

Feb 22, 2015



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
No evil can penetrate the armor of God

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
Lord, we know that our enemy seeks to devour us. Please protect us from him. We believe Your Word that He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil
(Eph 6:11 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Nov 17, 2014)

Series: THE SPIRIT COMES

UNIT: The Pledge of God's Presence

NEXT WEEK

The Lamb of God
(John 1:20.34)

Clothed and Ready Eph 6:10-20

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson teaches how we as Christians should always be **Clothed and Ready** using the Full Armor of God daily. The **study's aim** is to sense the spiritual warfare we face and the need to be prepared for it. The **study's application** is to daily put on the spiritual armor that will enable us to stand against Satan.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

Military leaders as well as political and business strategists around the world have been influenced by the teachings of an ancient Chinese general named Sun Tzu. His classic work *The Art of War* offers timeless pearls of wisdom for victory on the battlefield. Deceptively simple in his approach, Sun Tzu consistently emphasizes three principles critical to success: knowing yourself, knowing your enemy, and being prepared for every circumstance, particularly so that you can leverage your strengths against your opponent's weaknesses. The nature of spiritual warfare requires principles specifically tailored for it, and this is where the apostle Paul provides inspired help. To him, at least three principles are essential to success in our spiritual battles: awareness of the situation, advance preparation, and mutual support during the conflict. Unlike Sun Tzu's principles, each of these has both a physical and spiritual side as we fight our battles on the spiritual plane. Through good stewardship of our spiritual resources, we will win!

Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians when he was especially conscious of the stakes in the battle between good and evil. Having planted churches across the Roman world over the course of more than two decades, the apostle had been arrested in Jerusalem during a riot (Acts 21:26-35). A corrupt governor refused to resolve his case (24:27), so after sitting in jail for two years Paul appealed to Caesar. This appeal resulted in a trip to Rome to stand trial (25:1-12). Paul then spent two years under house arrest in Rome, waiting for a hearing before the emperor (Acts 28:30). During this time (about AD 61-63) Paul wrote letters to his churches in cities back east, including the one in Ephesus. Doubtless the circumstances of his arrest and the daily frustrations of his imprisonment led Paul to greater awareness of Satan's schemes and the preparation necessary for defeating them.

We must not forget that Satan and his hosts seek to attack us every day. What are some ways they do that? We need to be prepared to stand against these attacks by putting on all the pieces of the Christian armor. Let us think through each piece of the armor.

- **Truth** - In what ways do you need to increase the presence of truth in your life?
- **Righteousness** - How can you give righteousness a greater role in your life?
- **Peace** - What steps can you take to increase the level of peace in your life?
- **Faith** - Do you need to have greater confidence in the Lord to help you stand?
- **Salvation** - Are you resting in the Lord's eternal and temporal deliverance from Satan?
- **Scripture** - Do you need to increase your intake of Scripture so that you can stand more securely?

Being prepared to stand against the wiles of the devil requires us to limit our personal pleasures and give our attention to important spiritual matters.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

CLOTHED AND READY WITH POWER FOR THE STRUGGLE (6:10-12)

Strength of God (10)

All things can be done through the strength of Jesus (Philippians 4:13)

God said that it is only by His power (Zech 4:6)

In our weakness God is the strongest (2 Cor 12:10)

God is greater than anything in the world (1 John 4:4)

By being steadfast in the Lord (1 Cor 15:58)

Armor of God (11)

By being clothed with Jesus (Rom 13:12, 14)

By being defended by divine power (2 Cor 10:4)

Because God fights our battles (Deut 20:3-4)

Because God is our fortress and stronghold (Ps 144:1-2)

Recognition of the enemy (12)

By looking for the prowling lion (1 Peter 5:8)

By being watchful (Luke 21:36)

By being on guard and firm in the faith (1 Cor 16:13)

By testing the spirits (1 John 4:1)

By watching and praying (Matt 26:41)

CLOTHED AND READY WITH PROVISIONS FOR THE STRUGGLE (6:13-20)

Truth (14)

Truth sets us free (John 8:32)

Jesus is the truth (John 14:6)

The Holy Spirit guides us into the truth (John 16:13)

Righteousness (14)

If we earnestly seek righteousness, we will be blessed with the filling of it (Matt 5:6)

We must seek righteousness first (Matt 6:33)

Righteousness from God is lived by faith (Rom 1:17)

Jesus alone brought righteousness to all men (Rom 5:18)

We must offer our body as an instrument of righteousness (Rom 6:13)

We must pursue righteousness (1 Tim 6:11)

Gospel (15)

The gospel instructs us in the way to please God (Rom 14:17-18)

The gospel is all about the reconciliation of man (Eph 2:15-17)

The gospel should bring about belief and obedience (Rom 16:25-26)

By the gospel we are saved (1 Cor 15:2)

Service proves our confession of the gospel (2 Cor 9:13)

We must conduct ourselves worthy of the gospel (Phil 1:27)

The gospel holds hope (Col 1:23)

Faith (16)

Faith says we trust God to the point that we are never afraid of what man can do to us (Ps 56:3-4)

It is by faith that we can stand firm (2 Cor 1:24)

We must realize that through faith inwardly we are being renewed daily regardless of what's happening outwardly (2 Cor 4:16-18)

Faith allows the overcoming of the world (1 John 5:4-5)

Salvation (17)

Salvation provides endurance through dying to sin (2 Tim 2:10-11)

Because we are saved, we have ministering angels to help us through the struggle (Heb 1:14)

God distributed His great salvation according to His will and we must never ignore it (Heb 2:2-4)

Salvation is made perfect through struggles and suffering (Heb 2:10-11)

Salvation is the goal of our faith (1 Peter 1:9)

God's Word (17)

We live by what's in God's Word (Matt 4:4)

Have the knowledge and acceptance that the Scriptures are the actual Word of God (1 Thess 2:13)

Everything is consecrated by the Word of God (1 Tim 4:4-5)

We are born again through God's Word (1 Peter 1:23)

God's Word must and does live in us (1 John 2:14)

God's Word cleanses us (Eph 5:26)

Prayer in the Spirit and for the Saints (18)

Through prayer, God delivers (Phil 1:19)

Through prayers for others, many will give thanks to God (2 Cor 1:11)