

# ARMED FOR INTERCESSION

## INTRO

Although prayer can be used for asking God for things or for building up our inner man, God has also called us all to exercise in another dimension of prayer called intercession, or prayer for others.

### I. First Of All – I Timothy 2:1-8.

- A. Prayer For Others
  - 1. Paul exhorted Timothy to pray for others before praying for any other reason.
  - 2. In this dimension of prayer, our real authority can be exercised against the unseen forces of darkness and prevail over them.
  - 3. “First of all,” means at the beginning; before anything else; first in time, place, order, and importance.
- B. Jesus’ first two references to prayer was prayer for others and private Matt. 5:44; 6:5,6.
- C. Our warfare is not with flesh and blood, but in the spirit realm.
  - 1. 2 Corinthians 10:4 Our warfare is in an unseen spiritual world that is just as real as the world that you can see.
  - 2. Timothy was the pastor at Ephesus and it was there that Paul said there were open doors but many adversaries 1 Corinthians 16: 8,9; 1 Timothy 1:3.

### II. The Ephesians Church.

- A. Acts 19:1-19 The church started with a powerful move of the Spirit.
- B. Acts 19:20 After the move of the Spirit, they had a Word movement.
- C. They had a great spiritual beginning and experience, yet still needed revelation. Keep in mind before Paul said anything about warfare in Ephesians 6, he first tells them of their superior position in Christ in Ephesians 1.
- D. They needed a revelation of the:
  - 1. Hope of His calling.
  - 2. Riches of the glory of His inheritance.
  - 3. Exceeding greatness of His power.
    - a. This revelation of power was after their initial experience and connection to power in Acts 19:1-6; Acts 1:8.
    - b. It is a “yet to be” experience of power like what was displayed in the Resurrection.

### III. Our Superior Position in Christ.

- A. Ephesians 1: v. 3 – We are blessed.
  - v. 4 – We are chosen.
  - v. 5 – We are His children.
  - v. 6 – We are accepted.
  - v. 7 – We are redeemed.
    - We are forgiven.
    - We are washed in His blood.
- B. I Corinthians 15:56 – We are victorious; we are not going toward victory, we are proceeding from victory. When we deal with him we look down. He’s under our feet Ephesians 1:20-22.
- C. 2 Corinthians 2:13 – We are triumphant. Even in troubling times we’re to look up Luke 21:28.
- D. Philemon 6 – Acknowledge your position, not your condition. This is one aspect of the fight of faith. Faith is an acknowledgement of our superior position in Christ.
- E. Ephesians 1:16-18 The devil cannot touch our position, he only messes with our perception.

#### **IV. Our Superior Power**

- A. Even after their initial experience and connection to power, Acts 1:8; 2:4; 19: 1-6, Paul says that these believers at Ephesus need a revelation.
- B. It is a "yet to be" experience of power like what was displayed in the Resurrection.
- C. Power to work in us
  - 1. Is. 40:29 power to the faint
  - 2. Lk. 10:19 power over all the devil's power
  - 3. Rms. 15:30 power to abound in hope
  - 4. Eph. 3:7 power to make you a minister
  - 5. Eph. 3:20 power to do exceeding abundantly above...
  - 6. Eph. 6:10 power of His might
  - 7. Col. 1:11 power to strengthen you
  - 8. 1 Pet. 1:5 power to keep you

#### **V. Unstoppable Power – Bounce Back Power**

- A. 2 Cor. 11:23-28
  - The devil constantly tried to push Paul down
  - What could make him so unstoppable?
- B. 2 Cor. 12:9,10
  - He had "bounce back" power – the power of Christ
  - He said this power would "rest upon," "to tent upon"
  - Power – dunamis – miracle power; miracle working ability; force; might; strength and power
  - It is power for the hard spots in life
- C. Rms. 9:17
  - God said He would use Pharaoh to show his power
  - God used His power to defeat the greatest nation on earth. Before this display of power God was only known to His people. After this the whole world knew who He was (see Josh. 2:10)

#### **VI. The Spiritual Warfare – Ephesians 6:10-18.**

- A. There are alien spiritual entities that are hostile against us. They are:
  - 1. Principalities – evil demonic spirit beings who exercise rule and govern in satan's kingdom over other demonic powers
  - 3. Powers – evil demonic spirits who manifest the force, strength, might, and dominion of satan's kingdom.
  - 4. Rulers of the darkness of this world – evil demonic spirits who rule by exercising the authority of darkness over the world. Every darkness in this world has a ruler behind it.
  - 4. Wicked spirits in the heavenlies – evil demonic spirits whose wicked activities and existence is above in heavenly places in spheres above the earth's surface, possibly the atmospheric heavens immediately above the earth's surface.
- B. Our warfare is not with flesh and blood, but in the spirit realm.
  - 1. We must persevere and prevail in the realm of the spirit and keep God's power unleashed against these forces.
  - 2. We must persevere because they persistently renew their attacks and yield only what they must.
- C. The devil's strongest points cannot withstand our aggression Matthew 16:18; Luke 11:21,22 the stronger one is on our side.

## VII. Superior Protection – The Whole Armor of God

- A. Everything God did and provided for us is through Christ. Our armor represents all the spiritual attributes / qualities God has bestowed on us in Christ. Each of these attributes is like a piece of armor.
- B. 

<u>Piece of Armor</u>	<u>Spiritual Attribute / Quality</u>
1. loins girt (belt)	1. truth
2. breastplate	2. righteousness
3. feet shod (shoes)	3. gospel of Peace
4. shield	4. faith
5. helmet	5. salvation
6. sword	6. word of God
- C. Weapon of praying always with all prayer v. 18
- D. The attitude of a soldier in war - watchfulness v. 18.
- E. Each piece is put on with being renewed in revelation knowledge Colossians 3:10, then walking in the lights of it.
- F. For example - One piece of armor is the breastplate of righteousness. Righteousness (the spiritual attribute) speaks of the state of being we enter into and our nature when we get saved. It is also described as a breastplate or protective force that covers all the vital organs, especially the heart. The revelation of righteousness acts as a breastplate or protective force in your life.

## VIII. The Whole Armor Must Be Put On

- A. All the armor needs v. 11 "put on" - v. 13 "take unto you."
- B. The armor represents the spiritual attributes and qualities bestowed upon us in Christ.
- C. The armor is used for standing against the warfare and wiles of our enemy.
- D. Some of the armor is defensive, some is offensive.
- E. Each piece of the armor is also a revelation from God about a way the enemy will attack.
- F. The ability to stand against the wiles of the devil and the ability to withstand in the evil day is in the armor of God.
- G. God is for us and who can be against us Romans 8:31. God being for us is in Him providing armor we must put on.
- H. Just like physical cloaking, you can know if you have put on the armor. Without clothing we:
1. Become ashamed.
  2. Become embarrassed.
  3. Hurt from overexposure.
  4. Self-conscious.
  5. Vulnerable.
  6. Always on the defense.

## IX. The #1 Role of the Armor is to Keep Us Free from Deception/Satan's Wiles.

- A. The role of the armor is clear: keep us free from the wiles (strategies; trickery; deception) of the devil.
- B. Revelation 12:9 The #1 way to describe satan's mode of operation is deception.
- C. Each piece of the armor reveals an area of possible attack of his deception.
1. v. 10 The deception that you are powerless and only can depend on human strength
  2. v. 11 The deception that "you cannot win" life and battles.
  3. v. 12 The deception that "the devil is not real" the resistance you feel is just life.
  4. v. 13 The deception that it is all up to God to protect you.
  5. v. 14
    - a. The deception that the Bible is not true. It may have worked at one time but it is not relevant today.
    - b. The deception that God is not for you and you are unworthy
  6. v. 15 The deception that you are too busy to work for God and you have more

- important things to do than share your faith.
7. v. 16 The deception that it does not matter what you believe, you cannot control the circumstances of life anyway.
  8. v. 17
    - a. The deception that it does not matter what you think
    - b. The deception that it does not matter what you say. The words you speak do not mean anything.
  9. v. 18 The deception that you are too busy to pray and you cannot pray always so why try.
- D. Isaiah 59:16-18. You can win with this armor Jesus used it and proved it. It is tried and tested. It can take the enemy's fiery darts, withstand the fires of hell and it is impenetrable to hell's heat.