

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

January 11, 2008

Dear Partners and Friends,

I have been pressed to write this to you now. Please pay attention.

The Crucial Importance of Protecting Yourself!

In the book of 2 Timothy chapter 1, verses 11-12 Paul points out that he was appointed a herald (a preacher of the gospel) and an apostle (God's messenger) and a teacher. He then says that is why he is suffering as he is.

Anyone who has truly accepted the gospel of the kingdom, who has recognized and accepted Jesus for who he is, who has been born again – born of water and the spirit, and who has then stepped out into this secular world to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom knows what Paul meant. If you are a believer and take action on your beliefs, you can expect to be attacked by the evil one.

Some of you know this only too well. Others may not yet have recognized this fact. And others who have not stepped out even though you are a believer may not recognize this truth because you are not being attacked – you are not yet perceived by the evil one as being a threat to him.

But these attacks are real. They come in the form of surprising physical attacks on your body. They also come in other ways, such as a sudden problem in your finances. Or perhaps an attack through a family member or friend – problems in relationships. Maybe an inexplicable work problem.

It has been an amazing thing to me to see the variety of such attacks. But of course, in Christ, we are the victors and we overcome all this. That is, we do if we know who we are in Jesus, what our authority in him is, and how to appropriate and act in this authority. Otherwise we will be fighting attacks all the time.

Earlier in our ministry when most of our focus was on healing services, a wise woman told me I needed to know how to protect myself. Otherwise, she said, if you're going to be in the healing ministry, you'll be sick all the time. That was excellent advice.

Some of you have heard me relay accounts of the variety of attacks we have faced. I'll include a few here just to make the point, and then we'll go on.

Imagine how many sick people Cathy and I come in contact with – in person whether at meetings or in one-on-one encounters, in hospitals or elsewhere. Based on all the normal wisdom of the world, we would be contracting all sorts of colds and flu and more serious life threatening diseases and such. But we pray before and after being in such settings to cast out all evil spirits we may encounter and to drive out all harmful germs, bacteria, viruses we might encounter. Even with this understanding, we sometimes forget. As soon as we remember we take action. Sometimes we remember a bit late and then we have to fight the attack, and we do, and we win.

Once we were preparing to go to another city to lead a seminar and a healing service in a church. Cathy suddenly became strangely ill. We took our usual healing steps based on all God has taught us, and she did not get better. She checked with doctors but they had no help to offer. Suddenly about a week before the meeting, we received guidance from God to pray the words, "Submit yourselves to God, resist the devil, and he will flee." Now we knew that verse from James, but evidently we had not applied it specifically. We immediately declared it, prayed it over Cathy and me. And she was well and the seminar and service went forward.

Another example: While we were preparing for an event and producing needed materials, an office printer just stopped working. Then, far worse, the main computer with the ministry records crashed and could not be restarted. Finally, the office telephone system crashed. Can you see what was happening? Another attack to attempt to stop an upcoming event. We prayed, took steps, persisted, and overcame, but not without a lot of difficulty and having eventually to get a new printer and replace that computer.

Another example – for months whenever I would minister in a program – whether solely on healing or on some other subject such as the kingdom of God or the return of Jesus – later that night or the next day I would have excruciating pain in my neck. It was as if someone were stabbing me with a knife. Cathy and I would pray healing, of course, and take action to drive out any evil spirit, any demons. The pain often would persist for a few hours. Then it would go away. Depending on the event and what had happened, sometimes it was more severe. Sometimes taking communion in addition to praying healing was the key to the pain leaving. I remember one time it just continued. It was debilitating. We took all the actions we knew to take. Then I asked Cathy to anoint me with oil and pray healing. She did and the pain left. Another time we began asking individuals in the prayer team to pray, just after we had taken communion and I had been anointed with oil, and the pain left.

Gradually we are getting better at protecting ourselves from these attacks. Let me tell you in no uncertain words – the bad guy, the devil, satan, the evil one does not like anyone stepping out and advancing the kingdom of God. Such action is a direct threat to him. That is what Paul meant by his suffering because of his actions. That suffering is very real.

And you, as you grow in faith and step out on God's promises, have to know how to protect yourself. If you don't step out in God's promises, you'll never receive all that could be yours as a child of God. But when you do, just be prepared.

So how does a believer protect himself?

Last year we recorded a CD called *Fighting Evil – Being a Christian Soldier*. It gives much information about using the tools God has given us to protect ourselves and also to go on the offensive against evil. I suggest you request this CD if you haven't.

This newsletter is too short to go into all these tools God has given us or to adequately discuss them, but here are some key ones:

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

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* **You must learn to recognize truth from falsehood**. Jesus came into the world to bear witness to the truth. Everyone that is of the truth hears his voice, he said. Many people can't hear and recognize truth because the god of this world, satan, has blinded the eyes of unbelievers (2 Co 4:4). The evil one keeps people ignorant. Hosea 4:6 makes the point that my people (God's people) are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Knowledge of what? Scriptures. The truth. Who they are as people of God.

How does a person recognize truth? Know the scriptures. If you do, you can compare things you hear with scripture. Remember, God is truth. Be guided by the Holy Spirit. Seek wise and godly counselors. Ask God for wisdom. Use the gifts of the spirit, such as discernment. And so much more.

* **Take all thoughts captive to make them obedient to Jesus** The various thoughts that come through your mind are not all yours. Often people receive weird thoughts that scare them. Maybe thoughts of lust, or danger or violence, or taking an action that would hurt them. These thoughts are not necessarily yours. Demons are out there speaking such thoughts into your ears, hoping you will believe and act on them. But standing on 2 Co 10:5 will overcome those thoughts. Don't entertain such thoughts that you know are not right.

* **Quote scripture when confronted with evil**. There is great power in God's word. And his word spoken into a situation brings results.

* **Put on the armor of God.**

Do this every morning before you get out of bed. It is described in Ephesians 6:11-18. The pieces of this armor, or clothes, are defensive and offensive weapons. And when you do have these on, stand, don't give ground to evil forces attacking you, whatever the attack.

- Put on the belt of truth – We've already talked about the importance of truth.
- Put on the breastplate of righteousness – 2 Co 5:21 makes the point that we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Make sure you are not giving any opening to the evil one – rid yourself of any unconfessed sin. There is no condemnation for anyone in Christ.
- Put the gospel of peace on your feet – Bring the peace of God into any place you go. Our feet touch the world more than any other part of our bodies. Carry peace into any room.
- Take up the shield of faith – All things are possible through faith. As Hebrews 11:6 says, without faith it is impossible to please God. Where there is faith, there is no fear. But this is faith in the truth, in God. You need to know the word, know the scriptures, know God, so you can exercise faith. Most of all, have faith in Jesus and what he did and does for us. Blind faith in nothing is just that – nothing.
- Put on the helmet of salvation – This helmet protects our minds. Salvation, going back to the original Greek in which the New Testament was written, means total wholeness – spiritual, physical, financial, total – deliverance from danger. Know who you are in

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Christ. The battlefield with the world is in the mind. Let your mind be continually renewed by the word of God.

- Take up the sword of the spirit – Up to now the armor has been of a defensive nature. But the sword of the spirit is offensive. It is the word of God. Read scriptures Hebrews 4:12, Isaiah 49:2, Isaiah 55:11.
- Pray in the spirit on all occasions. You will develop and have intimacy with God.
- Be alert at all times. Remember the enemy does not sleep.
- The key is to stand and not to give up.

* **Other steps** to take in protecting yourself include casting out demons as Jesus said believers can, taking back territory occupied by the evil one, letting your light shine in all situations, overcoming evil with good, not letting the sun go down on your anger, worshiping God regularly, fasting, focusing on the blood Jesus shed for you. All these deserve much discussion. But we are out of space for a newsletter.

A MORNING SUGGESTION: As a quick bold step to take every morning, consider this: Put on the armor even before getting out of bed. Ask God to have his mighty angels protect you throughout the day and night. Ask him to hold you and your car in the palm of his hand as you drive about in the day to protect you and others on the road with you. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and anyone you encounter during the day.

AND REMEMBER: As a believer who steps out in any way to advance the kingdom of God, you are putting yourself open to be attacked by the evil one. Of course, that stepping out is just what you want to do and should do as a believer, so you must know how to protect yourself.

May you continue to live in the blessings of God.

John

PS: If you haven't given us your email and would like to, please do so on the enclosed slip. That way you will be able to receive timely words and announcements of events.

[Please note: *All contributions to John Newlin Ministries, Inc. – whether money or material goods or stocks or bonds – are tax deductible. John Newlin Ministries, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation.*]

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