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John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ -

YOU MUST PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST ATTACKS FROM THE EVIL SPIRITUAL WORLD

Most of you know I have focused on this subject more than once in the past. It is a crucial one. Just recently in the news I was reminded again of how important it is and how little most people know about it. You probably saw the recent stories about how a young successful athlete who had had “mental” issues according to the press committed suicide. He had been fighting these problems for years and it appeared had overcome them. But obviously not. I am reminded of the famous minister and writer Derek Prince who once said that he had never seen a suicide that was not caused by a demon. Makes sense, doesn't it? People normally don't want to do away with themselves! If they have problems they just want to get better.

These are the very last days before Jesus comes to collect his believers. More than ever evil spirits, demons, are attacking Christians and other people in all sorts of ways. The most obvious is bringing temptations that many just don't know how to refute. These evil spirits bring thoughts that unsuspecting people think are their own thoughts. So they continue to think about these thoughts from the dark side. And maybe at some point to act on them.

We all have had such mysterious thoughts that suddenly come, such as the urge to drive off a cliff instead of staying on the road. You know that is not what you want. That is not your thought. But where did it come from? 2 Corinthians 10:5 is a great piece of scripture to deal with these thoughts. Basically, it advises us to take all thoughts captive to make them obedient to Christ. Sound advice.

At the beginning of Chapter 6 in Ephesians Paul writes about how our battle here on earth is not really against flesh and blood, against physical beings. No, it is against evil spirits that he defines in some detail. And then he goes on to describe the armor God has for us that enables us to protect ourselves and to fight against this evil. I have written in the past what I think are really good summaries of this armor, what it means, and how to use it. I refer you to these specific newsletters you can find in the archive section of the newsletters on our website:

April 2020 – GOD'S PROTECTION FOR YOU IN DANGEROUS TIMES

March 2018 – JUST WHAT DOES PUTTING ON THE ARMOR REALLY MEAN AND HOW
DO I USE IT

I recommend you read and spend time reflecting on both of these, as well as of course Ephesians 6:10-18. Both of these newsletters take you through the armor in detail. If you would like a paper copy just let us know.

There is one other thought regarding protection against evil spirits. Not only do you want to protect yourself and to be able to fight against these evil spirits, you also want to be able to order such spirits away. You want to cast them out!!! The Lord Jesus has given us that ability. At the end of the book of Mark in the Great Commission speech, he says that those who believe will cast out demons. Over in John 14:12-14 he says that believers can do the same things he did, and casting out demons is one of the things he did.

When Jesus was on earth, what was the single action that most amazed those around him? Was it healing? Well, they were surely amazed at the healings, especially such as restoring sight to a blind man. But a few prophets in previous years had indeed healed and even brought people to life people. So what was the single action that most amazed?

CASTING OUT DEMONS! No one had ever done that before. Remember the remark by someone watching that even the spirits submit to him? His believers can do that too. Just a word of advice. Ideally for support you should

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have another solid true believer with you, maybe two, when taking such a step. Evil spirits can tell who is a true believer in Jesus and who is not, who is sincere in casting them out and who is not.

Hopefully you may not have to engage in any of this, but indeed you may. Someone years ago advised me not to go looking for evil spirits, but that if I did encounter them I would have to deal with them. And that is how it has been. The ordering out part is fairly simple in the words spoken – “In Jesus name, I order all evil spirits to get away from (name person) and from all of us here.” But the fact is it may take time to do this. My experience is the evil spirits are not necessarily quick to move. They want to test you, to see who you are. Eventually though if you are firm and strong in your faith, they have to leave. They cannot stand against Jesus. And they will leave.

Because using God’s protection for us is such an important subject in this difficult time, below I am including some highlights from a past newsletter about putting on the armor:

In the time of Paul, the Roman army was everywhere in the known world, and very visible in Israel and Jerusalem. Soldiers truly wore armor and carried a shield and sword to protect themselves against the weapons of that day and to be ready to fight if necessary. So Paul chose something everyone knew about then to describe what in reality are great truths of God, gifts if you want to describe them that way. This is the passage:

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. – Ephesians 6:10-18 NIV

Let’s take this in the order Paul presented it and seek to understand it fully.

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power

This is pretty clear. Realize deep inside you, deep in your heart who the Lord is and the incredible power he has. Really, this is required to know and receive anything from the Lord. You have to truly know him.

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Note that Paul says we should put the armor on so we can take our stand against the schemes of the devil, the leader of evil and our primary opponent in these last days. And he notes that our battle in these times is not against physical people, really not against flesh and blood, but against all the spiritual forces of darkness. These terms he uses are levels of authority in the devil’s kingdom of darkness. Remember once how the angel in Daniel 10:13 said he was delayed in coming to Daniel by having to fight the prince of Persia (an evil angel, one of the devil’s forces)? Remember also how elsewhere Jesus himself tells us to love our enemies? So difficult as it seems we have to remember that highly evil people coming against us really are just people under the control of evil forces. That is of course not to say you are not to protect yourself against such people. But you surely in Jesus’ name can order away all evil spirits at such a time.

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

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In this verse Paul warns us to put on all the armor of God so we will be ready in that moment when we truly confront evil.

14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist,

Finally the first tool – truth. God is all about truth. Jesus is truth. Remember how John said grace and truth came into the world through Jesus Christ. You get nowhere with God unless you understand and live in truth. The great gift of the Holy Spirit – discernment – is of extraordinary importance in your recognizing the truth in any situation or encounter.

with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

The breastplate covers the chest, the area of the vital organs. Paul wants us to cover our vital organs, our very lives, with righteousness, to be in the right relationship with God. You can't expect to receive anything from God if you are not in the right relationship with him, if you do not know Jesus, if you have not repented and asked for and received the Lord's forgiveness for your sins. You must know Jesus. And in these last days you must be in the right relationship.

15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Wherever you go, wherever you walk, you as a true believer and follower of the Lord Jesus Christ take him with you. Your feet walk the peace of God into any room, any group. Even without saying a word, when you as a born again, spirit filled believer walk into a place, you have changed the entire spiritual atmosphere of the place. If the Lord was not there before you entered, he is now. And the unseen evil spiritual forces around are now all in a roused and confused and no doubt frightened state. If you speak or act, you as a believer should seek to do so in line with the Lord, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one

The shield was carried for obvious protection against blows of the enemy, whether from a sword or a flying arrow. Paul makes the point that you can use the shield to extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one. Those flaming arrows are all the challenges, the false tempting words, the attacks whatever the form that the enemy hurls against you. Your faith in God is strong and you know no one has more power or authority or is higher than God. You can do all things through him who strengthens you. All things are possible with God. The enemy has no chance against you and God. This is all about the importance and maintenance of absolute faith in God, no matter what the circumstances appear like. Jesus stressed faith throughout his time of ministry. Your faith has made you well – remember that phrase?

17 Take the helmet of salvation

We all hopefully know the importance of salvation – the receiving in our very body and soul what the Lord did for us. In a quick phrase, he took our place on the cross. He died for our sins, and by his overcoming that and overcoming death in his resurrection he earned for each of us eternal life with him and the Father. If we just realize that and accept him as our Lord. Salvation. Here Paul wants us to wear the helmet of salvation. To be aware of it always. A helmet protects the head, the physical seat of the brain, the organ that physically controls the body. Salvation is your key to eternity. Your brain has to realize what that is and operate in the fullness of that. We must be born again, we must know the Lord, have him as our Lord, recognize God did truly raise him from the dead. In a phrase, we must be saved.

and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

The sword of the Spirit is the word of God. This is the one offensive weapon in this tool kit. Everything else is defensive. Quickened scripture, a verse the Holy Spirit brings to your mind, is full of power and authority when spoken into a situation or a moment. Hopefully all of you have experienced this. Quote the appropriate verse, even if you don't

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get it perfectly right. All these Bible translators haven't agreed on the precise translations of the specific verses! Just speak it out. The message. The truth. And with it comes the power of God. The word of God is the sword of the Spirit.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests

Pray in touch with the Spirit. Get in touch with God. This is praying in tongues to be sure, that great gift of the Spirit, praying in that special language that God has given you. This is a way to get the message to God, to pray your heart, even when you don't know how to put it all into words. Elsewhere in the Bible Paul describes how the Holy Spirit prays with our own spirit to get this prayer out. Now surely you can be in touch with the Spirit and pray using your English language or other earthly language too. The key is being in touch with God, putting yourself in a position to hear from God and being guided by God.

With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Lastly be alert, be aware of where you are and what is happening around you and in your world, spiritually and physically. You don't want to fail because you just were not alert. This is the same advice Jesus gives in Luke 21:36 about how you should be alert in these last days so you can escape all that is coming on the earth and may be able to stand before the Son of Man, Jesus. And while you are alert keep praying for all the Lord's people. Specifically, pray for those you know and specific needs they have. And pray generally for all the believers, all those around you. Pray as you are guided by the Holy Spirit.

GREAT RESOURCES FOR LEARNING MORE ABOUT GOD'S TOOLS FOR PROTECTING YOURSELF

- Ephesians 6:10-18 in the Bible
- These past newsletters which you can find on our website in the newsletter archives:
 - April 2020 – GOD'S PROTECTION FOR YOU IN DANGEROUS TIMES
 - March 2018 – JUST WHAT DOES PUTTING ON THE ARMOR REALLY MEAN AND HOW DO I USE IT
- Our FIGHTING EVIL television programs (videos) on our website and YOUTUBE (John Newlin Ministries - @DareToBelieveTV).
- Our FIGHTING EVIL – BEING A CHRISTIAN SOLDIER CD which we will send to you for free if you request directly from the ministry now by calling or writing (email or letter)
- Writings on our blog – go to the blog at the address at the bottom of this page (or click on John's blog in the menu column on our website) and just search for fighting evil or protecting yourself or putting on God's armor. You can pick a language other than English to read these. Just use the drop down bar on the blog.

Remember, the only thing that really matters is Jesus and your relationship with him.

May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

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