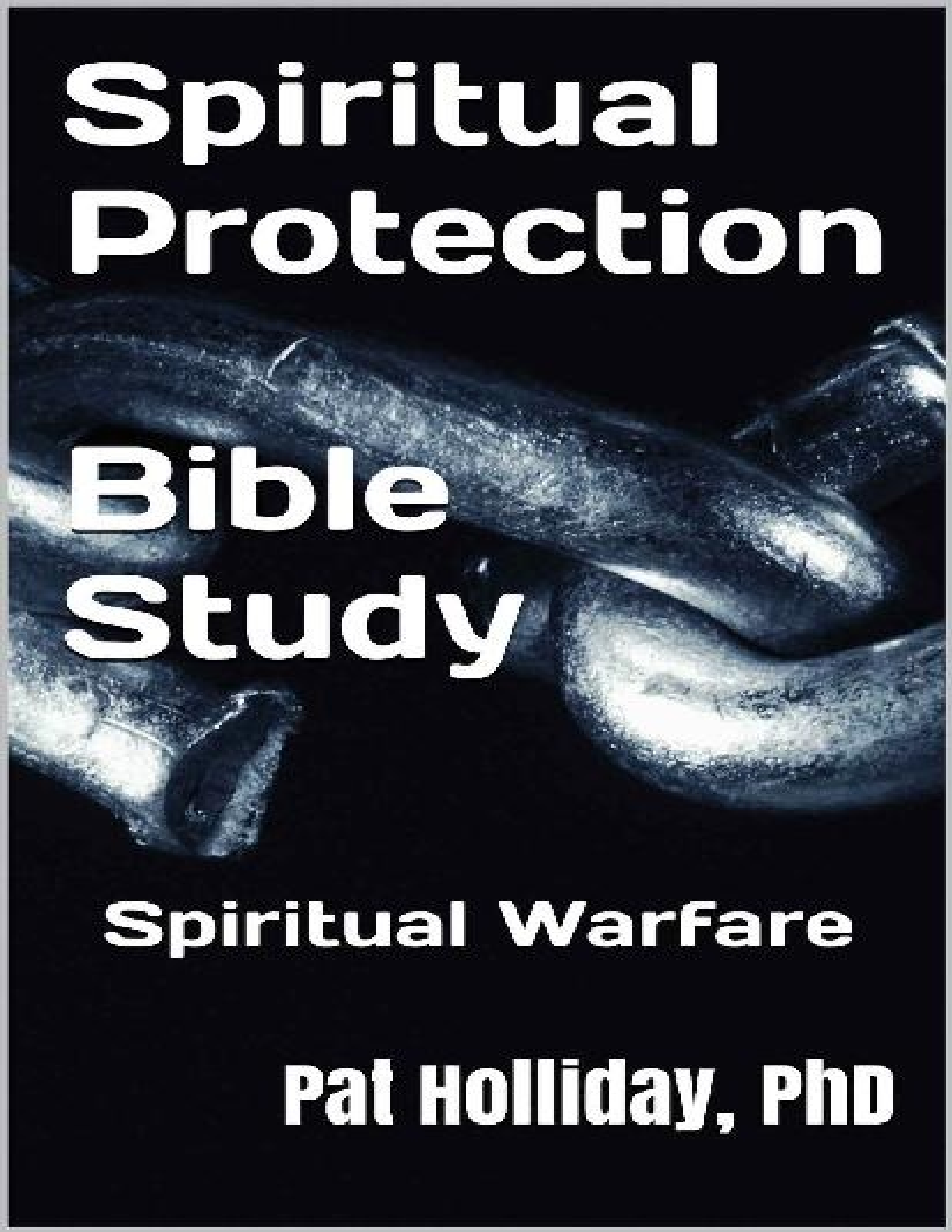
Spiritual Protection Bible Study



Spiritual Warfare

Pat Holliday, PhD

SPIRITUAL PROTECTION
Bible Study

Spiritual Warfare

Pat Holliday, PhD
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The_Brazen_Serpent

Part One

Spiritual Protection

Attacks against your Mind, Body and Spirit

To everything there is a season—and this is the season where **witchcraft** gets heavy, demonic imaginations target minds and infirmities inflict bodies.[1]

Of course, **Jezebel** and her witchcrafts can creep onto the scene any time of the year. But the month or so between Lent and Easter often brings with it an onslaught of spiritual attacks from every direction, and it grows more intense until it finally breaks after Resurrection Day. It's like clockwork.

What's going on? Mary worship seems to empower the Queen of Heaven, also known as **Jezebel**.

When Mary is lifted up to a place where only Jesus belongs, it unleashes demonic activity in that territory. As demonic activity increases, people report feelings of oppression, fatigue, strong **warfare** against the mind that makes you feel like quitting, and even physical manifestations for which doctors can't find a reason. [2]

Revelation 2:20

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, [the apostate church of Rome, comparable to Jezebel, the wife of Ahab] to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. [comparable to Jezebel, the wife of Ahab; as she was the daughter of an Heathen, so is Rome Papal the daughter of Rome Pagan; and as she was the wife of Ahab, and therefore a queen, so the whore of Babylon calls herself; and as

Jezebel was famous for her paintings, so the church of Rome for her pretensions to religion and holiness, and for the gaudiness of her worship; and as she was remarkable for her idolatry, whoredoms, witchcrafts, and cruel persecution of the prophets of the Lord, and for murder, and innocent blood she shed; so the church of Rome, for her idolatrous worship of images, for her whoredoms, both in a literal and spiritual sense, and for the witchcrafts, magic, and devilish arts many of her popes have been addicted to, and especially for her barbarities and cruelties exercised upon the true professors of Christ, and for the blood of the martyrs, with which she has been drunk; and as Jezebel stirred up Ahab against good and faithful men, is has this church stirred up the secular powers, emperors, kings, and princes, against the true followers of Christ: and the end of both of them is much alike; as scarce anything was left of Jezebel, so Babylon the great, the mother of harlots, shall be cast into the sea, and be found no more at all: compare 2 Kings 9:7 with Revelation 17:1]. [3]

"… which calleth herself a prophetess; as perhaps Jezebel might do, since she was such a favourer of the prophets of Baal, and so familiarly conversed with them, and kept them, even a hundred of them, at her table: and certain it is, that the antitype of her pretends to an infallible interpretation of the Scriptures, and to have a bulk of unwritten traditions; and which interpretations and traditions are to be regarded as an infallible rule of faith and practice. Now what is complained of in the true members and followers of Christ is, that they suffered this woman

to teach; when it was insufferable for a woman to teach, and especially such a strumpet:

and to seduce my servants to commit fornication; to deceive such who called themselves the servants of Christ, and draw them into the commission of spiritual fornication, which is idolatry; as the idolatrous worship of the Mass, and of images and saints departed:

and to eat things sacrificed unto idols; as Balaam, or the pope, before had done, Revelation 2:14. This may have respect to the latter part of this period, when the eyes of many began to be opened to see these false doctrines and idolatrous practices, and yet had not courage enough to oppose them as they should… [4]

Lent Begins

I’ve been getting hit with all of these things since Lent began, and am sounding the alarm so that you can rise up and battle against what is battling against you, in the name of Jesus. Please, pay close attention and remember that we aren’t warring against flesh and blood, and the weapons of our warfare are not carnal. This is a spiritual battle against a spiritual foe that must bow to our **spiritual weapons**.[5]

The problem is most Christians have not been taught spiritual warfare and the fact that they have a spiritual enemy. Satan is called the great deceiver. Yet the Bible clearly reveals that he is a fallen Arch Angel that Jesus Christ has already defeated.

The War in Heaven

Revelation 2: 20

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, who deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

… and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 9And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.…[6]

Jesus has defeated Satan on Earth

Jesus has disarmed the powers and authorities; he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Colossians 2:15 Context

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15 **[And] having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over**

them in it. [16]Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath [days]: [17]Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body [is] of Christ. [7]

Alive in Christ

…having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. 16Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day—

Colossians 2:15

[And] having spoiled principalities and powers

Principalities of hell, the infernal powers of darkness, the devil that had the power of death, the accuser of the brethren, who often objected their debts, with all his works and posse: these Christ has divested of their armour, wherein they trusted to have ruined men, as sin, the law, and death; he has ransomed his people from him that was stronger than they, and taken the prey out of the hands of the mighty; he has bruised the serpent's head, demolished his works, destroyed him himself, and all his powers, and defeated all their counsels and designs against his elect: some render the word (apekdusamenov) , "having put off", or "unclothed": and which some of the ancient writers apply to the flesh of Christ, and understand it of his putting off the flesh by death, whereby he gave the death blow to Satan and his powers, (Hebrews 2:14) , to which sense agrees the Syriac version, which renders the words, (hrgp xlvbw) , "and by the putting off of his body, he exposed to shame principalities and powers": but it may be better interpreted of unclothing, or stripping principalities and powers of their armour, with which they were clothed; as is usually done to enemies, when they fall into the hands of their conquerors: unless rather this is to be understood of Christ's taking away the power and authority of the Jewish ecclesiastical rulers and governors, by abolishing the ceremonial law, and the ordinances of it; declaring himself to be the alone King and Lawgiver in his house, and requiring subjection to his institutions and appointments, which sense agrees with the context: [8]

He made a show of them openly;

when being raised from the dead, he ascended on high, and led captivity captive; he led Satan and his principalities and powers captive, who had led others, as he passed through the air, the territories of the devil, in the sight of God and the holy angels:

Triumphing over them in it;

which some understand of the cross, as if where and by what he got the victory, there he triumphed; the cross, where his enemies thought to make a show of him, expose him to public scorn and contempt, and to triumph over him, was as it were the triumphant chariot, in which he triumphed over all the powers of hell, when he had conquered them by it: but the words may be rendered "in himself", as they are by the Vulgate Latin and Syriac versions; and the sense be, that as he by himself got the victory, his own arm brought salvation to him, so he alone shared the glory and honour of the triumph: or it may be rendered "in him", and the whole in this and the preceding verse be applied to God the Father, who, as in (Colossians 2:12 Colossians 2:13); is said to raise Christ from the dead, to quicken sinners dead in sins, and to forgive all their trespasses; so he may be said to blot out the handwriting of ordinances, and to spoil principalities and powers, expose them to public view and shame, and triumph over them, "in him", in and by his Son Jesus Christ: the whole is an allusion to the victories, spoils, and triumphs, of the Roman emperors, who when they had obtained a victory, a triumph was decreed for them by the senate; in which the emperor was drawn in an open chariot, and the captives being stripped of their armour, and their hands tied behind them, were led before him and exposed to public view and disgrace; while he was shouted and huzzaed through the city of Rome, and had all the marks of honour and respect given him [F2]: now all that is said in the preceding verses show how complete the saints are in and by Christ; and stand in no need of the philosophy of the Gentiles, or the ceremonies of the Jews; nor have anything to fear from their enemies, sin, Satan, and the law, for sin is pardoned, the law is abolished, and Satan conquered. [9]

The Light of the World

Lord Jesus, You are the True-Light which enlightens every man coming into the world. He who follows. You shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. In heaven there will be no need of the sun or the moon, for the glory of God illumines it, and You are its lamp," See (Jn. 1:9; 8:12; Rev. 21, 23).

See the Salvation of the Lord

When you or your loved ones face danger or uncertainty, it can be greatly encouraging to read Bible verses detailing promises and examples of God's protection.[10]

> Exodus 14:13-14
> 13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever. 14 The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

> Romans 6:22-23King James Version
> [22] But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. [23] For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Bible says there is only one way to Heaven

> Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me." (Jn. 14:6)

Good works cannot save you.

> "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Eph. 2:8-9).

Trust Jesus Christ today! Here's what you must do to be Saved

> Admit you are a sinner.
> "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Rom. 3:23)

> "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" (Rom. 5:12)

> "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." (1 Jn. 1:10)

Be willing to turn from sin (repent).

> Jesus said: "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise

perish." (Lk. 13:5) .

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent:" (Acts 17:30).

Believe that Jesus Christ died for you, was buried, and rose from the dead.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (Jn. 3:16)

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners. Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8)

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Rom. 10:9)

Through prayer, invite Jesus into your life to become your personal Savior.

"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Rom. 10:10)

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Rom. 10:13)

Primarily using mentally or spiritually sound judgment

- Rest your hope upon Jesus
- To exhibit confident that God will accomplish all that He promised He would do.
- Let me tell you, there the truth and there is the lie.
- If there is a devil, there is a Jesus!
- If there is a devil, there is certainly a God.

Part Two

The Angel of God

Jesus the Angel of the Lord (God)

The New Testament refers to angels as from God; however it makes no reference to the Angel of the Lord while Jesus was alive for the obvious reason that beginning with the Son's incarnation and until His ascent into heaven, God was dwelling among men a fashion as a man, (Jn. 1:14 Phil. 2:6-89). [11]

The Angel of the Lord is not a created being but the Creator Himself.

The Bible speaks of a particular angel who surpasses all angelic beings in kind and degree the angel of the Lord. His appearances in human form are known as theophanies from a Greek noun meaning God Manifested, (See Gen. 12:7). He is the second Person of the Godhead. Angel of the Lord Appearances in Human Form. “As the angel of the Lord, the Son of God, was higher than the angels but in His humanity He was made lower than then angels for a little time,” (Psa.8: 5-6; Heb. 2: 7-8).

“Now He has been made superior to the angels and is crowned with glory and honor,” (Heb. 1:4; 2; 7).

Always He has been worshiped by the angels. (Heb. 1:6).

Jesus before His Incarnation

The eternal Son Who, before His incarnation, manifested Himself in various forms, sometimes as a man. He spoke to Moses out of a flame of fire and appeared in corporeal form to Balaam (Exod. 3:2; Num. 22-31, see vs. 22-35).[12]

Protected from Satan’s Designs

Guardian angels wait for God’s commands to go on missions to protect people. The Torah and the Bible declare in Psalm 91:11 that God “will command

his angels concerning you, to guard you in all your ways.” [13]

Psalm 91:7

7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

Psalm 91:11

11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

Angels camp around Believers

Exodus 14:19-20

And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: 20 And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night.

Think about the drama! The Israelites, two million strong, had just begun the trek toward the wilderness. Now they were trapped, the Red Sea was ahead of them, the angry Egyptians on chariots were behind them, and there was no exit to the right or to the left. Understandably, they were helpless and terrified. They fully expected to be massacred, their bodies strewn across the landscape as a witness to Egyptian cruelty and superiority.[14]

But thankfully, the Angel of the Lord did not withdraw in Israel’s desperate time of need; rather, the Angel moved to provide protection. The cloud sent to guide them now moved from the front to the back of the large assembly. And the cloud hovered between the Israelites and the Egyptians all night so that the Egyptians could not touch the Israelites.

Today, we are under attack. The devil seeks to destroy us, modern culture seeks to seduce us, and our own sin natures deceive us. Only the presence of God can keep us from succumbing to fear and, more ominously, falling into the sin that seeks to entangle us.

Only God can protect us and our children from the wiles of the devil. That is why Jesus prayed that we might be “kept from the evil one” (John 17:15). Let us pray that His presence might put a barrier between us and the enemies of our soul.[15]

It may be possible to invite guardian angels into your life through prayer whenever you’re facing a dangerous situation. The Torah and the Bible describe an angel telling the prophet Daniel that God decided to send him to visit Daniel after hearing and considering Daniel’s prayers. In Daniel 10:12, the angel tells Daniel: “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.” [16]

Daniel 10:12

12 Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.

The key to receiving help from guardian angels is to ask for it, writes Doreen Virtue in her book: “Because we have free will, we must request help from God and the angels before they can intervene. [17]

Do not Worship Angels

1. Colossians 2:17-19

17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ. **18** Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, **19** And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

Part Three

Familiar Spirits

Demons must be welcomed

Do you believe that demons must be 'welcomed' to enter a person and dwell there? Many Christians believe that you must 'welcome' the demon willfully before it can enter you. This theory sounds nice, but scripture actually states otherwise.

In (Matt. 12:45), we find a story that Jesus told of an unclean spirit that left and came back with 7 even worse spirits, and they all enter the man and dwell there. Clearly the first spirit that was cast out and the other 7 worse spirits were not 'invited' but rather bluntly entered in at their own free will because there was a 'legal ground' that hadn't been cleaned up. This warning is clearly directed towards non-believers as Jesus referred to them as the 'wicked generation' at the end of the verse. If a person is a non-believer, their legal grounds cannot possibly be cleaned up because they have no access to the blood of Christ, which allows the 'legal grounds' to be removed.

Another good verse to look at is (Lk. 13:11,16), "And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself... And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?"

I believe if Satan had bound her, then it gives us a clear indication that it was against her will. When a person is bound by another, it's a forceful act against the person's will. Besides, do you think the woman honestly 'wanted' a spirit of infirmity? I wouldn't think so. Neither would the man who was deaf, thanks to an evil spirit (Matt. 9:32-33).

Body Soul and Spirit

In Christianity, the Bible identifies humanity's three basic elements: spirit, soul and body.[4] Christians emphasize that the human spirit is the 'real person', the very core of a person's being, and the essential seat of their existence. When a person accepts Jesus Christ as their Savior, it is their human spirit that is transformed as they become 'new creatures' in Jesus Christ. The soul which is the seat of the will, mind and emotions does not get converted but needs to be renewed on a daily basis through the recommended Christian disciplines such as prayer and reading the Bible.[5][6][7][8]

1 Thessalonians 5:23 - And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and [I pray God] your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 10:28 - And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 - Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

James 2:26 - For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Genesis 2:7 - And the LORD God formed man [of] the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Galatians 5:16-17 - [This] I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. (Read More...)

Matthew 16:26 - For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? (Read More...).

Romans 12:1-21 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service. (Read More...)

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 - But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. (Read More...)

1 Corinthians 15:35-58 - But some [man] will say, how are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come? (Read More...)

Genesis 35:18 - And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.

Luke 1:46-47 - And Mary said, my soul doth magnify the Lord, (Read More...).

Demons Tremble

Every ounce of Satan's territory that you take for Christ is a battle. It's a struggle. It's warfare.

"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble," (Jam. 2:19).

Double Minded

"And, behold, they cried out, saying, what have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time," Mat 8:29). Double-minded

“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways,” (Jam. 1:8).

“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded,” (Jam. 4:8).

Familiar Spirits

"Sorcerers or necromancers, who professed to call up the dead to" "answer questions, were said to have a "familiar spirit" (Deuteronomy" 18:11; 2 Kings 21:6; 2 Chr. 33:6; Lev. 19:31; 20:6; Isa. 8:19; "29:4).

Such a person was called by the Hebrews an 'ob, which" properly means a leathern bottle; for sorcerers were regarded as vessels containing the inspiring demon. This Hebrew word was "equivalent to the pytho of the Greeks, and was used to denote" both the person and the spirit which possessed him (Lev. 20:27; "1 Sam. 28:8; comp. Acts 16:16).

The word "familiar" is from the" "Latin familiaris, meaning a "household servant," and was" intended to express the idea that sorcerers had spirits as their servants ready to obey their commands.

"What are familiar spirits?"

Answer: The word familiar is from the Latin familiaris, meaning a

"household servant," and is intended to express the idea that sorcerers had spirits as their servants ready to obey their commands. Those attempting to contact the dead, even to this day, usually have some sort of spirit guide who communicates with them. These are familiar spirits.

Leviticus 19:31; 20:6, 27; and Deuteronomy 18:9-14 refer to “mediums and familiar spirits” and forbids being involved with them, as they are an abomination to the Lord. A medium is one who acts as a liaison to supposedly contact or communicate with the dead on behalf of the living. In reality mediums are contacting demons who convince the mediums that they are “familiar” and can be trusted and believed. The practices associated with mediums and familiar spirits were banned in Israel, and the punishment for practicing such things was death.

Familiar spirits and spirit guides are under the control of their master, Satan. They influence people to spread lies and deceit in order to thwart the kingdom of God. To knowingly open oneself to the work of demons is an evil thing: "Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in [a] fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD" (Deuteronomy 18:10-12a).

Some avenues through which demons or "familiar spirits" can gain entrance into a person's life are divination, transcendental meditation, visualization, necromancy, witchcraft, drugs, and alcohol. These are all activities that believers are exhorted to avoid. Instead, we are to be filled with the Holy Spirit, with love, with joy, and with the fullness of life that comes from Jesus Christ.

A familiar spirit is a demon that is summoned by a medium with the intention that the spirit summoned will obey his or her commands. Often, familiar spirits are believed to be the spirits of people who have died (Duet. 18:11).

However, Biblically this is not the case. Such appearances are in actuality demonic forces imitating people in order to deceive.

We know that people cannot come back from the dead from what Jesus said in Luke 16:19-31when He gave us the story of Lazarus and the rich man. Jesus said in verse 26 "and besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us." So, we can see that people cannot come back from the dead. However, we cannot leave this topic without addressing 1 Samuel 28 that deals with Saul and the medium who, apparently, actually contacted the departed Spirit of Samuel. Commentators are split on whether or not this was actually Samuel, but the text seems to imply it was so why the exception? We are not sure, but it might have been allowed for the purpose of rebuking Saul for his sin--something that does not happen with familiar spirits when they manifest. Perhaps it is a teaching tool to show us the difference between those who are really of God (Samuel) and those who are not (familiar spirits).

The two words, "familiar spirit," in the King James Bible are translated into the English from the single Hebrew word “obe”.

Saul and the Medium of Endor

1 Samuel 28:7, Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor. 7Then Saul said to his servants, "Seek for me a woman who is a medium that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "Behold, there is a woman who is a medium at Endor." 8Then Saul disguised himself by putting on other clothes, and went, he and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night; and he said, "Conjure up for me, please, and bring up for me whom I shall name to you."…

Seeks after the Dead

1 Samuel 28:7-19 When we go from the plain path of duty, everything draws us further aside, and increases our perplexity and temptation. Saul desires the woman to bring one from the dead, with whom he wished to speak; this was expressly forbidden, Deuteronomy 18:11.

All real or pretended witchcraft or conjuration is a malicious or an ignorant attempt to gain knowledge or help from some creature, when it cannot be had from the Lord in the path of duty.

While Samuel was living, we never read of Saul's going to advice with him in any difficulties; it had been well for him if he had. But now he is dead, bring me up Samuel.

Many who despise and persecute God's saints and ministers when living, would be glad to have them again, when they are gone. This shows that it was no human fraud or trick. Though the woman could not cause Samuel’s body to appear; yet Saul's inquiry reveals that a human form emerged that looked as if it was Samuel. I believe this was a manifested demon impersonating the Prophet Samuel.

God will not break His scriptures

The woman's surprise and terror proved that it was an unusual and unexpected appearance. Saul had despised Samuel's solemn warnings in his lifetime, yet now that he hoped, as in defiance of God, to obtain some counsel and encouragement from him, might not God permit the soul of his departed prophet to appear to Saul, to confirm his former sentence, and denounce his doom? The expression, Thou and thy sons shall be with me, means no more than that they shall be in the eternal world. There appears much solemnity in God's permitting the soul of a departed prophet to come as a witness from heaven, to confirm the word he had spoken on earth.

Familiar Spirits

Mark 9:25 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.

Leviticus 20:27 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be

upon them.

1 Chronicles 10:13 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it;

1 Samuel 28:8 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee.

Isaiah 19:3 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards.

2 Chronicles 33:6 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

Isaiah 29:4 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
And thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust.

Isaiah 11:2 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

Job 19:14 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
My kinsfolk have failed, and my familiar friends have forgotten me.

Deuteronomy 18:11 | View whole chapter | See verse in context

Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

Leviticus 19:31 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

Psalms 41:9 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

Haggai 1:14 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,

1 Samuel 28:3 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land.

Romans 8:9 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Ezekiel 1:20 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
Whithersoever the spirit was to go, they went, thither was their spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.

2 Kings 21:6 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

Leviticus 20:6 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul,

and will cut him off from among his people.

Isaiah 8:19 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? For the living to the dead?

2 Kings 23:24 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD.

Ezekiel 3:14 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
So the spirit lifted me up, and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the LORD was strong upon me.

John 6:63 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Romans 8:26 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

1 Corinthians 12:13 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

1 John 4:3 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

Ecclesiastes 7:8 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in

spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

Numbers 11:25 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.

Malachi 2:15 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.

Mark 9:25 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.

Proverbs 18:14 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

Part Four

Destroyer Released

Fallen Angel

Let's start by reviewing the event that will allow this powerful fallen angel entrance into the world. This occurrence is recorded in (Rev. 9:1-11). To rightly understand who this "king of the bottomless pit" is, it's vital to correctly interpret what this passage is saying. We must be guided by Scripture, not our imagination.

(Rev. 11:7 and 17:8) are clearly referring to Abaddon as the "beast" who will ascend from the "bottomless pit."

What we see described in the first part of (Rev. 13:1) is a symbolic reference to the release of Abaddon from the Abyss. In Jewish thought, the Abyss was often associated with the ocean depths. Speaking of the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures in use at the time of Christ, The New Unger's Bible Dictionary says: "The LXX renders Hebrew tehom, 'the primeval ocean' (Gen. 1:2; Psa. 24:2; etc.), as 'abyss'." (p. 18, "Abyss"). This identification of Abaddon as the primary "beast" mentioned in the Book of Revelation will help us to learn more about his activities in the end time.

There is one other Scripture that enigmatically mentions the release of Abaddon from the Abyss. This obscure reference is found in (II Thess. 2), where Paul discusses the "man of sin." Abaddon and Apollyon both mean "destroyer." Who is this ruling demon called the "Destroyer," who is released from the Abyss during God's wrath on mankind in the last days of this age?

Jesus told us the names of the demons that Abaddon ruled over. “Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you, 20 notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven,” (Lk. 10:19-20).

[Scorpions] The scorpion is an animal with eight feet, eight eyes and a long jointed tail, ending in a pointed weapon or sting. It is found in tropical climates, and seldom exceeds 4 inches in length. Its sting is extremely poisonous, and it is sometimes fatal to life. It is in Scripture the emblem of malicious and crafty (demons). When rolled up it has some resemblance to an egg, the annexed cut will give an idea of its usual form and appearance.

“If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion,” (Lk. 11:12)?

“And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house,” (Ezek. 2:6).

Eternal Enemy Satan

“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you,” (Lk. 10:19).

[The enemy] Satan; the meaning of this verse is, that Jesus would preserve them from the power of Satan and all his emissaries-from all wicked and crafty men; and this shows that he had divine power. He that can control Satan and his hosts that can be present to guard from all their machinations, see all their plans, and destroy all their designs, must be clothed with no less

than almighty power.

“And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. 2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. 3 And there came out of the smoke locusts (demons) upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions (demons) of the earth have power. 4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. 5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he strikes a man. 6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. 7 And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.” (Rev 9:1-9).

Armor of God

This clearly shows that these demons are powerful ruler demons as shown in scripture, “Put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles (schemes/trickery) of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places,” (Eph. 6:11-12).

Principalities - Strong's 746 "archer" defined as: chief in various applications of order, time place or rank (cuff, the English words: architecture, archangel).

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord,” (Rom. 8:37-38).

“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: 12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him,” (Eph. 3:10).

“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist,” (Col 1:16).

“And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it,” (Col 2:15).

“Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, 2 to speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. 3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers’ lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. 4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 that being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life,” (Tit. 3:1).

Powers - Strong's 1849 "exousia" defined as: mastery; magistrate, superhuman, potentate: delegated influence, authority, and jurisdiction.

“And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and

powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say," (Lk. 12:11).

"Know ye not that we shall judge [fallen] angels, " (I Cor. 6:3)?

"Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues," (I Cor. 14:39).

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work," (Phil. 2).

Satanic kingdoms MUST bow!

Satanic heavens, satanic earth, satanic sea and underground!

"If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord," (I Corinthians 14).

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever," (Rev 20:10).

The devils must be reminded DAILY of their IRREVERSIBLE lot! They are going there anyhow!

The Christian Walk as Warfare

We must stand in Christ's power and battle for souls. Jesus said: "And I say also unto thee. That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it," (Matt. 16:18).

Spiritual power is the greatest power in the universe. The source of power is God Himself.

(Psa. 62:11). Says, "God has spoken once; twice have I heard this that power belongeth unto God."

This spiritual power can do things no other power can do.

Before and after His resurrection, Jesus unleashed spiritual power and even nature obeyed his will.

Part Five

Spiritual Warfare

All Power is given to Jesus

Jesus Christ, as presented by The Father and Jesus' testimony is according to the Word, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power s given to me in heaven and in earth . . ." (Matt. 28:18)

He is revealed as Deity with absolute sovereignty and authority for eternity. The weapons of our warfare; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; 4 and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. 5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. 6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted," (I Cor. 10:3-6).

Apostle Paul showed us in "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (fleshly but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds: casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalted itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every through to the obedience of Christ," (II Cor. 10:4).

This proves that we have the power individually to dominate our thoughts, mind, intellect, ego and soul.

"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind," (Eph. 4:23) says that we can be renewed in the spirit of our minds.

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ," (I Pet. 1:13), we are told to gird up (bind them) the loins of our mind.

These and other scriptures show us that we can dominate our souls through the spiritual power we now have in the inner man.

"I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. When you walk, your steps will not be happened; when you run, you will not stumble," (Prov. 4:11-12).

Many Christians are content to live with demon powers controlling their lives and their families.

Jesus commanded the Word.

He spoke the word and water was made into wine.

He blessed the bread and the fishes and they were multiplied.

He spoke the word to dead Lazarus and he came out of the grave.

Jesus Commanded demons to leave a writhing victim alone and to come out of him.

The person was loosed that same hour.

These and many other works show spiritual power in action.

Jesus said that if we that if we would believe, we could even say to a mountain, "Be thou removed and cast into the sea," and it would be done.

In the beginning, God spoke the word, and the universe came into existence!

At, and after the resurrection, Jesus displayed the power of appearing and disappearing and the power to rise unaided at His ascension.

"King of Kings"

"Lord Jesus, You have been exalted by God and given a Name which is above every name; that at Your name every knee should bow and every tongue confess that You are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. You are the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords. The kingdoms of this world will become Your throne, and You shall reign forever and ever," (Phil. 2-9-11).

“Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords,” (I Tim. 6:15).

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever,” (Rev. 11:15).

When a sinner comes to Christ, he receives power to become a son of God. After Salvation, we can receive extra power from God.

The Lamb of God.

“Lord Jesus, You are the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. You died for my sins according to the Scriptures. In You I have redemption through Your blood, the forgiveness of sin. Worthy are You, the Lamb that was stain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing. To Him Who sits on the throne, and to You, the Lamb, the blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever,” (Jn. 1:29).

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,” (I Cor. 15:3).

“In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins,” (Col. 1:14).

Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.,” (Rev. 5:12-13).

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth,” (Acts 1:8).

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost,” (Acts 2:38), describes this extra endowment of power as the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

“But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another,” (Gal. 5:15).

“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;” (I Pet. 2:11), show how to clean up our lives.

Part Six

Satan's Strongholds

Our text places the capstone on our spiritual power.

Let us examine what happens if we fail to do our part. We see what God expects us to do.

"Wherefore, my beloved, ye have always obeyed not as in my presence only, but how much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling," (Phil. 2:12).

Why should we fear and tremble?

Is it because of a possibility of losing our salvation?

Is it possible to lose our "God consciousness," even as an unsanctified mind and lusts of our body

We must control them, and we can through the power of God.

The purpose of this power is two-fold:

One purpose is to clean out the chaff from our lives.

The other is to be a witness to lost souls.

This spiritual power, man's spirit has received, gives him the ability to dominate his soul and body.

Say no to Appetites and Lust

All a man must do to win is to say no to appetites and lusts and thoughts that are contrary to the Word of God.

In doing this, he will be the victor.

Resist your own Thoughts

The reason man must resist his own thoughts is shown "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord," (Isa. 55:8).

Man's thoughts are contrary to God's thoughts.

"Avoid every kind of evil," (I Thess. 5:22).

Sin has become a companion

They do not resist temptation.

". . .. I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpents cunning, so your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ," (II Cor. 11:3).

They enjoy living for the things of the world and the flesh.
A basic problem in the Church is full of uncommitted Christians.

They are full of rebellion, spiritual and sexual perversions, adultery, lust, incest, fornication, oral sex, whoredom, homosexuality, hate and un-forgiveness and every bondage under the sun.

The big three in destroying people are sex, money, and power.

One is sufficient to destroy.
Focus your attention on Jesus and His authority and ability to conquer.

Part Seven

Be Strong in the Lord

“Put on the whole armour of God

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints,” (Eph. 6:10-18).

- Testimony and blood of the Lamb,” (Rev. 12:11).
- Yield to the anointing of the Holy Spirit, (Jn. 16:13).
- Use the Word of God, “It is written,” (Matt.4: 7).
- Use the name of Jesus and resist the devil, (Jam. 4:7).
- Fellowship with the Saints, (Acts 2:42),”And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
- Go to a Full Gospel-Bible believing fellowship.
- There are courses of reaction to spiritual power.
- Carnal (Worldly-flesh).
- Human Reasoning (I Cor. 2:4, 5; II Cor. 3:6).
- Weapons (illegal).
- Overreaction (Matt 18: 7; Jam. 1:19, 20; 3:2).
- Revenge - strike back - vengeance (Matt. 5:38, 42; Rom. 12:17; I

Pet. 3:9).

- Gossip (Rom. 1: 30, Eph. 4:31, I Pet. 2:1).
- Backbite (Rom. 1:30).
- Spiritual Weapons
- “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power,” (Eph. 6:10).
- Helmet of Salvation
- Shield of faith
- Breastplate of righteousness
- Girded Loins with the Truth
- Shod feet with Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:13-17).
- Disciplined life.
- Fasting (Matt 6:16-18).
- Submission (Eph. 5:2). Prayer (Psa. 34:17; 5 5:16; 91:15; Joel 2:32; Lk. 18:7).
- Offensive Weapons
- The Spirit Himself. (Lk. 11:20; Zech. 4:6; Rom. 15:19; II Cor. 3:17; Eph. 6:18).
- Sword of the Word – (Eph. 6:17: 17, 18. 1.
- Blessing instead of cursing - (Matt. 5:44; Rom. 12:21).

The spirit of God gives us spiritual weaponry that can defeat all the lusts of the flesh and of the mind and make us victorious Christians.

“Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land,” (Job 1:10).

Dominion of our Spirit

Paul the Apostle, in (I Cor. 9:27) shows us that we also can bring our bodies under dominion of our spirit.

Spiritual power makes this possible; this same power is spoken of in Ephesians spiritual power in the inner man.

This can bring his whole person into subjection to the Spirit of God.

We must believe it for it to be possible to bring it about. It is God's will for us to live holy lives. (I Thess. 4:3).

God would never have told us to possess our vessels if it were not possible.

Your Body and Soul

Is your body and soul mastering you, or are you, by spiritual power, mastering them and making them work to serve you?

If you do not have the ability (power) to clean up your life, then do your first works over again, (Rev. 2:5).

"Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers," (I Tim. 4:16).

- Go back to your initial experience of salvation and examine it closely.
- Make sure that you have fully repented and surrendered your to God.
- Repentance to God
- Sorrow that results in action according to God-given procedures and in return to God and His ways, (I will go your way Lord").
- Acceptance of God's forgiveness
-

By faith receiving the gift of forgiveness that God has given you solely by His work on the cross. "Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ . . ." ". . . peace through the blood of his crosses . . ." (Rom. 51; Col. 1:20).

The Holy Spirit

- If you have not received the Holy Ghost, then begin to seek Him.
- This makes a difference.

(Matt. 3:11) shows us the Baptism of the Holy Ghost will burn out the chaff from our lives.
Pray until you find that you really have “God Consciousness.”

If you cannot control your bodily lusts, then you don’t have your mind under control either.

The body and the mind are in control of your life; then you need to pray through and get a fuller experience in your inner man.

“Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way,” (Proverbs 4:14-15).

Your power must come from within.

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation of everyone who believes; first for the Jew then for the Gentile,” (Rom. 1:16).

Part Eight

Warfare Footing

Ignorant of Satan's Devices

There is a desperate need now to bring the local churches of Jesus into a wartime footing.

Paul wrote, "lest Satan should get an advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices" (II Cor. 2:1, 2-11).We are involved in warfare and victims are falling by the thousands.

E. J. Huegel says, "In the disparate conflict Christ waged, in which He lost His life, was He mistaken? Was it really 'the prince of this world' He had to face - a terrible supernatural being whose hate for God was as dark and as deep as hell? Or was He deluded? That He believed in a personal devil whose dominion He came to shatter; That commanded demons to come out of their victims; that He was convinced that if He were to save man He must show up the Prince of Darkness in his true light, and break his power over humans hearts; that He really believed these things, no student of the Scriptures would for a moment pretend to deny." [18]

Owen C. White house, an avowedly advanced biblical critic concludes: "That Satan exists as a personal center of evil influence, physical as well as moral (for the two are closely associated), is the undoubted teaching of the Bible."

Devil is real

- Let me tell you, if there is a devil, there is a Jesus!
- If there is a devil, there is certainly a God.

Alan Richardson says: "Until the Age of Enlightenment (A.D. 1650-1780) in an objective personal devil and his minion was all but universal among theologians.

"Today. However, it is generally recognized that belief in Satan, the leader of the fallen angels, etc., is not a satisfactory answer to the problem of evil.

"It still leaves us to ask the question how evil got into the world which God created and saw "very good."

But as a pictorial way of representing the existence of superhuman evil forces in the universe, Satan and his hosts call our attention to a very important question for theology. Great Commission

"And he said unto them. Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs that follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover," (Mk. 16:15-18).

Satan does Exists

Satan is no myth. It would be difficult to refute.

Baudelaire's contention that the devil's cleverest ruse is to make men believe that he does not exit.

Note some statements that are a fair representation of a very large cross-section of theological opinion in our day:

"No present-day system of philosophy gives any place to the Diabolos of Scripture." Edgar Brightman. [19]

"The toothy red imp with tail and trident has become a secular figure of fun, and many theologians have banished a personal devil to the realm of myth. J. I. Packer. [20]

An hour or so in a room with a demonized person who is manifesting demons will do a great deal to rearrange and cancel our many theological theories that have no basis in fact or Scripture

Jesus healed all

Jesus went about healing all that were oppressed of the devil. Since He was healing, and, He has not changed, He is still healing.

But the devil, who is possessed with desire to imitate truth in twisting it, says to us;

- "I am nobody.
- What are you afraid of?
- Are you going to tremble before his existent?

Satan disappears in His successes and his triumph is his incognito.

The proof that the devil exists, acts, and succeeds lies in the fact that the¬ intelligent world does not believe in him anymore.

(Eph. 6: 10, 21); describes the Christian walk as a warfare

A deadly conflict in which he is engaged against the power of Satan and his hosts.

"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil," (I John 3:8).

Dr. Zollar: "Demons fear exposure above all else. This explains the abuse, ridicule and hatred heaped upon the heads of the 'fanatics'-who uncover them and expose them for what they are. Satan will leave no stone unturned to smear and vilify one who attacks his kingdom of darkness with the light of the truth and deliverance. We need believers who will throw all into the struggle to set people free of the awful bondage into which the world and even some Bible-believing churches have sunk. The call is loud and clear; too clear many churches today are a pale, anemic imitation of the real thing, whose members often end up fighting each other instead of the deadly hosts of hell." (Gal. 5:15).

What Satan and Demons seek to do to believers.

- Satan tempts believers to: sin (I Thess. 3:5).
- lie (Acts 5:3).
- Commit sexually immoral acts, (I Cor. 7:5).
- Accuses and slanders (Rev. 12:-16)
- Hinders the work of believers in any way he can (I Thessalonian. 2:18).
- Satan and demons seek to wage war against and defeat believers (Eph. 6:11, 12).
- Sows tares among believers (Matt. 13:38, 39).
- Incites persecutions against believers (Rev. 2:10).
- Seeks to lead believers away from “the sincere and pure devotion to Christ” (II Cor. 11:3).
- Opposes Christian with the ferociousness of a hungry lion (I Pet. 5:8).
- Seeks to plant doubt in the minds of believers (Gen. 3:1-5).
- Seeks to foster spiritual pride in the hearts of Christians (I Tim. 3:6). Demons hinder Answers to the prayers of believers (Dan. 10:12-20).

Demons would separate the believer from Christ if they could (Rom. 8:38).

Demons cooperate with Satan in working against believers (Matt. 25:41; Eph. 6:12; Rev. 12:7-12).

Part Nine

Prepared for Warfare

Devils Tremble

The New Testament church made devils tremble and they turned the world up-side-down. It drove legions of demons and had faith and power to open prison doors, healed the sick and converted the masses of pagans. “Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ,” (Acts 19:19).

Isaiah 52:1–12.

The theme of God’s deliverance for His people now reaches its greatest expression in the Servant of the Lord who will suffer for the sins of His people.

(Read Isaiah 52:1-12)

The gospel proclaims liberty to those bound with fears. Let those weary and heavy laden under the burden of sin, find relief in Christ, shake themselves from the dust of their doubts and fears, and loose themselves from those bands. The price paid by the Redeemer for our salvation, was not silver or gold, or corruptible things, but his own precious blood. Considering the freeness of this salvation, and how hurtful to temporal comfort sins are, we shall more value the redemption which is in Christ. Do we seek victory over every sin, recollecting that the glory of God requires holiness in every follower of Christ? The good news is, that the Lord Jesus reigns. Christ himself brought these tidings first. His ministers proclaim these good tidings: keeping themselves clean from the pollutions of the world, they are beautiful to those to whom they are sent. Zion's watchmen could scarcely discern any thing of God's favour through the dark cloud of their afflictions; but now the cloud is scattered, they shall plainly see the performance. Zion's waste places shall then rejoice; all the world will have the benefit. This is applied to our

salvation by Christ. Babylon is no place for Israelites. And it is a call to all in the bondage of sin and Satan, to use the liberty Christ has proclaimed. They were to go with diligent haste, not to lose time nor linger; but they were not to go with distrustful haste. Those in the way of duty, are under God's special protection; and he that believes this, will not hasten for fear. [21]

Here begins that wonderful, minute, and faithful description of the office, character, and glory of the Messiah, which has struck conviction to many of the most hardened unbelievers. Christ is Wisdom itself; in the work of our redemption there appeared the wisdom of God in a mystery. Those that saw him, said, Surely never man looked so miserable: never was sorrow like unto his sorrow. But God highly exalted him. That shall be discovered by the gospel of Christ, which could never be told in any other way. And Christ having once shed his blood for sinners, its power still continues. May all opposers see the wisdom of ceasing from their opposition, and be made partakers of the blood of sprinkling, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost; obeying him, and praising his salvation. [22]

Christians must be prepared and equipped

- The whole armor of God
- Helmet, Salvation; Breastplate, Righteousness; Girded Loins, Truth; Shod Feet; Shield, Faith. (Eph. 6: 13-17).
- Shows what wonderful provisions God has made for His warriors. Must be on the defensive (Matt.26:41).
- Be Anointed! (Matt. 3:16).
- Fast! (Matt. 4:2).
- Quote the Word! (Matt. 4:4, 7, 10).
- Command the devil! (Matt. 4:10).
- Putting the devil to flight. (Jam. 4:7).

ALL SAINTS

- Paul did not restrict praying specifically to himself, (Eph. 1:1-15-19).
- He prayed that the believers might know God personally 17.
- He prayed that they might know his purpose.
- Might know God's power.
- They would be strengthened (Eph. 3: 1-4-19).
- Enlightened. (18-19

- Filled (19).
- Know the will of God. (Col. 1:9-12).
- Walk worthy of the Lord (10).
- Strengthened by God's power. (11).
- Their love might abound (Eph. 1: 9-11). (9).
- Their lives might be blameless (10-11).

Utterance given to Paul

AND FOR ME THAT UTTERANCE MAY BE GIVEN UNTO ME

In prison Paul did not think primarily of his own welfare. But of his testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ.

He asked them to pray for him personally. (Rom. 15:36; 1:11; Eph. 6:18-19; 1I Thess. 5:25).

To Preach with Boldness

TO MAKE KNOWN WITH BOLDNESS THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL

"Lord Jesus, You are the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation, in You all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth. You are before all things, and in You all things hold together. You are the Head of the Body, the Church, You are the first-born from the dead--so that You Yourself might have first place in all things. It was the Father's good pleasure for all fullness to dwell in You and through You to reconcile all things to Himself, whether in heaven or on earth, You are the Head over all rule and authority." (See Col. 1:15-20; 2-10).

Man's fallen state.
Jesus Crucified
Forgiveness and Redemption.
Resurrection.
Christ coming again.
Eternal life with God.

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us," (Rom. 8:37).

Principalities, against Powers

Christians wrestle against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of

darkness of this world, and against spiritual wickedness in high places.

- Ignore your opponents in a wrestling match and you're in trouble! (Eph. 6:12).
- Christians are to be grave and watchful of Satanic power (I Pet. 5:80).
- Christ is the believer's defense and therefore all pieces of the armor may speak of Him, but they also speak of the resources which are given to the believer by Him.
- The whole armor is described in detail, as well as the foes a believer must face.
- That they may be able to stand.

One who is seated with Christ in the heavenlies and walking in this world must now also take a stand against the wiles-the methods or stratagems ¬of the devil.

(Vs. 13). “WHEREFORE. Because our enemies are such as have been described ...

TAKE UNTO YOU THE WHOLE ARMOR

- Again the human responsibility is emphasized.

ABLE TO WITHSTAND

Note that the passage speaks both of withstanding and of standing.

- The former is the ability to win the fight, to hold one's position; the latter shows the result of the conflict.

(Vs. 14).STAND THEREFORE

IN this and the following verses the armor is described in detail.
These things speak of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, who is our defense.

Part Ten

Parts of the Amour

Deny the Power of God

The sins of the Church today are denying the power of God

- Wrong Belief, Neutrality, Indifference, Hard Loveless Orthodoxy. The Scriptures affirm, " . . . in the last days perilous times shall come, for men shall, have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof: from such turn away," (II Tim. 3:1-5), God is simply not interested in religion but He is tremendously involved with the well-being of people.

Ephesians 6:10-18

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Your Lions Girt about with Truth Vs 14

When God was preparing His people for the exodus from Egypt, He instructed them to eat the Passover “with your loins girded,” (Exod. 12:13). The phrase '**loins girt about with truth**' literally means 'to have the belt of **truth** around **your** waist'. Keep in mind that the apostle Paul is using a Roman soldier’s armor to describe the preparation of the Christian for spiritual combat. During the era of the Roman Empire when this was written, the Roman soldier had the most advanced armor of that era. The belt was a critical part of Roman armor for everything was held in place by it or anchored to it. Without the belt, the armor lost its effectiveness. [23]

Having the confidence that we can indeed know what is true provides us with a firm foundation on which to secure our armor and our lives upon. A house built on an unstable foundation is certain to fall. It may stand for a while, but when the foundation is stressed, it cannot stand. The same is true for our lives. Even those who reject truth appear strong as long as life remains in control, but when everything around us spirals out of control, only those founded upon the Rock will stand secure. When terrorist destroyed the towers in New York in 2001, how many people turned to the atheist for strength or encouragement? Atheism thrives when circumstances are in control, but when the foundations are shaken or lives are in danger, no one converts to atheism for it provides no security when people need a foundation. [24]

Stand therefore - Prepare yourselves for combat, having **your loins girt about with truth**. He had told them before to take the whole armor of God, Ephesians 6:13,

- Instructing His servants to be in readiness of His coming, the Savior said, “Let your loins be girded about. . . .” (Lk. 12:25).
- Consists of faith or firm persuasion
- “Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes and I shall observe it to

the end. You are my hiding place and my shield, I wait for your Word," (Psa. 119:33: 114).

- "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ," (I Pet. 1:13).
- Just as people in biblical times would gather up their long robes and tie them around their waists so that they could move quickly and freely, we need to do whatever it takes to focus our thoughts on those things that allow us to serve God successfully.
- While eliminating any thought that would trip us up (see. Heb. 12-1).

The first step in the Christian's preparation is a foundation of truth.

Ephesians 4:11-15

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: 14 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

The purpose of these positions of leadership are to teach doctrine to the church and to bring each person into the knowledge of Christ so that we can have unity, be equipped for ministry, and to not be carried away by every wind of doctrine. When we have an understanding of the truth of scripture, our spiritual lives will be secure and able to stand against all of the deceptions of the devil. Many claim to be of God and claim to have spiritual revelations, but through truth we are able to discern what is of God and what error is.[25]

The Breastplate of Righteousness

The second piece of armor Paul mentions in Ephesians 6:14 is "the breastplate of righteousness." Why is the breastplate important—for both

ancient soldiers and us?

A lesson from ancient Israel provides an ironic example of just how important armor can be. Perhaps you recall the cowardly and capricious life of King Ahab, but how did this evil king's life come to an end? This selfish leader who allowed a man to be killed just so he could have his vineyard (1 Kings 21)? This king of Israel "who did evil in the sight of the Lord more than all who were before him" (1 Kings 16:30, New Revised Standard Version)?

God had prophesied that Ahab would die in the battle described in 1 Kings 22. So Ahab decided to disguise himself, while his ally King Jehoshaphat of Judah wore his own kingly robes.

Their enemy had ordered his captains, "'Fight with no one small or great, but only with the king of Israel.' When the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, they said, 'It is surely the king of Israel.' So they turned to fight against him; and Jehoshaphat cried out. When the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back from pursuing him.

"But a certain man drew his bow and unknowingly struck the king of Israel between the scale armor and the breastplate…at evening he died; the blood from the wound had flowed into the bottom of the chariot" (1 Kings 22:31). [26]

1 Kings 22:31-35
But the king of Syria commanded his thirty and two captains that had rule over his chariots, saying, Fight neither with small nor great, save only with the king of Israel. 32 And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, Surely it is the king of Israel. And they turned aside to fight against him: and Jehoshaphat cried out. 33 And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots perceived that it was not the king of Israel that they turned back from pursuing him. 34 And a certain man drew a

bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded. 35 And the battle increased that day: and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even: and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot.

Is it perhaps poetic justice that this unrighteous king lost his life due to an opening in his armor?[27]

We know the value of a breastplate as it shields the heart from the blows of the enemy; (Cf. I Cor.5:21).

In our standing before God, every believer is righteous, just as righteous as Jesus Himself; (we are his righteousness). (II Cor.5:21).

Paul regarded this a weapon as well as part of the Christian armor to protect him from attack.

(I Cor. 6:7) Paul speaks about the importance of the ‘ministers of God’ having on the ‘armour of righteousness’. This ‘armour of righteousness’ is no doubt the same as the armour mentioned in (Eph. 6) where the ‘breastplate of righteousness’ is specifically mentioned.

The Bible makes it clear that when we are dressed in this armour we are ‘able to stand against the wiles of the devil.’

Verse 13 goes on to say, “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God that ye might be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

In (II Cor. 6:6), he refers to the weapons of righteousness for “the right hand and for the left".

- We should be ambidextrous(able to use both hands equally) in our spiritual, warfare.
- Ready for anything.
- Weapons for enemies all round us.

Paul is defending himself from the misrepresentation of his Christian opponents in Corinth.
Ministry and life had been seriously criticized.

- Our ministry, if it is like Christ's and Paul's will meet with criticism.
- Persecution - "then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name." (Act 5: 41; Matt. 5:41; Matt. 24: 9 and Acts 4:16).

"For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.”

- The practical outgrowth of imputed righteousness.
- Gives protection against the subtle temptations of unrighteousness.
- So often, in the lives of those who are not living righteously, the devil seems to be able to find a hole in their armour and through that hole he seriously wounds them.
- But to those who know Christ’s imputed righteousness and are endeavoring to manifest His imparted righteousness there is a very high level of victory.
- In actual fact, constant victory is a possibility. Read (II Cor. 2:14 and I Cor. 15:57).

Pray the prayer of the righteousness

What power the prayer of the righteous has!
The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

The Crown of Righteousness

We can know that one day we will wear:

"Henceforth there is laid up for me (us) a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them that love his appearing," (II Tim. 4---8).

AND YOUR FEET SHOD

And having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace Ephesians 6: 15

A spiritual shoe; something to aid our movement. This piece of armour is to aid our movement and defense and not our appearance. [28]

Firstly we should have a clear understanding of the gospel of peace if we are to appreciate the material of which these shoes are made. By now the saint is dressed with a belt made of truth and a breastplate made of righteousness.

Shoes made from the preparation of the gospel of peace are our third piece of vital armour. The gospel of peace is good news (Luke 2:10). God forgives and then He gives. What could be greater? The gospel takes a hopeless being and fills him or her with an eternity of glory. Even the afflictions of this world are too thin a veil to darken the joy of the good news of Jesus.[29]

- with preparation of the Gospel of peace.
- The sandals of peace.

We must take a firm hold upon the gospel as shoes for our feet, and go forth to declare the power of His saving grace; (Eph. 2:14; Rom. 5:1.

We need to be certain that we have the right message, otherwise we will be wearing a shoe which does not fit and we will be rendered unfit; (Jn. 14:27).

Form of attack --- a self-indulgent and slothful life.

- Going along with "Better Home and Gardens Christianity".
- Some today are "at ease in Zion".
- Journeying to heaven in first-class comfort.
- Satan has seen to it that such Christians have laid down their arms.
- They are no longer concerned to attack.
- He has them bound.

- Invade enemy-held territory.
- Shod their feet with the Gospel and go out after those who are Satan's captives.

(Rom. 10:15, "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" (Isa. 52:7).

- Gives firm footed stability when facing the enemy.

THE PREPARATION vs. 14
That is that which prepares us.

"Lord Jesus, You are the Way and the Truth and the life. No one can come to the Father but by You. You are the new and living way which You inaugurated for me through the veil, which is Your flesh. Thou You I have access in one Spirit to the Father. You are the truth, and if You make me free, I shall be free indeed." See (Jn. 14:6; Heb. 10:20; Eph. 2:18: Jn. 8:32, 36).

GOSPEL OF PEACE vs. 14.
The good news characterized by peace of resulting in peace.
"The bread of Life. Lord Jesus, You are the bread of life. You are the bread of God which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the word. He who comes to You shall never hunger and he who believes in You are the One that I may eat of and not die," See (Jn. 6:48, 33, 35, 50).

Romans 8:37-39
37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that

loved us. [38] For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, [39] Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SHIELD OF FAITH

Faith holds a vital place in the Christian experience; Hebrews 11:6.

The battle fought by Roman soldiers required a shield, which prevented the enemy's arrows and swords from reaching their bodies. The shield literally deflected the weapons and saved soldiers from being wounded or killed in war. The shield of Faith used in the spiritual battle is also a defensive weapon that protects. This is made clear in Ephesians 6:16: "*Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."* [30]

This Scripture exposes the fact that the devil and his demons are throwing fiery darts at Christians every day. Without the shield held in front of each dart, one or more will penetrate the heart and soul of believers, leaving wounds and sometimes causing spiritual death. The enemy will stop at nothing to do what he does best, which is to damage lives. And every demon appears to have great aim, knowing exactly what to shoot a certain Christian's way, and when. This is proven in John 10:10 which says, "*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.*" Thankfully, the next verse says that Jesus came to bring abundant life![31]

The shield is not a physical piece of armor, rather a spiritual one held together by the measure of a Christian's faith. Without faith, there is no shield at all. A little faith and there is some level of protection. Those who have the gift of faith, or have gained faith through testing and practical application, will begin to quickly and easily ward off the darts sent their way.

When fiery darts hit, they hurt and they burn. [32]

The Lord Jesus is the object of faith and as we focus our attention upon Him

and upon His Word “faith cometh.”

Hebrews 11:1 [Full Chapter]
Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through **faith** we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

“Who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time,” (I Pet. 1:5).

- The shield here was the one the Roman legions carried into battle.
- It covered them from head to foot - but not their back.
- “There was no allowance made for deserters,” says Corrie Ten Boom.
- Shield, Large and oblong, protecting every part of the soldier
- The believer is to take up as affecting the whole of his activities.
- Consists of faith or firm persuasion
- A conviction based upon faith in God or Christ, or things spiritual.
- Offers a defense against the devious attacks of Satan.

The soul that clings to the promises of God with a firm faith is so united with them, altogether taken up into them.

Unbelief Form of attack

- Above all. Unbelief is the most formidable kind of attack, and the shield of faith is the most important part of the gospel armor.
- Paul calls it "the faith of the son of God,” (Gal. 2:20).
- We are holding up the faith Christ between ourselves and those fiery darts.
- Such faith is impenetrable armor.

Faith not only shares in all their power, but is saturated and made drunk with it.

"If a touch of Christ healed, how much more will this tender touch of the Spirit, this absorbing of the word, communicate to the soul all things that are the words." Martin Luther.

A group of people once asked Jesus how they could do the work of God, Jesus replied, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent" (Jn. 6:29).

God desires belief and faith from us, for "without faith it is impossible to please God," Hebrews 11:6.

But often our "faith" is nothing more than wishful thinking, "I hope everything works out all right. I have 'faith' that it will."

The Biblical concept of faith far surpasses this superficial approach.

FIERY DARTS OF THE WICKED. (Vs. 16).

Genesis 14:20

WICKED. Singular and masculine, hence the wicked one-Satan himself. [33] his exchange with Melchizedek, right before the Passover evening, occurred on the heels of Abram returning victorious from a fight against multiple kings and their armies. Protection and deliverance from enemies are conclusive themes in the biblical use of the title, “Most High.”
Christians should consider this in relation to their enemies. Ephesians 6:12 reminds us that our fight is not with the people arrayed against us, but with the principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this age, and spiritual hosts of wickedness. These are the enemies who sow division within the church, who encourage offense to be given and taken, who fan the rumor mill, who stir the pot of circumstances, who work in the background to distract God's people from what truly matters.

The fiery darts of the wicked one fly and find their marks on any whose armor is deficient. These principalities often try to convince God's people that they are not good enough, that they are not worthy. They hold up sins as evidence, trying to blackmail Christians into giving up.

The Most High, though, blesses us with protection, if we ask for it. He blesses us with forgiveness, if we ask for it. Is there any righteous work God will not perform or any good thing He will not provide for His people?

Another enemy is the one we all face within: the carnal man, the old man, the flesh. This part of us will probably never completely die until we are incorruptible spirit beings, but we can hold it at bay through God's strength. All of our human efforts and setting of our wills would be useless without the Most High giving the victory.

In Romans 7, after Paul bewails the continual struggle he finds within himself, he asks, “Who will deliver me from this body of death?” (verse 24).

He answers his own question: “I thank God—[He will deliver me] through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (verse 25). Once again, we see Christ, the Lamb, being provided as a blessing from the Most High as a means of deliverance. [34]

Fiery Darts: Slander, gossip, rejection, *etc*. . . .

- Satan the accuser.
- He is the father of lies, the one who will whisper to condemn, to bring built, to accuse.
- He will do what he can to stop us believing that God actually accepts us.
- Within us all, there is a need for recognition.
- In Jesus that is fulfilled.
- Yet it is easy to behave in a certain way to gain acceptance.
- It is not only children who misbehave to gain attention!
- Yet in Jesus we not get peace with God, but with ourselves.
- Many of us have learnt over the years to:
- Have sculptured faces.
- We do not reveal the real person
- Be conditioned by our environment and people.
- We have learnt to be what people expect.
- Act differently depending on who we are with.
- Hide our true feelings.
- Construct our image to impress others.
- Be unreal.

The full dress of a Roman soldier is indicated in this passage, and the various parts are applied spiritually.

- Don’t take these darts into your spirit.
- They will wound you and stop your faith.

“Unless the young man looks around for himself and uses his own powers of observation and proves the assertion to be the falsity that it is, he falls under the spell of the misguidance and succumbs to a life of drudgery.” Edward W. Bok

“Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other,” (Gal. 5:26).

“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ” (II Cor. 10:5).

HELMET OF SALVATION. Vs. 17

Isaiah 59:17, which seems obviously referred to, “He put” a **helmet of salvation** upon his head.” In 1Thessalonians 5:8 where the breastplate is “of faith and love,” the helmet supplies the third member of the triad of Christian graces in “*the hope* of salvation.” Here the metaphor is probably somewhat different. The helmet guarding the head, the most noble and vital part, is “salvation” in the concrete—all that is of the Saviour, all that makes up our “state of salvation” by His atonement and grace—received in earnest now, hoped for in perfection hereafter. [35]

Rendered Salvation

The word here (as in Luke 2:30; Luke 3:6; Acts 28:28) rendered “salvation,” is not the word commonly so rendered in the New Testament. It is, indeed, not “salvation” in the abstract, but a general expression for “that which tends to salvation.” [36]

It is that piece of equipment which protects the head and is most essential for the soldier.
Christ is our salvation and only as we cast ourselves upon Him in utter dependence for daily deliverance will we be clad with the helmet; (I Cor. 15:2).

Form of attack

- Calamity and accident.
- Soteria Gk. -Salvation physical and spiritual well-being.
- Satan will not stop at anything to destroy the work of God.
- He will make Christians ill.
- Again, the helmet which is salvation.
- Headgear, protecting the vital organs which have to do with the believer's thought life and spiritual senses.

“Lord Jesus, You came into the world not to condemn the world, but that it might be saved. There is no other name given under heaven among men whereby I might be saved. You alone are able to keep me from falling and to

make me stand in the Father's presence blameless with great joy; and so to You, the only God, Our Savior, be glory, majesty, dominion, power, before all time, now and forever. Amen" See (Jn. 3:17; Acts 4:12; Jude 24, 15).

SWORD OF THE SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD

Offensive weapons.

In this we pass to the one offensive weapon of the Christian, "the sword of the Spirit"—*i.e.*, given by the Holy Spirit—which, like the helmet, but unlike the rest of the defensive armour, does not become a part of himself, but is absolutely of God. The passage reminds us at once of Hebrews 4:12 : "The word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword." But there (as in 1Corinthians 14:26; 2Corinthians 2:17;Colossians 1:25; 2 Tim. 2:29) the original word is the larger and deeper word (*Logos*), signifying the truth of God in itself, and gradually leading up to the ultimate sense in which our Lord Himself is the "Word of God," revealing the Godhead to man. Accordingly the work of the Word there, is that of the "engrafted Word," "to divide asunder the soul and the spirit" within. Here, on the contrary, we have another expression (*Rhema*), signifying the Word as spoken; and St. Peter (in1Peter 1:25) defines it exactly: "The word of the Lord endureth for ever; and this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

We cannot, of course, limit it to Holy Scripture, though we naturally remember that our Lord used the Scriptures as His only weapon in the Temptation. It is the gospel of Christ, however and wherever spoken, able to put to shame and to fight the powers of evil. [37]

For Protection

The armor is for protection, but the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God is useful for both attack and defense.

- In (Heb. 4:12) the word of God is again likened to the Holy Spirit "whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things. . ." (Jn. 14:26).
- It is not the fine scabbard that counts, it the Word itself; (Jer. 23:29).
- It is the means of the Word that sin is put to rout; (Matt. 4:Lk. 4).

God's Word

Here rhema,"word" as utterance, is used.

Is a piercing sword.

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb. 4: 12).

Notice similar passage in (Heb. 4:12) Logos, word" as concept or idea is used.

The Scriptures are both rhema a logos.

- All parts of the armor mentioned up to this point are defensive.
- The Sword of the Spirit is the only offensive as well as defensive weapon.
- Personal knowledge thereof is used by the Holy Spirit both offensively and defensively. (Matt. 4: 1-11).

The Word of God proclaim in the power of the Holy Spirit for forcing into the open the enemy's power and revealing the presence of Satan's influence.

Wesley and others began to preach some strong people would begin to cry out, sometimes manifesting the symptoms of epilepsy.

- The enemy is sure to be exposed and overthrown.
- Not only an irritant also heals and strengthens.
- Disturb the comfortable and comfort the disturbed."
- Counseling oppressed by satanic power, we must apply the word of God not only in diagnosing the cause of the trouble, but also in prescribing the remedy.

PRAYING ALWAYS (Vs. 18)

Paul understood the importance of Prayer

“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity,” (I Tim. 2:1, 2).

- The panoply of God must always be worn in connection 'with believing prayer’.
- Panoplies means to possess a protective covering. It means a full suit of armor.
- Because it is so important to be clad with “the whole armour of God,” it would be well for us to study and use each individual piece of it.
- Prayer is the capstone of the believer's armor in that it is to be his uninterrupted activity.
- "Pray without ceasing," (I Thess. 5: 17).
- Paul prayed continually. (Rom. 1:9; Col. 1:3; 11 Thess. 1:11; 1I Tim 1:3).
- Continue in prayer and watch in the same with thanksgiving.
- Paul prayed with Thanksgiving. (Rom. 1:8, I Cor. 1:4-5, Eph. 1:15-16; Phil.1:1-3; Col. 1:3).

PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION

Prayer in General

The former word is used for prayer in general, the latter for petition.

- The same Spirit who wields the sword of the Word must also be active-in our praying.
-

"But, beloved, beloved building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost." (Jude 20).

And take the helmet of salvation ... Meaning either Christ himself, the Saviour. [38] and so the Arabic version renders it, "the helmet of the Saviour": or the salvation itself, which he is the author of, and a well-grounded hope of it; see 1 Thessalonians 5:8; the allusion is to Isaiah 59:17; and such an hope of salvation by Christ is a defense of the head against false doctrines; for the helmet is a piece of armour for the head; and it is an erecter of the head in times of difficulty, affliction, and distress; and it covers the head in the day of battle, when engaged with Satan, the enemy of souls: and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; the word of God is compared to a "sword", for its two edges, the law and Gospel; the one convicts of sin, and cuts to the heart for it, and the other cuts down all the goodliness of man; and the Scriptures in general are a sharp sword, in convincing of sin, reproving for it, and threatening with wrath and ruin, in refuting error and heresy, and repelling Satan's temptations, and will be used in the destruction of antichrist: and this word may be called "the sword of the Spirit", because it is not carnal, but of a spiritual nature; and is used by the spiritual man; and because the Holy Spirit, as the Ethiopic version here expresses it, is the author of it; and which he furnishes the saints with, and teaches them how to make use of, and makes it powerful and effectual. So the Jews say (t), the words of the law are like to a sword, and speak of "the sword of the law" (u).[39]

Strong Faith

- You cannot help someone else until you have strong faith-enough to defend your own self.

God encourages us

There seems to always be a guarantee in life that change will happen. Change is something we tend to fear and become anxious about because we do not feel in control of life. The good news is that God has a plan for your life to hope, future, and to prosper. If we trust in God and allow the change to grow us to become more like Jesus Christ in how we respond and act, then we are promised that all things will work together for good for those who love Him and keep His commandments! We hope this list of Bible verses and stories of change will give you peace and encouragement as you face the ups and downs in life. [40]

2 Peter 3:9
9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Deuteronomy 31:6
6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1
1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

Hebrews 6:19
19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,

Hebrews 13:8
8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Isaiah 43:19
19 See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

James 1:17
17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Jeremiah 29:11
11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Joshua 1:9

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

1 Corinthians 6:11
11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Malachi 3:6
6 "I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.

Numbers 23:19
19 God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

Psalm 18:2
2 The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Romans 12:1-2
1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Philippians 4:6-8
6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of

God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18
16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

- Lamentations 3:21-23

- 21 Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: 22 Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.[41]

Let us Pray

Father, I pray that You will protect me from the evil one. I pray that you will be a shield about me, behind, beneath and above. Help me to detect Satan's wiles, his deceitful ways and his suggestions. I confess my sins and receive Your forgiveness that I might be clean before You…may there be no evil crevice within my soul that gives Satan permission to tempt or harass me. Figuratively speaking, put a cloud of glory between me and Satan.

I pray for _____ that they might be protected from Satan's designs. Put distance between them and sin; place Your Spirit between them and the deceptions of the flesh. Protect them from pornography, from sexual temptations and lies that permeate our culture. Protect them from evil people, from those who would deceive, manipulate or even destroy. Deliver us from all evil, I pray. I trust Your Word to do as You have promised.[42]

In Jesus' name, Amen.

ABOUT PAT HOLLIDAY, PhD

Patricia Holliday, PhD, was called into the ministry in 1975 and has ministered worldwide. She received her PhD at Southeastern Theology Seminary, Jacksonville, Florida, 1993. She is the President of Miracle Outreach Ministry. She appears on many international television and radio shows.

Miracle Outreach Ministries is an international ministry. Miracles, signs and wonders, healing, and deliverance follow this ministry. Her latest evangelistic trips include Ghana West Africa, Italy and Jamaica where many miracles happened.

Among her many political activities, she ran for the Florida State House of

Representatives in 1972. She was elected State Committee Woman for her part and is a lobbyist in Tallahassee. She was a founding member and has officiated in many women's groups; Minute women of Florida; the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club; and the Four Foundation Inc., a home for non-delinquent girls in Duval County. She helped to organize two women's interdenominational fellowships. She has ministered worldwide in foreign lands. Dr. Holliday, is listed in Who's Who of the Woman of the World; Who's Who in America Politics; Dictionary of International Biography; Marquis Who's Who in the South and Southwest - Marquis Who's Who of American Women and Who's Who in American Religion Who's Who in America and Who's Who in the World.

Dr. Holliday is a member of the International Platform Committee as a noted lecturer. Recently she founded Miracle Outreach Ministries, a street church that feeds and clothes the poor. She is the author of the following books; Holliday for the King; Be Free; Born Anew; The Walking Dead; Signs Wonders & Reactions; The Solitary Satanist; Marriage Answers; New World Aftershock; New Age Humanism"; and Entertaining Angels of Light; Can Women Preach? ; Spiritual Warfare Armor; Spiritual Warfare Amour; Spiritual Warfare Weapons; Battling Territorial Spirits; Transference of Spirits; Transference of Spirits; Devils Believe and Tremble"; Experiencing Jesus; The Witch Doctor and the Man — Fourth Generation Witch Doctor Finds Christ! Dancing On the Edge of Hell; Experiencing Jesus; Deliverance Manual Vol. I & 2; Family Deliverance Manual; Steps to Fasting; Spirit of Idolatry; Is Halloween Pagan?; New Creation; From Curses to Blessing Vol. 1, 2 & 3; Angel Fire; New Age Messiah; Baptism of the Holy Spirit; Women Messengers of Jesus Christ; Gods of the Stars; Healing is for Today; How to Be Born Again; Living on the Edge of Hell. Can Witches be saved? And Born Anew.

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APPENDIX 1
Scripture on the Occult
WITCHCRAFT: Exodus 22:18; Deuteronomy 18:18; I Samuel 15:23; II Kings 9:22; II Chronicles 33:6; Micah 5:12; Nahum 3:4; Galatians 5:20
ASTROLOGY: Daniel 1:20; 2:2; 10:27; 5:57, 11, 15; Isaiah 47:13; Deuteronomy 4:19
CHARMING: Deuteronomy 18:11; Psalms 58:5; Isaiah 19:3; Jeremiah 8:17
DIVINATION: Numbers 22:7; 23:23; Deuteronomy 18:10; 14; Isaiah 15:23; 28:8; II Kings 17:17; Jeremiah 14:14; 27:9, 29:8, Ezekiel 12:24; 13:6, 7, 19, 23; 21:21-23; 29
ENCHANTMENTS: Deuteronomy 18:10; Exodus 7:11, 22; 8:7; Numbers 23:23; 24:1; Leviticus 19:26; II Kings 17:17; 21:6; II Chronicles 33:6; Ecclesiastes 10:11; Isaiah 47:9, 12; Jeremiah 27:9
MAGICIANS: Genesis 41:8, 24; Exodus 7:11; 22, 8:7, 19; 19:11; Daniel 1:20; 2:2, 10, 27; 4:7, 9; 5:11; Acts 19:19
NECROMANCY: Deuteronomy 18:11
OBSERVING TIMES: Leviticus 19:26; Deuteronomy 18:10, 14; II Kings 21:6; II Chronicles 33:6

PROGNOSTICATORS: Isaiah 47:13
SOOTHSAYING: Daniel 2:27; 4:7; 5:7; 11; Isaiah 2:6; Micah 5:12; Joshua 13:22; Acts 16:16
SORCERY: (Pharmakia) Exodus 7:11; Isaiah 47:9, 12; 57:3; Jeremiah 27:9, Daniel 2:2; Malachi 3:5; Acts 8:9;, 11; 13:6,8;
Revelation 9:21; 18:23; 21:8; 22:15;
WITCH or WIZARD: Leviticus 19:31; 20:6,27; Deuteronomy 18:11; I Samuel 28:3, 9; II Kings 21:6; 23:24; II Chronicles 33:6; Isaiah 8:19; 19:3

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[4] ibid

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[12] ibid

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