

WINTER RETREAT
AT
O'LENO STATE PARK



2024 GRACE BIBLE
CHURCH

Session 1 Songs

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Chorus

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

Verse 1

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Chorus

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

Verse 2

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Chorus

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

Verse 3

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Chorus

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name
I'll worship your holy name
I'll worship your holy name

By Faith

Verse 1

By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness
Who walk by faith and not by sight

Verse 2

By faith our fathers roamed the earth
With the pow'r of His promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand
A place where peace and justice reign

Chorus

We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight

Verse 3

By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave

Verse 4

By faith the church was called to go
In the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news
In ev'ry corner of the earth

Chorus

We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight

Verse 5

By faith the mountain shall be moved
And the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name

Chorus

We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight

Session 2

How Firm A Foundation

Verse 1

How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word
What more can He say than to you He hath said
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled

Verse 2

Fear not I am with thee O be not dismayed
For I am thy God I will still give thee aid
I'll strengthen thee help thee
And cause thee to stand
Upheld by My righteous omnipotent hand

Verse 3

When through the deep waters He calls thee to go
The rivers of grief shall not thee overflow
For He will be with thee in trouble to bless
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress

Verse 4

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not I will not desert to its foes
That soul though all hell should endeavor to shake
I'll never no never no never forsake
That soul though all hell should endeavor to shake
I'll never no never no never forsake

O Great God

Verse 1

O great God of highest heav'n
Occupy my lowly heart
Own it all and reign supreme

Conquer ev'ry rebel pow'r
Let no vice or sin remain
That resists Your holy war
You have loved and purchased me
Make me Yours forever more

Verse 2

I was blinded by my sin
Had no ears to hear Your voice
Did not know Your love within
Had no taste for heaven's joys
Then Your Spirit gave me life
Opened up Your word to me
Through the gospel of Your Son
Gave me endless hope and peace

Verse 3

Help me now to live a life
That's dependent on Your grace
Keep my heart and guard my soul
From the evils that I face
You are worthy to be praised
With my ev'ry thought and deed
O great God of highest heav'n
Glorify Your Name through me
You are worthy to be praised
With my ev'ry thought and deed
O great God of highest heav'n
Glorify Your Name through me

Session 3

Wonderful Merciful Savior

Verse 1

Wonderful merciful Savior
Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb
Could rescue the souls of men
Oh You rescue the souls of men

Chorus

You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore

You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh our hearts always hunger for
Verse 2

Counselor Comforter Keeper
Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts
Have hopelessly lost the way
Oh we hopelessly lost the way
Chorus

You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh our hearts always hunger for

Verse 3

Almighty infinite Father
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne
Oh we're falling before Your throne
Chorus

You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh our hearts always hunger for
You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh our hearts always hunger for

O Lord My Rock And My Redeemer

Verse 1

O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Greatest treasure of my longing soul
My God like You there is no other
True delight is found in You alone
Your grace a well too deep to fathom
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach
Your truth a fount of perfect wisdom

My highest good and my unending need

Verse 2

O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Strong defender of my weary heart
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver
And my shield against his hateful darts
My song when enemies surround me
My hope when tides of sorrow rise
My joy when trials are abounding
Your faithfulness my refuge in the night

Verse 3

O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Gracious Savior of my ruined life
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders
In my place You suffered bled and died
You rose the grave and death are conquered
You broke my bonds of sin and shame
You rose the grave and death are conquered
You broke my bonds of sin and shame
O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
May all my days bring glory to Your Name
May all my days bring glory to Your Name

Recognizing Our Spiritual Armor Session 1

Brandon Phillips

Recognizing Our Spiritual Armor / Christian Life; Church; Prayer / Ephesians 6:10–12
In Ephesians 6:10-12, Paul gives three critical preparations for demonic opposition to the church's mission. As you anticipate opposition, you are to prepare by:

- I. Placing your Confidence in the Right Source (6:10)
 - II. Putting your Trust in the Required Resources (6:11)
 - III. Pinpointing the Reality of the Enemy (6:12)
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Pre-sermon Comments

[Acts 2:13–15](#) (LSB) ¹³ But others, mocking, were saying, “They are full of new wine.” ¹⁴ But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: “Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. ¹⁵ “For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is the third hour of the day;

[Acts 4:3](#) (LSB) ³ And they laid hands on them and put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening.

[Acts 4:33](#) (LSB) ³³ And with great power the apostles were bearing witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

[Acts 5:4](#) (LSB) ⁴ “While it remained *unsold*, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your authority? Why is it that you laid this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

[Acts 20:30](#) (LSB) ³⁰ and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

[Philippians 4:2–3](#) (LSB) ² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to think the same way in the Lord. ³ Indeed, I ask you also, genuine companion, help these women who have contended together alongside of me in the gospel, with also

Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

[Acts 19:24–26](#) (LSB) ²⁴ For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing no little business to the craftsmen; ²⁵ these he gathered together with the workers of similar *trades*, and said, “Men, you know that our prosperity is from this business. ²⁶ “And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable crowd, saying that things made with hands are not gods.

- He loves churches that are dead and lifeless.
- He has no problem with a church with dead orthodoxy that has lost its love for Christ.
- He will be hands off a church that preaches an errant Gospel.
- He absolutely adores a church that tolerates sexual immorality.
- He will gladly leave to their own devices a church doing good works in their own strength.
- He will not bother too much with a lukewarm church.

1 Peter 5:8 NASB95

Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.

Ephesians 6:10–17 LSB

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the might of His strength. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers,

against the authorities, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,¹⁵ and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE.¹⁶ In addition to all, having taken up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one,¹⁷ also receive THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

Historical Context

Paul's History in Ephesus

First Arrival - Short Stay

[Acts 18:19-21](#) (LSB)¹⁹ And they arrived at Ephesus, and he left them there. Now he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.²⁰ When they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent,²¹ but taking leave of them and saying, "I will return to you again if God wills," he set sail from Ephesus.

Second Arrival - Flames of the Gospel

[Acts 19:1](#) (LSB)¹ Now it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper regions and came to Ephesus and found some disciples.

[Acts 19:3-5](#) (LSB)³ And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism."⁴ Then Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus."⁵ And when they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 19:7 NASB95

There were in all about twelve men.

The Gospel Spreads from Ephesus throughout Asia Minor

[Acts 19:8–9](#) (LSB) ⁸ And after he entered the synagogue, he continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading *them* about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But when some were becoming hardened and were not believing, speaking evil of the Way before the multitude, he left them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.

Spiritual Opposition Begins in Ephesus

[Acts 19:11–12](#) (LSB) ¹¹ And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, ¹² so that cloths or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.

[Acts 19:13–15](#) (LSB) ¹³ But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to invoke over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, “I implore you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.” ¹⁴ Now seven sons of one *named* Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. ¹⁵ And the evil spirit answered and said to them, “I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?”

I know well that when Christ is nearest, Satan also is busiest. - Robert Murray McCheyne

[Acts 19:16–17](#) (LSB) ¹⁶ And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them, subdued all of them, and utterly prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. ¹⁷ And this became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.

The Word of the Lord Prevails In Ephesus

[Acts 19:18–20](#) (LSB) ¹⁸ Also, many of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. ¹⁹ And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and were burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰ So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.

[Acts 19:21-22](#) (LSB) ²¹ Now after these things were finished, Paul purposed in the Spirit to go to Jerusalem after he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, saying, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.” ²² And having sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

More Spiritual Opposition

[Acts 19:23-28](#) (LSB) ²³ Now about that time there occurred no small disturbance concerning the Way. ²⁴ For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing no little business to the craftsmen; ²⁵ these he gathered together with the workers of similar *trades*, and said, “Men, you know that our prosperity is from this business. ²⁶ “And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable crowd, saying that things made with hands are not gods. ²⁷ “And not only is there danger that this trade of ours fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis be considered as worthless and that she, whom all of Asia and the world worship, is even about to be brought down from her majesty.” ²⁸ When they heard *this* and were filled with rage, they *began* crying out, saying, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

The first step on the way to victory is to recognize the enemy. - Corrie Ten Boom

Paul’s Final Departure from Ephesus

[Acts 20:26-31](#) (LSB) ²⁶ “Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all. ²⁷ “For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. ²⁸ “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ “I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ “Therefore be watchful, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

Paul's Imprisonment In Jerusalem

[Acts 21:12-14](#) (LSB) ¹² And when we had heard this, we as well as the local residents *began* begging him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³ Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, crying and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.” ¹⁴ And since he would not be persuaded, we fell silent, saying, “The will of the Lord be done!”

[Acts 21:29](#) (LSB) ²⁹ For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with him, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.

Paul Understood Spiritual Opposition

Philippians 1:12 NASB95

Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel,

[2 Timothy 4:14](#) (LSB) ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith showed me much harm; the Lord will award him according to his deeds.

Paul Understood that Vengeance Comes from the Lord

[Romans 12:19](#) (LSB) ¹⁹ never taking your own revenge, beloved—instead leave room for the wrath of *God*. For it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord.

Paul Understood that Spiritual Attacks Weaken Us

[2 Timothy 2:3](#) (LSB) ³ Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

[2 Timothy 3:10-12](#) (LSB) ¹⁰ But you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, ¹¹ persecutions, *and* sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, *and* at Lystra. What persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

I'm not afraid of the devil. The devil can handle me - he's got judo I never heard of. But he can't handle the One to whom I'm joined; he can't handle the One to whom I'm united - A. W. Tozer

Paul's Letter to Ephesus Review

[Ephesians 1](#) Review

[Ephesians 1:4](#) (LSB) ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love,

[Ephesians 1:18-21](#) (LSB) ¹⁸ so that you—the eyes of your heart having been enlightened—will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe according to the working of the might of His strength, ²⁰ which He worked in Christ, by raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

[Ephesians 2](#) Review

[Ephesians 2:1-2](#) (LSB) ¹ And you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience,

[Ephesians 2:7](#) (LSB) ⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

[Ephesians 3](#) Review

[Ephesians 3:10](#) (LSB) ¹⁰ so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*.

[Ephesians 4-6](#) Review

[Ephesians 4:1](#) (LSB) ¹ Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, exhort you to walk worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

Proposition and Outline

In [Ephesians 6:10-12](#), Paul gives three critical preparations for demonic opposition to the church's mission. As you anticipate opposition, you are to prepare by:

- I. Placing your Confidence in the Right Source (6:10)
- II. Putting your Trust in the Required Resources (6:11)
- III. Pinpointing the Reality of the Enemy (6:12)

You are to prepare by placing your confidence in the right source (6:10)

[Ephesians 6:10](#) (LSB) ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the might of His strength.

[Ephesians 1:19](#) (LSB) ¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe according to the working of the might of His strength,

You are to prepare by putting your trust in the requisite or right resources (6:11)

[Ephesians 6:11](#) (LSB) ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

[James 4:7](#) (LSB) ⁷ Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

[Ephesians 6:11](#) (NASB95)

Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

[1 John 3:8](#) (LSB) The one who does sin is of the devil, because the devil sins from the beginning. The Son of God was manifested for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

[John 8:44](#) (LSB) “You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

The devil is crafty in that he doesn't always attack through obvious head-on assaults but employs cunning and wily strategems designed to catch believers unawares - Lincoln/Hoehner

You are to prepare by pinpointing the reality of the enemy (6:12)

Ephesians 6:12 LSB

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Conclusion:

- I. Placing your Confidence in the Right Source (6:10)
- II. Putting your Trust in the Required Resources (6:11)
- III. Pinpointing the Reality of the Enemy (6:12)

Recognizing Our Spiritual Armor Session 2

Brandon Phillips

Recognizing Our Spiritual Armor / Christian Life; Church / Ephesians 6:12

In Eph 6:12, Paul expresses three sobering truths which help us pinpoint the reality of our enemy and the authenticity of our struggle against him:

1. Satan is Unquestionably Real
 2. Satan is Undoubtedly Restrained
 3. Satan is Undeniably Reprehensible
-

Why does the spiritual battle continue at Ephesus?

The location of Ephesus

[Revelation 2:1](#) (LSB) “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: **This** is what the One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says:

Ephesus: Defender of Gospel Truth

[Revelation 2:2–3](#) (LSB) ‘I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot bear with those who are evil, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them *to be* false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake, you also have not grown weary.

[Acts 20:29–31](#) (LSB) ²⁹ “I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ “Therefore be watchful, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

They were sensitive to the presence of evil. They hated evildoers as God hates evildoers. They recognized the damage that sin does to the fellowship and the testimony. They knew that a little leaven leavens the whole lump. ~ John MacArthur

In [Eph 6:12](#), Paul expresses three sobering truths which help us pinpoint the reality of our enemy and the authenticity of our struggle against him:

1. Satan is Unquestionably Real
2. Satan is Undoubtedly Restrained
3. Satan is Undeniably Reprehensible

Satan is Unquestionably Real!

[Ephesians 6:12](#) (LSB) ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Satan is a spiritual creature

[Ephesians 3:10](#) (LSB) ¹⁰ so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*.

He is a real creature

The bible speaks of him

Genesis 3:1 LSB

Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which Yahweh God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’”

[Revelation 12:9](#) (LSB) And 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.

[Revelation 20:2](#) (LSB) And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

[2 Corinthians 11:3](#) (LSB) But I fear that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be corrupted from the simplicity and purity of *devotion* to Christ.

[Job 1:6-7](#) (LSB) Now it was the day that the sons of God came to stand before Yahweh, and Satan also came among them.

And Yahweh said to Satan, “From where do you come?” Then Satan answered Yahweh and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.”

Jesus made references to him

[Matthew 4:1](#) (LSB) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

[Matthew 6:13](#) (LSB) ‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]’

[Mark 4:15](#) (LSB) “And these are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown: when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.

[John 8:44](#) (LSB) “You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

The Bible gives him several names

In the OT, he is referred to 14 times as Satan.

This word means adversary or opponent.

In the NT, he is referred by the same name 34 times

He is also referred to as the διαβολος or Devil 31 times

He is given other names in the NT such as:

The evil or wicked one (15x)

The dragon (11x)

Snake or Serpent (5x)

Accuser

Liar

Murderer

Enemy

Satan is Undoubtedly Restrained

[Ephesians 6:12](#) (LSB) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

He has been given a hierarchy to rule

[Revelation 12:9](#) (LSB) And 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.

He has been given a domain to rule

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

[1 John 1:5](#) (LSB) And this is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

[John 1:4-5](#) (LSB) In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

[John 1:4-5](#) (NET) *In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. And the light shines on in the darkness, but the darkness has not mastered it.*

He has been limited by God and has been undeniably restrained by God

[Job 1:8-12](#) (LSB) ⁸ Then Yahweh said to Satan, “Have you set your heart upon My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and

upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.”⁹ And Satan answered Yahweh and said, “Does Job fear God without cause?”¹⁰ “Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.¹¹ “But send forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face.”¹² Then Yahweh said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand, only do not send forth your hand toward him.” So Satan went out from the presence of Yahweh.

[Job 2:3-6](#) (LSB)³ And Yahweh said to Satan, “Have you set your heart upon My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity. So you incited Me against him to swallow him up in vain.”⁴ Satan answered Yahweh and said, “Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life.⁵ “However, send forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You in Your face.”⁶ So Yahweh said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand, only spare his life.”

[Job 42:1-6](#) (LSB)¹ Then Job answered Yahweh and said,² “I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.³ ‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too marvelous for me, which I did not know.⁴ ‘Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You make me know.’⁵ “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You;⁶ Therefore I reject *myself*, And I repent in dust and ashes.”

Satan knows his fate

[Genesis 3:15](#) (LSB)¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”

[Revelation 20:7-10](#) (NASB95)⁷ When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.⁹ And

they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

He cannot indwell the Christian

We find no place in scripture where the devil or demons indwell a believer.

God uses Satan for His purposes

[Genesis 50:20](#) (LSB) ²⁰ “As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to do *what has happened on this day*, to keep many people alive.

Satan is Undeniably Reprehensible

[Ephesians 6:12](#) (NASB95)

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Satan rules through lies and deception

[John 8:44](#) (LSB) ⁴⁴ “You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

The lies of the enemy

Lie #1 - I can't trust God's word?

[Genesis 3:1](#) (LSB) ¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which Yahweh God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’”

Lie # 2 - I can't know the truth?

[Genesis 3:5](#) (LSB) ⁵ “For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Lie #3 - I can impress God with my goodness!

[Genesis 4:4–5](#) (LSB) ⁴ Abel, on his part, also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And Yahweh had regard for Abel and for his offering; ⁵ but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry, and his countenance fell.

Lie #4 - I can never be loved by God!

[1 Timothy 1:15](#) (LSB) ¹⁵ It is a trustworthy saying and deserving full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost.

Lie #5 - I can be sinless!

[1 John 1:8](#) (LSB) ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

[Romans 3:23](#) (LSB) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Lie #6 - My suffering is weakness!

[2 Corinthians 13:4](#) (LSB) ⁴ For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God toward you.

Lie #7 - I deserve ease and comfort in my life!

[Philippians 1:29–30](#) (LSB) ²⁹ For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ having the same struggle which you saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.

[2 Corinthians 1:3–5](#) (LSB) ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For just as

the sufferings of Christ abound to us, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

Lie #8 - I don't need to pray!

John 17:12 LSB

¹² “While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

[Ephesians 6:18](#) (LSB) ¹⁸ praying at all times with all prayer and petition in the Spirit, and to this end, being on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

The enemy uses all his power to lead the Christian, and above all the minister, to neglect prayer. He knows that however admirable the sermon may be, however attractive the service, however faithful the pastoral visitation, none of these things can damage him or his kingdom if prayer is neglected - Andrew Murray

Lie #9 - Why do I not have what others have?

Exodus 20:17 NASB95

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Lie #10 - I am too busy to love and serve my neighbor or my church!

Lie #11 - I am who I am, everyone else is a hypocrite!

Lie #12 - I must look the part of a Christian!

Lie #13 - It's okay if I don't get along with certain folks in the church!

Lie # 14 - Grace gives me license to sin!

Lie # 15 - The Devil made me do it!

[Genesis 3:12–13](#) (LSB) ¹² And the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave to me from the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ Then Yahweh God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Soon the battle will be over. It will not be long now before the day will come when Satan will no longer trouble us. There will be no more domination, temptation, accusation, or confrontation. Our warfare will be over and our commander, Jesus Christ, will call us away from the battlefield to receive the victor's crown. - Thomas Watson

The reality of spiritual opposition!

[Ephesians 6:13](#) (LSB) ¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

[Ephesians 6:13](#) (LSB) ¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

[Ephesians 6:13](#) (ESV) ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

[Ephesians 6:13](#) (NET) ¹³ For this reason, take up the full armor of God so that you may be able to stand your ground on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand.

[Ephesians 6:13](#) (HCSB) ¹³ This is why you must take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.

[Ephesians 6:13](#) (NASB95)

Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

[Mark 8:34](#) (LSB) ³⁴ And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

[Ephesians 6:13](#) (LSB) ¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

[Joshua 1:5](#) (LSB) ⁵ “No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.

[James 4:7](#) (LSB) ⁷ Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

[1 Peter 5:9](#) (LSB) ⁹ But resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished among your brethren who are in the world.

[Joshua 1:7](#) (LSB) ⁷ “Only be strong and very courageous to be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn aside from it to the right or to the left, so that you may be prosperous wherever you go.

[1 Corinthians 16:13](#) (LSB) ¹³ Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

[Ephesians 6:13](#) (LSB) ¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

[Ephesians 5:16](#) (LSB) ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

The real testimony to the honor of Christ is given by those who stand, who resist. The real usefulness belongs to those who stand and who resist ~ John MacArthur

[Ephesians 6:13](#) (LSB) ¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

[Ephesians 6:10](#) (LSB) ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the might of His strength.

Quotes

Many have puzzled themselves about the origin of evil. I am content to observe that there is evil, and that there is a way to escape from it, and with this I begin and end. - John Newton

Recognizing Our Spiritual Armor Session 3

Brandon Phillips

Recognizing Our Spiritual Armor / Christian Life; Church; Prayer / Ephesians 6:13–14

In verse 13, Paul reiterates the urgency for the Christian to take up the full armor of God to be able to resist the evil of our day. In 6:13-17, Paul gives six critical pieces of armor for resisting. You must prepare by:

Girding yourself with the belt of truth (6:14a)

Putting on the breastplate of righteousness (6:14b)

Shodding your feet to share the Gospel of Peace (6:15)

Taking up the shield of faith (6:16)

Taking up the helmet of salvation (6:17a)

Taking up the sword of the Spirit (6:17b)

Sermon Text

[Ephesians 6:10–20](#) (LSB) ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the might of His strength. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, ¹⁵ and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE. ¹⁶ In addition to all, having taken up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one, ¹⁷ also receive THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times with all

prayer and petition in the Spirit, and to this end, being on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,¹⁹ as well as on my behalf, that words may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel—²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains—so that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Introduction

You must prepare by girding yourself with the belt of truth (6:14a)

[Ephesians 6:14](#) (LSB)¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

[Ephesians 6:14](#) (NASB95)

Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

[Ephesians 6:14](#) (LSB)¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

[Isaiah 11:5](#) (LSB)⁵ Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist.

It is not so much content as it is commitment. Attitude is the real issue here. We have a heart for the battle. We're not out there unprepared. We've got all the loose ends pulled together. We've put on the sash that holds our weapons and marks us as soldiers. We have a heart for battle. We've counted the cost. The true Christian loves the truth and is ready to fight for the truth. We will earnestly contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints. We'll go to battle for the truth, but we'll go to battle for our own spiritual protection. You will never win the spiritual battles that come day by day against your formidable enemy unless you are seriously committed to that victory. ~ John MacArthur

If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at the moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved to be steady... [It] is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point [of attack]. ~ Martin Luther

Christians who have not girded their loins with the truth are content with:

- Infrequent fellowship and worship with the church
- Indifference toward the great doctrines of Scripture
- A shallow understanding of God's word
- A shallow or nonexistent prayer life
- A superficial understanding of God's glory
- A general apathy toward sin
- An avoidance of service to God and His people

[Hebrews 12:1](#) (NASB95)

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Backward Christian soldiers, fleeing from the fight
With the Cross of Jesus nearly out of sight.
Christ our rightful master, stands against the foe
But forward into battle, we are loathe to go.
Like a mighty tortoise moves the Church of God
Brothers we are treading where we've always trod.
We are much divided, many bodies we
Having many doctrines, not much charity.
Crowns and thorns may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus hidden does remain.

Gates of Hell should never 'gainst the Church prevail
We have Christ's own promise, but think that it will fail.
Sit here then ye people, join our useless throng
Blend with ours your voices in a feeble song
Blessings, ease and comfort, ask from Christ the King
With our modern thinking, we don't do a thing.

You must prepare by putting on the breastplate of righteousness (6:14b)

[Ephesians 6:14](#) (LSB) ¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

The breastplate was not made from one solid piece of metal the way most of us imagine they were. Most of us, when we think of a breastplate, think of the armor that knights used in medieval England. We think of knights mounted on horses with their lances and broadswords and covered in armor from head to toe.

The soldiers had to be able to run 24 miles in 5 hours with their armor on. In contrast, there is no way a medieval, fully armored knight could probably even run five miles in five hours. This type of armor was better suited to the type of combat the Roman soldiers found themselves in when out on the field.

[Ephesians 6:14](#) (HCSB) ¹⁴ Stand, therefore, with truth like a belt around your waist, righteousness like armor on your chest,

[2 Corinthians 5:21](#) (LSB) ²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

[Genesis 15:6](#) (LSB) ⁶ Then he believed in Yahweh; and He counted it to him as righteousness.

[Romans 4:22](#) (LSB) ²² Therefore IT WAS ALSO COUNTED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

[Romans 3:21-23](#) (LSB) ²¹ But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

One day as I was passing into the field . . . this sentence fell upon my soul. Thy righteousness is in heaven. And methought, I saw with the eyes of my soul Jesus Christ at God's right hand; there, I say, was my righteousness; so that wherever I was, or whatever I was doing, God could not say of me, he wants [lacks] my righteousness, for that was just before [in front of] him. I also saw, moreover, that it was not my good frame of heart that made my righteousness better, nor yet my bad frame that made my righteousness worse, for my righteousness was Jesus Christ himself, "The same yesterday, today and, and forever" ([Hebrews 13:8](#)). Now did my chains fall off my legs indeed. I was loosed from my afflictions and irons; my temptations also fled away; so that from that time those dreadful scriptures of God left off to trouble me; now went I also home rejoicing for the grace and love of God ~ John Bunyan

When God counts somebody righteous on the basis of faith, it is not because He looks at them and sees that they are inherently righteous. Rather, they have been clothed by the imputation, or transfer, of the righteousness of Christ to that person by faith ~ RC Sproul

The first verse of the great hymn of the faith - Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness written by Count Zinzendorf and translated by John Wesley - proclaims -

Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
'Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed
With joy shall I lift up my head.

[Ephesians 5:7-11](#) (LSB) ⁷ Therefore do not be partakers with them, ⁸ for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of that light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and

truth),¹⁰ trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.¹¹ And do not participate in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead even expose them.

[2 Corinthians 7:1](#) (NASB95)¹ Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

You must shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace

[Ephesians 6:15](#) (LSB)¹⁵ and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE.

[Ephesians 6:15](#) (NASB95)¹⁵ and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

Four encouragements about the gospel which will carry you through the battles of the Christian life:

1st Encouragement - You should intimately know the Gospel.

[2 Peter 1:12](#) (LSB)¹² Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you *already know them*, and have been strengthened in the truth which is present with *you*.

2nd Encouragement - You should recall the Gospel when you encounter trials and suffering.

[Romans 8:28](#) (LSB)²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to *His* purpose.

[Romans 8:29](#) (LSB)²⁹ Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers;

[Romans 8:31-39](#) (LSB)³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us?³² He who indeed did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us

all things? ³³ Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; ³⁴ who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction, or turmoil, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE COUNTED AS SHEEP FOR *the* SLAUGHTER." ³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3rd Encouragement - You should remind yourself that the Gospel brought you peace with God and with man!

Paul calls it the Gospel of Pe.ace. shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE.

[Romans 8:5-8](#) (LSB) ⁵ For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, ⁷ because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God, for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh are not able to please God.

[Psalm 5:4-6](#) (LSB) ⁴ For You are not a God who delights in wickedness; Evil does not sojourn with You. ⁵ The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all workers of iniquity. ⁶ You destroy those who speak falsehood; Yahweh abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.

[Romans 3:15-18](#) (LSB) ¹⁵ "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, ¹⁶ DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS, ¹⁷ AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN." ¹⁸ "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."

[Romans 5:1](#) (LSB) ¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

[Colossians 2:13-14](#) (LSB) ¹³ And you being dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive with Him, having graciously forgiven us all our transgressions. ¹⁴ Having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us which was hostile to us, He also has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

[Ephesians 2:14-16](#) (LSB) ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups* one and broke down the dividing wall of the partition ¹⁵ by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, the Law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so that in Himself He might create the two into one new man, making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, having in Himself put to death the enmity.

4th Encouragement - As Christians, you should make it your aim that every aspect of your life reflects the Gospel.

[Philippians 1:27](#) (LSB) ²⁷ Only live your lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear about your circumstances, that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind contending together for the faith of the gospel,

Conclusion:

[1 Thessalonians 4:9-12](#) (LSB) ⁹ Now concerning love of the brothers, you have no need for *anyone* to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another, ¹⁰ for indeed you do practice it toward all the brothers who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to excel still more, ¹¹ and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you, ¹² so that you will walk properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.

Quotes

As an obedient believer, you are to stand firm in the strength of the Lord, to be sober in spirit, and to remain alert in order to resist the schemes of the devil. However, in all areas of your walk as a believer, you are incapable in your own

strength and insufficient in your own resources to overcome the wiles and temptations of Satan. Therefore, you must put on the full armor of God to be an overwhelming conqueror in your continuing spiritual battle. ~ John Broger

The soldier might attach his weapons, supporting a sword or a bow, some arrows. That sash would also have some identification marks on it, maybe indicating what battles he had fought, what battles he had won, whether or not he had been awarded a decoration of honor for his heroism ~ John MacArthur