

Grace Chapel



FOUNDATION BIBLE COURSE - WEEK 10

Prayer - Intercession and Spiritual warfare

Wednesday 6th December 2006

- **'Spiritual warfare'** is the struggle to have life in this material world reflect as much as possible God's loving governance. It is a 'war' because there are forces working vigorously to thwart God's work.

- And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. and remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)
- As believers we are expected to not just bring people to Christ but also to disciple them. Often this can bring up a lot of issues and opposition that we might not have anticipated.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
- Eph. 6:10-12

•Paul goes on to tell what the armour of God is:

- Belt of Truth
 - Breastplate of righteousness
 - Shoes of the gospel of peace
 - Shield of faith
 - Helmet of salvation
 - Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God
- praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints**

Belt of Truth

- Jesus says that He is the Truth (John 14:6)
- The waist supports the body
- The Truth of Jesus Christ supports our existence as Christians. Support yourself in the knowledge of Christ's love for you and what He did at calvary.

Breastplate of righteousness

- Righteousness means: When justice is rooted in the person and ways of God, then God's ways of love are esteemed and carried out on earth.
- We need to live and breath God's way in our lives. His Word must surround our bodies protecting our vital organs.

Shoes of Peace

- We are told to GO and preach the gospel. The message of peace. We need to be vocal with our message (guided by God's wisdom!)
- Evangelism is for ALL believers not just the select few

Shield of faith

- The devil will always shoot arrows of discouragement.
- We defend by proclaiming what God has already done for us, praising Him for his goodness. This increases our faith helping us to withstand his onslaught. It goes hand in hand with the sword which we use to attack.

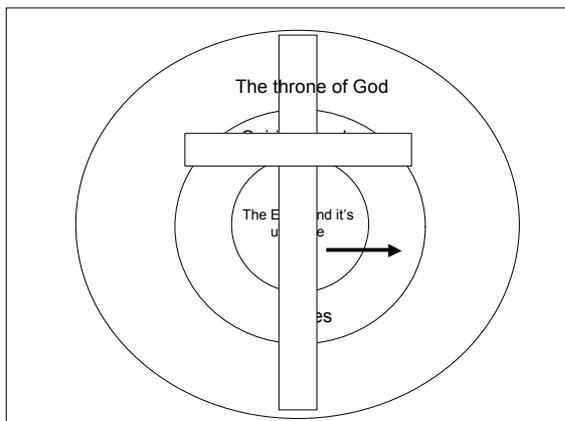
Helmet of salvation

- Our minds are a battlefield. When there are no obvious problems around, the devil will attack our emotions and thoughts.
- 2 Corinthians 10:4-6 Bring every thought captive
- Romans 12:2 Renew your minds
- We can renew our minds by reminding ourselves of Christ's work on the cross that brought us to salvation. We know why we made the decision to follow Him and we have no desire to go back there.

Sword of the Word of God

- The Word needs to be spoken as well as just read.
- Faith comes by hearing (Romans 10:17) by declaring the Word we hear it and believe it. The devil also trembles at it!
- We know God's promises are true so we fight with what it says.

- So we prepare ourselves every day because our battle is ongoing.
- We may become more aware of it at particular times such as when we or those close to us are suffering.
- The last part of Paul's entreaty tells us that we fight alongside our brethren in praying in the Spirit.
- Every part of our armour must be put on when we come to pray in earnest over certain issues - Remember you are affecting the heavens!



- We have direct access to God in heaven. We pray in the Spirit through Jesus to the Father.
- He hears us when we pray and battles occur in heaven. (Daniel 10)
- Events occur in heaven before the affects are seen on Earth. Our prayers help with the fight.
- Jesus tells us to pray that God's will be on Earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10)
- Even the secular world understands that what happens in the heavens are only seen on Earth many years later.

REMEMBER....

**What you pray TODAY affects
what happens TOMORROW**
