

**Monday 10/6****Related Verses****Eph. 4:7-8**

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

8 Therefore the Scripture says, "Having ascended to the height, He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men."

**1 Cor. 12:14, 18, 20**

14 For the body is not one member but many.

18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, even as He willed.

20 But now the members are many, but the body one.

**Rom. 12:4-5**

4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,

5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

**2 Cor. 2:14**

14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in the Christ and manifests the savor of the knowledge of Him through us in every place.

**Related Reading**

In Ephesians 4:7-16 Christ is presented to us as the Giver of gifts. In order for Christ to be constituted the Giver of gifts, He had to fill all things by passing through the highest and lowest places in the universe. In His incarnation and death, Christ descended from the highest place in the universe, heaven, to the lowest place in the universe, Hades; in His resurrection and ascension, He ascended from Hades to heaven. Through His descending and ascending, Christ became the One who fills all things...Christ passed through incarnation and crucifixion and entered into resurrection and ascension to conquer all the negative things in the universe such as sin and death. In particular, through His death Christ conquered God's enemy Satan, destroyed his power of darkness, and captured from Satan's hand God's chosen people, those who had been taken captive by Satan in his kingdom. Through His resurrection Christ imparted Himself into them as life, and in ascension He led these captives in His train of vanquished foes, His train of the triumphal

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procession. By His universal traffic, His victory over His enemy, and His triumphal procession He became qualified to be the Giver of gifts to His Body. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, p. 3411)

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Originally these captives were all God's chosen people. Yet through the fall they became the captives of God's enemy, Satan. Through His descending and ascending, however, Christ defeated Satan and recaptured these captives of Satan, enlivened them with His resurrection life, and made them His captives in His triumphal procession, a procession celebrating His victory. Christ then gave them as gifts to the Body for its building up; these gifts include apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherds and teachers.

When Christ ascended up on high, to the third heaven, that was not the end of His traveling. After He ascended, He descended into our spirit...Today Christ is still traveling; that is, He is still ascending and descending. However, now His traveling takes place mainly within us...When we are down, Christ comes down to where we are and brings us up to God. Many times during the course of a day we may be brought by Christ into the heavens. From our experience we can testify that within us Christ descends and ascends; He goes up and down. Although He is always steady, He does not stand still. On the contrary, He does a great deal of traveling within us. It is difficult to say where Christ is. Is He in heaven or on earth?...Actually, Christ is everywhere...He descended and ascended in order to fill all things [Eph. 4:9-10]...Through His descending and ascending, Christ will fill us with Himself.

Many believers have very little function in the church because they have not yet been constituted as gifts...But as Christ descends and ascends within them, He captures them, vanquishes them, and constitutes them into gifts to His Body.

Verse 8 reveals an important principle that it was only after Christ on the cross had defeated and captured God's chosen people that Christ led them to the heavens as His captives in His train of vanquished foes and made them gifts to His Body...Because Christ on the cross defeated all His enemies, He is victorious in the universe and has gained the ground to fill all things in the

universe. But He may not be victorious in us and may not have ground in us, because we have not been subdued by Him in our experience. In order for us to function as a gift to the Body, we must be conquered and subdued by Christ...When we are willing to be subdued and captured by Christ, we will give Christ the ground to establish us as gifts to His Body. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 3411-3414, 3416-3417)

Further Reading: *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 340

**Tuesday 10/7****Related Verses****Eph. 4:11-12, 13**

11 And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers,

12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,  
13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

**1 Tim. 4:11-12**

11 Charge and teach these things.

12 Let no one despise your youth, but be a pattern to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

**Matt. 16:18**

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

**Eph. 4:15-16**

15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,

16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

**Matt. 24:45**

45 Who then is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has set over his household to give them food at the proper time?

**Related Reading**

Every saint, great and small, is a gift to the church. Every member of the Body is a gift to the Body...We should never consider ourselves as too small to be a profitable gift to the Body. The practice of Christianity with one man speaking and the others listening spoils the gifts and kills the functions of the saints. Some Christians in the denominations do not even know how to pray because their function has been annulled by the clergy-laity system...According to the biblical revelation, however, all the believers should be living, functioning members of the Body of Christ. (*CWWL*, 1989, vol. 4, "The Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ to Be the Organism of the Processed and Dispensing Triune God," pp. 297-298)

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Christ has made us [New Testament priests] by His descension and ascension. He, as the Head of the Body, gave us as gifts to the Body. If someone were to ask us if we are gifts, each of us should declare, "Amen! Hallelujah! I'm a gift!"

The intrinsic building up of the church is by the Head-given gifts—the apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherds and teachers—perfecting the saints (Eph. 4:11-12). These are particular gifts such as Paul, Peter, Martin Luther, John Nelson Darby, and so forth. These Head-given gifts perfect the saints in the local churches (1 Cor. 12:28; Acts 13:1). When they are perfecting in the meetings, they are watering the members of the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 3:6b).

The perfecting of the saints by the gifts is unto the work of the ministry—the building up of the organic Body of Christ (Eph. 4:12). This perfecting should go on and on until all the members of Christ arrive at three things: at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, and at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (v. 13).

Ephesians 4 reveals that the Head, Christ, builds up the church by making the saints gifts, and by giving these gifts to the church for the building up of the Body of Christ. This shows that the Head does not build up the church directly. Furthermore, the gifted persons, who are

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used by the Head to perfect others, do not build up the church directly either. They perfect the saints, and the saints do the direct building work. Many of us in the Lord's recovery who have been under the watering, the perfecting, for a number of years have been enabled to build up the church in our locality directly.

In Ephesians 4:14 Paul expresses his desire that the saints would be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching. If we remain as little children, we cannot bear any responsibility. We can only burden others.

Rather than being little children, we must be those holding to truth in love to grow up into the Head, Christ, in all things (v. 15). Holding to truth means holding to what is real. According to the entire book of Ephesians, the real things in the universe are Christ as the Head and the church as His Body. We have to hold to these two things in love so that we may grow up into the Head, Christ, in all things. To grow up into Christ in all things is to build up. The growing up is the building up.

We grow up into Christ, the Head, and then something issues out from Christ, the Head. "Into Christ" is for our growth. "Out from Christ" is for our function, our usefulness. On the one hand, we are growing up into Christ. On the other hand, what we do is out from Him as the source for our function, our usefulness. (*CWWL*, 1989, vol. 4, "The Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ to Be the Organism of the Processed and Dispensing Triune God," pp. 298-301)

Further Reading: *CWWL*, 1989, vol. 4, "The Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ to Be the Organism of the Processed and Dispensing Triune God," ch. 3

Wednesday 10/8

**Related Verses****Eph. 6:11, 13-14**

**11** Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,

**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.

**14** Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness

**Eph. 5:2, 8, 15**

**2** And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

**8** For you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light

**15** Look therefore carefully how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise,

**1 John 5:4, 18**

**4** For everything that has been begotten of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory which has overcome the world -- our faith.

**18** We know that everyone who is begotten of God does not sin, but he who has been begotten of God keeps himself, and the evil one does not touch him.

**Eph. 4:20-21**

**20** But you did not so learn Christ,

**21** If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,

**Related Reading**

Ephesians 6:10-20 reveals that Christ is the constituents of God's armor. In this portion of the Word, the church is revealed as the warrior to defeat God's enemy. As the warrior, the church needs might and the whole armor of God.

The church is a corporate warrior, and the believers together make up this unique warrior. Only the corporate warrior can wear the whole armor of God; no individual believer can. We must fight the spiritual warfare in the Body, not individually. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, p. 3459)

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The charge to put on the whole armor of God is an imperative, a command...We must exercise our will to cooperate with God's command to put on the armor.

The Lord with His might is the armor that we put on for our protection. We as the Body need to put on Christ Himself as our armor. In order to fight the spiritual warfare, we must have Christ as the whole armor of God.

For us to gird our loins [Eph. 6:14] is to strengthen our entire being. Our whole being needs to be strengthened with truth. This strengthening is not for sitting but for standing.

According to the way the word *truth* is used in chapter 4 (vv. 15, 21, 24-25), *truth* here refers to God in Christ as reality in our living, that is, God realized and experienced by us as our living. This is actually Christ Himself lived out by us (John 14:6). Such truth, such reality, is the girdle that strengthens our whole being for spiritual warfare. Our living must have a principle and a standard. This is nothing less than God Himself expressed in our living in a practical way.

If our daily living is loose, we are not able to stand against the powers of darkness. In order for us to stand, our daily living must be according to the principle of the truth and up to the standard of the truth—that is, God Himself expressed as the principle of our daily walk, as the standard of our daily living, and as the pattern of our life.

Those who have such a living certainly have their loins girded with truth. These are the ones who are able to face attack and opposition...But if God is not expressed in our daily life and walk, we will not have a girdle about our loins, and we will have no strength to stand against the enemy. We will not have the power to face opposition or controversy.

The truth with which we are girded for spiritual warfare is actually the Christ whom we experience. In Philippians 1:21 Paul says, “To me, to live is Christ.” This Christ whom Paul lived was his girdle of truth. This Christ was God expressed and revealed in Paul’s daily walk. Because Paul’s daily living was conformed to the pattern of Christ, he had the strength to face all opposition and adverse circumstances. Because Paul had been girded with truth, he had the strength to stand.

The breastplate of righteousness [in Ephesians 6:14] covers our conscience, signified by the breast. Satan is our accuser. In fighting against him we need a conscience void of offense (Acts 24:16), but no matter how good we may feel our conscience is, we need to have it covered with the breastplate of righteousness. Righteousness is to be right with both God and man. If we have just a little problem with either God or man,

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Satan will accuse us, and there will be holes in our conscience through which all of our faith and boldness will leak out. Hence, we need the covering of righteousness to protect us from the enemy’s accusations. Such righteousness is Christ (1 Cor. 1:30). (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 3459-3461)

Further Reading: *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 344

**Thursday 10/9**

### **Related Verses**

#### **Heb. 9:14**

14 How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

#### **Eph. 6:15**

15 And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace;

#### **Rev. 12:11**

11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

#### **Eph. 2:13-14, 15-17**

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have become near in the blood of Christ.

14 For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity,

15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace,

16 And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.

17 And coming, He announced peace as the gospel to you who were far off, and peace to those who were near,

### **Related Reading**

If we are to engage in spiritual warfare, we must have a conscience void of offense, a conscience without holes...Therefore, we need to deal with our conscience in order to have a good conscience, a conscience void of

offense. In addition, we need to put on the breastplate of righteousness to cover our conscience.

Revelation 12:11 says, “They overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb.” To be covered by the blood of the Lamb is mainly to have upon us the breastplate of righteousness. Righteousness is in the blood, and the covering of the blood is the breastplate...Whenever we intend to fight against the powers of darkness, Satan, through his accusations, causes our conscience to become very sensitive. These feelings actually are not the sensitivity of the conscience but the result of Satan’s accusations. Immediately our response to such accusations should be, “I overcome Satan, the accuser, not by my perfection and not even by a conscience void of offense but by the blood of the Lamb. I am defended against his accusations by the breastplate of righteousness.” (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, p. 3461)

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The righteousness that covers our conscience and that guards us from Satan’s accusations is Christ Himself...In experience we cannot separate the blood from Christ...Under the cleansing of His blood, He becomes our righteousness. Whenever we are about to take part in the spiritual warfare, we need to pray, “Lord, cover me with Yourself as my righteousness. Lord, I hide under Your blood.” Furthermore, we must tell the accuser, “Satan, I overcome you, not by my merit but by the prevailing blood of the Lamb.”

Our feet must be shod in order to have a firm footing and the strength to stand in the battle [Eph 6:15]. This is not for walking a way or running a course but for fighting the battle.

The expression *the firm foundation of the gospel of peace* means the establishment of the gospel of peace. Christ has made peace for us on the cross, both with God and with man, and this peace has become our gospel (2:13-17). This gospel of peace has been established as a firm foundation, as a readiness with which our feet may be shod...The peace for such a firm foundation also is Christ (v. 14).

In order to understand Paul’s thought in this verse, we need to see that here the gospel is the gospel of peace.

***The Giver of Gifts and the Constituents of God's Armor*****1 Thes. 5:24**

24 Faithful is He who calls you, who also will do it.

**1 John 1:9**

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Gal. 2:20**

20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

**Rom. 6:6**

6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;

**Rom. 8:28, 38-39**

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor things present nor things to come nor powers

39 Nor height nor depth nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Related Reading**

We need truth to gird our loins, righteousness to cover our conscience, peace as the standing for our feet, and faith to shield our entire being.

We certainly are not to have faith in our own ability, strength, merit, or virtue. Our faith must be in God (Mark 11:22). God is real, living, present, and available. We need to have faith in Him.

We also should have faith in God's heart. Every Christian needs to know and trust both God and the heart of God. God's heart toward us is always good. No matter what may happen to us or what kind of suffering we may experience, we should always believe in the goodness of God's heart (Rom. 8:31-39). God has no intention to punish us, to injure us, or to cause us to suffer loss. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 3463-3464)

According to verses 15 and 16, on the cross Christ accomplished peace so that the Gentiles could contact the Jewish believers and so that all the believers could contact God. This peace is the glad tidings, the good news; in other words, it is the gospel. For this reason, verse 17 says that Christ preached the gospel of peace.

The gospel of peace spoken of in 6:15 is the peace accomplished by Christ on the cross for all the believers to be one with God and for the Gentile believers to be one with the Jewish believers. This peace is our gospel. With this peace there is a firm foundation, which is a secure footing for our standing.

Spiritual warfare is a wrestling match...If we have our feet shod with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace, we can withstand any attack of the enemy...No matter what happens, we can stand and withstand in the evil day.

Usually peace is the opposite of warfare. When we have peace, we do not fight, and when we fight, we do not have peace. But here we fight with peace and in peace...If we lose the peace between us and God or between us and other believers (Col. 3:15), we lose the standing to fight. Christ is the peace for us to be one with God and to be one with the saints. This peace is the firm foundation that enables us to stand fast against the enemy. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 3462-3463)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Ephesians*, msgs. 38, 41—42, 63

**Friday 10/10**

**Related Verses****Eph. 6:16**

16 Besides all these, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.

**Heb. 12:2**

2 Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.

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Along with faith in God's heart, we should have faith in God's faithfulness...We may change, but God does not change. As James 1:17 says, with God there is no variation or shadow cast by turning. Furthermore, God cannot lie (Titus 1:2) but is always faithful to His word. God is not only faithful but also able. Therefore, we need to have faith in God's ability [Eph. 3:20]...Still another aspect of our faith is faith in God's word. God is bound to fulfill all that He has spoken. The more He speaks, the more responsible He becomes to fulfill His own word. We can tell Him, "God, You have spoken, and Your written Word is in our hand. Lord, You are bound to fulfill Your word." We should praise God for His faithful word.

We also need to have faith in God's will. Because God is a God of purpose, He has a will (1:9, 11). His will with respect to us is always positive. Hence, no matter what befalls us, we should not doubt God's will, and we should not care for our happiness or our environment...Our environment may change, but God's will never changes.

Furthermore, we must have faith in God's sovereignty (Rom. 9:19-29)...Under His sovereignty, even our mistakes work for good...When we are wrong, we need to repent. Yet there is no need for us to regret...After we repent for a mistake or shortcoming, we should exercise faith in God's sovereignty. We could not have made that mistake if He had not sovereignly allowed us to do so.

The flaming darts are Satan's temptations, proposals, doubts, questions, lies, and attacks. Every temptation is a deceit, a false promise. Satan often makes proposals to us. For this reason, we need to get into the Word. If we are not in the Word, we will have no covering against the devil's proposals...Many times Satan attacks us with lies, but the shield of faith guards us against these flaming darts.

If we would have the faith to be defended against Satan's flaming darts, we need a proper spirit with a conscience void of offense...According to our experience, this faith in our heart [Rom. 10:10] is related mainly to the exercise of our will...Hence, if we would have faith, we need to exercise our will.

***The Giver of Gifts and the Constituents of God's Armor*****Gal. 4:6**

6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father!

**Related Reading**

Among the six items of God's armor, the sword of the Spirit is the only one for attacking the enemy [Eph. 6:17]. With the sword we cut the enemy to pieces. However, we do not take up the sword first. Rather, we must first put on the girdle, the breastplate, and the shoes, and then take up the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation. When we are entirely protected and have salvation as our portion, we may receive the sword of the Spirit. The antecedent of the word *which* in verse 17 is *Spirit*, not *sword*. This indicates that the Spirit is the word of God. Both the Spirit and the word are Christ (2 Cor. 3:17; Rev. 19:13). Christ as the Spirit and the word furnishes us with a sword as an offensive weapon to defeat and slay the enemy. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 3466-3467)

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The Word is the Bible. But if this Word is only the printed letters, it is neither the Spirit nor the sword. The Greek word for *word* in Ephesians 6:17 is *rhema*, the instant word spoken at any moment by the Spirit in any situation. When the *logos*, the constant word in the Bible, becomes the *rhema*, the instant word, this *rhema* will be the Spirit...For example, we may read a particular verse again and again, only to have it remain the *logos*, a word in letters. Such a word cannot kill anything, but one day the Spirit speaks this verse to us, and it becomes the *rhema* to us, the present, instant, living speaking of the Spirit...For this reason, in John 6:63 the Lord Jesus said, "The words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life." Here also the Greek text for *words* is *rhema*. The instant, present word is the Spirit; this kind of word is the sword. Therefore, the sword, the Spirit, and the word are one.

[In Ephesians 6:18] the expression *by means of all prayer and petition* modifies the word *receive* in verse 17. By prayer we receive both the helmet of salvation and the word of God. This indicates that we need to receive the word of God by means of all prayer and petition. We need to pray as we are receiving the word of God. We have seen that the whole armor of God is

composed of six items. Prayer may be considered the seventh.

Prayer is the unique way to apply the armor of God. It is prayer that makes the armor available to us in a practical way.

In summary, the armor of God that covers us is Christ realized by us as our truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation. Truth as the girdle, righteousness as the breastplate, the gospel of peace as the firm foundation, faith as the shield, salvation as the helmet, the Spirit, the word of God, as the sword—all these are the various aspects of Christ in our experience. We should experience Christ as our girdle of truth; we should experience Christ as righteousness that covers our conscience; we should experience Christ as the gospel of peace to strengthen our stand to fight the spiritual warfare; we should experience Christ as the faith to shield our entire being from the attacks of the enemy; we should experience Christ as salvation to cover our mind against the negative thoughts Satan seeks to inject into our mind; and we should experience Christ as the sword of the Spirit to slay the enemy. All these aspects of Christ are applied to us by prayer. In order to fight the spiritual warfare, we should experience Christ as the constituents of the divine armor and be empowered in Christ and in the might of His strength. As the corporate warrior, we should be inwardly empowered with Christ as the heavenly dynamo and outwardly clothed with Christ as the constituents of God's armor; in other words, we should be mingled with Christ. May we endeavor to experience and enjoy Him as the constituents of God's armor in order to fight the spiritual warfare and defeat God's enemy. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 3467-3470)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Ephesians*, msgs. 92, 97

In the first part of Ephesians 6:17 Paul goes on to say, "Receive the helmet of salvation." This is for covering our mind against the negative thoughts directed at us by the evil one. Such a helmet, such a covering, is God's salvation. Satan injects threats, worries, anxieties, and other weakening thoughts into our mind. God's salvation is the covering that we take up against all these. Such a salvation is the saving Christ whom we experience in our daily life (John 16:33). (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 3464-3466)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Ephesians*, msgs. 64—66

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| <b>Saturday 10/11</b> |
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**Related Verses****Eph. 6:17-18**

17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,

18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

**John 6:63**

63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

**Heb. 4:12**

12 For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**Matt. 4:4**

4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

**Col. 4:2**

2 Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving,

**Phil. 4:6**

6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

**Lord's Day 10/12****Related Verses****1 Pet. 5:5-11**

**5** In like manner, younger men, be subject to elders; and all of you gird yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

**6** Therefore be humbled under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time,

**7** Casting all your anxiety on Him because it matters to Him concerning you.

**8** Be sober; watch. Your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking someone to devour.

**9** Him withstand, being firm in your faith, knowing that the same sufferings are being accomplished among your brotherhood in the world.

**10** But the God of all grace, He who has called you into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground you.

**11** To Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.

**Eph. 6:16** Note 2 on *faith*

**16** Besides all these, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.

Note 2 on *faith*

We need to have our loins girded with truth, our conscience covered with righteousness, our feet shod with peace, and our entire being protected with the shield of faith. If we live by God as reality (truth), we have righteousness (Eph. 4:24), and righteousness issues in peace (Heb. 12:11; Isa. 32:17). Having all these, we can easily have faith as a shield against the evil one's flaming darts. Christ is the Author and Perfecter of such faith (Heb. 12:2). For us to stand firmly in the battle, we need to be equipped with all these four items of God's armor.

**Further Reading:**

Further Reading: *Life-study of Ephesians*, msg. 63

***The Giver of Gifts and the Constituents of God's Armor*****Hymn: #914**

**1** For the Church should be our service,  
'Tis the perfect will of God;  
'Tis the only way of working  
Which the Lord's apostles trod.

For the Church should be our service,  
Not our aims to satisfy;  
This, the perfect will of God is,  
And with it we must comply.

**2** For 'tis God's eternal purpose  
That the Church His vessel be;  
He intends that all our service  
Build His Church continually.

**3** All the gifted persons given  
To the Body by the Head  
Are to aid the Church's building,  
That to fulness she be led.

**4** All the gifts and all the functions,  
All the spirit's power shown,  
All the ministries are given  
For the Church and that alone.

**5** All the preaching of the Gospel,  
All the teaching ministry,  
Every other kind of service  
For the church alone should be.

**6** Ministry is for the Churches,  
Not the Church for ministry;  
All the lampstands are the Churches,  
Not a form of ministry.

**7** This will keep the Church's oneness,  
Saving us from every sect;  
This will ever test our motives,  
And our aim will thus correct.

**8** Lord, deliver us from our work,  
From the work of any sect;  
For Thy Church alone we'd labor  
And its building up effect.

**Churchwide Truth Pursuit of Genesis****Level 1—Sequential Life-study Reading**

Review prior week materials at [churchinnyc.org/bible-study](http://churchinnyc.org/bible-study)

**Level 2—Topical Study**

Review prior week materials at [churchinnyc.org/bible-study](http://churchinnyc.org/bible-study)