how we feel and respond. When we read, study and meditate on God's word, it changes our thoughts...which changes our feelings, which changes our actions.
- **The sword of the Spirit** – The only offensive weapon in the ensemble. He is talking about the word of God spoken, made effective by the Spirit. When Jesus was tempted, he replied "it is written" defeating the devil by using the word. The only way to cut through the devil's lies is with the truth. When they issue guns to new recruits in the military, they make them experts at handling, shooting, and cleaning those weapons. They train them that way so that their gun is an extension of themselves when they are in battle. That's how we are to be with the word of God.
- **Praying always with all prayer and supplication** – The divine means for putting on the spiritual armor, which reflects the person at work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. A Christian's spiritual resources are accessed through relational communication with God. We must be on the same page as the Spirit and the way to do that is prayer. Supplication means to petition an earnest request humbly in prayer.

Ephesians 6:19-22 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. But that ye also may know my affairs, *and* how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things: Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and *that* he might comfort your hearts. *Paul requests prayer of the Ephesians for himself that he may have opportunities and courage to preach the gospel. Tychicus will be the deliverer of this epistle to the Ephesians, and he will update them on Paul's situation and encourage them.*

Ephesians 6:23-24 Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen. Written from Rome unto the Ephesians by Tychicus. *Paul ends this letter like he does most of them with the triad of peace, love, and grace to the brethren.*

