

Be Strong in The Lord

PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

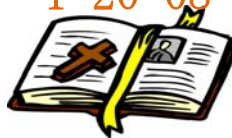


The Shield of Faith

OUR DAILY BREAD

Junior Edition

1-20-08



SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW:

God is perfect. He is Holy. We are all sinners. ***For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.***

(Romans 3:23a KJB)

None of us could ever make ourselves perfect or holy to be accepted by God. But God loves us all so much, that He gave His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to go to the cross and pay the penalty for our sins IN FULL, ONCE and FOR ALL. Jesus died and rose again. Because of the Lord Jesus Christ, God can now make us holy and acceptable to Himself. ***For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.*** (1 Peter 3:18 KJB)

Jesus Christ is our ONLY WAY to God and heaven.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

(John 14:6 KJB)

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. (Acts 16:31 KJB)

Without Jesus Christ, you can NEVER be accepted by God or go to heaven. When you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior, God makes you His child. When you leave this world, you will spend all of eternity with Him! ***But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*** (John 1:12 KJB) While you are still here on earth, learn His beautiful Word. Believe it and obey it, so you can enjoy all God has done for you.

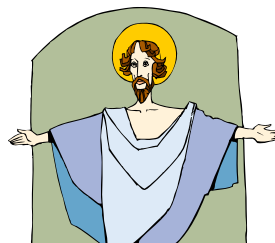
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.

(Colossians 3:16a KJB)

During the Christmas & New Year's holidays, we took some time to learn some very important facts about Jesus Christ. We learned how He alone can forgive all our sins & make us God's child forever. We learned that at the very moment a person simply believes in Jesus Christ as his or her Savior, God gives that person NEW LIFE! It is the very LIFE OF GOD - ETERNAL LIFE! It is a PERFECT & HOLY LIFE! And once God gives a person His Eternal Life, no one & nothing can take it away! All believers - no matter how bad they may act sometimes - are completely accepted by God FOREVER!. All believers will go to heaven someday no matter what! All believers belong to God forever! Nothing can take God's children away from Him. He is the KING OF THE UNIVERSE! Here is what Jesus said about all who accept HIM as their Savior:

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."



John 10:27-29 KJB

We learned that once a person receives this NEW LIFE from God & enters God's family, God then works in that person's life ALL THE REST of that person's life on earth. God works to help that person LIVE in the ways of the NEW HOLY LIFE He's given them. God works in the lives of ALL His children, to help them THINK, SPEAK & ACT like His children should! We learned that all believers have Christ in them! God wants to help His children learn to think, speak & act like Christ because this is one way Jesus has chosen to show Himself to others. When believers obey God's Word, what they say & do gives other people a picture of what Jesus - God - is like! Romans 8:29 tells us that this

is God's purpose for all His children:

"For whom he (God) did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

We also learned that Jesus is the LIGHT of the world. While He was on earth in His human body, He showed the world what God is like. Now Jesus in His human body is in heaven. We can't see Him in person right now. BUT, by His Spirit, Jesus lives in ALL BELIEVERS! (Now don't worry if you can't figure all that out! Just BELIEVE what God says about it! And by the way, that's FAITH when we can't figure everything out, yet we BELIEVE GOD about it!) God says that when His children begin to live in this new life by learning & believing & doing God's Word, Jesus' LIGHT which is IN them, begins to SHINE out of them to others! That is God's main purpose for all His children - to shape them to be more & more like His Son, Jesus Christ so Jesus can reveal Himself in ways that people can SEE with their eyes while He is still up in heaven! Jesus shows Himself through believers who are living the way GOD wants them to live!

However, as God works in His children's life for this purpose each day, there are many TESTS, TROUBLES & TEMPTATIONS that will come along to try to STOP God's children from learning about, spending time with, believing, trusting & obeying God, their Father! Lot's of these troubles, tests, & temptations come from Satan. Satan LOVES to try to get God's children to believe him & obey him instead of believing & obeying God!

Unfortunately, lot's of people have the

INCORRECT IDEA

that

Satan is in HELL!



That is S O O O WRONG!

You see, although, God says that Satan will DEFINITELY end up in the Lake of Fire someday, right now God says that Satan is WALKING AROUND LIKE A LION. Right now Satan walks around



(invisible to our human eyes of course) holding all kinds of TEMPTATIONS out in front of God's children. He tries to get them to sin & to lose their confidence in God their Father!

Satan has lots of his helpers doing the same thing. God warns us to be very careful of our enemy Satan:

"Be sober (serious) be vigilant (be able to detect danger at all times) because your adversary (your enemy) the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." 1Peter 5:8 KJB

God the Father LOVES ALL HIS CHILDREN with so great a love that we cannot even imagine it! The cross show us how deep that love is! So BECAUSE God LOVES ALL HIS CHILDREN, God not only WARNS His children about the DANGERS of all the devil's temptations, God also gives His children EVERYTHING THEY NEED to

RESIST

to say NO to, to WITHSTAND,
to TURN AWAY FROM
giving in to Satan's temptations!



This fact brings us back to our study about all the SPIRITUAL ARMOR that God gives ALL His children to help them SAY NO to TEMPTATIONS -

ALL the TEMPTATIONS from Satan! Read Ephesians 6:10-14 KJB You see, God NEVER, NEVER, NEVER tempts people to sin (See James 1:13-25.). However God DOES sometimes allow & even SENDS tests & troubles our way! Why? One reason, is to bring us CLOSER to Him. Another reason is to help us GROW UP STRONG in our MINDS so we can HANDLE LIFE without falling apart!

So how does this SPIRITUAL ARMOR work? Well, when we choose to PUT ON OUR SPIRITUAL ARMOR & BELIEVE GOD in times of trouble, we will end up seeing that God takes care of us no matter what! He'll help us stay strong right IN the troubles. And He'll get us THROUGH the troubles no matter HOW LONG the TROUBLES LAST!

We've ALREADY learned about a few of the pieces of armor that God has given us to PUT ON OUR SOUL each day. So far in other lessons, we've learned a little about THE BELT OF TRUTH, THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS & THE GOSPEL SHOES. We saw how these pieces of armor help us to RESIST TEMPTATION. ALL the pieces of armor speak of Jesus Christ & God's Word. The next piece of SPIRITUAL ARMOR we will read about is

THE SHIELD OF FAITH!

Here is what God says about the SHIELD of FAITH:





"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Ephesians 6:16 KJB

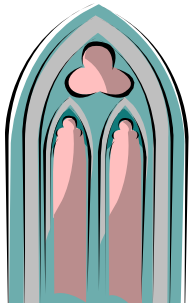
God says that Satan's
TEMPTATIONS are like
FIERY DARTS!



Each day, Satan fires temptations at God's children. He tempts God's children to disobey God, to NOT believe God, to NOT trust God, to live in fear when troubles come, to be TOO BUSY to spend time praying & reading our bibles, to be TOO BUSY to go to church.

Now that we understand what the FIERY DARTS are, what is THE SHIELD OF FAITH? It is VERY IMPORTANT that we KNOW what the SHIELD OF FAITH is if we are going to be able to TAKE IT & STAND BEHIND IT as God tells us to do! And remember, this shield is PROTECTION for our soul! It protects our THINKING! But guess what! If thinking what God wants us to THINK leads us to DO what GOD wants us to do, this SHIELD OF FAITH can protect our BODIES TOO! For example when we use God's Shield of Faith to say NO to Satan's temptations to use alcohol & drugs in the wrong ways or to hang around places or people who want to break the law in some way, that shield of faith is also protecting us from harming our bodies too!

So what is a SHIELD? Well, in the days when Paul wrote this epistle (letter) to the Ephesian people, a shield was a VERY large piece of the soldier's armor. It was the size of a door! It was made out of VERY STRONG material that could keep out arrows & swords, even fire! It was SO BIG that when a soldier put it in front of him,



that shield would hide him COMPLETELY from the enemies' attack! In fact, in those days the soldiers would stand together shoulder to shoulder next to each other with their huge shields in front of them. These huge heavy shields would make a WALL of PROTECTION for all the soldiers. Those shields protected them from anything the enemy would shoot at them. Then when the enemy was all out of ammunition, the soldiers would then move forward & conquer the enemy!

Because Paul & the people of that time knew what these shields were like back then, they understood that the SHIELD OF FAITH that God spoke of in Ephesians 6:16 is a POWERFUL SHIELD to protect our souls. What is the SHIELD made of that God has given us? It is made of FAITH! To understand how this shield can help us, we need to understand what FAITH IS!

However, because we have RUN OUT OF SPACE in this lesson, we will have to wait until NEXT WEEK'S LESSON to learn how FAITH is our SHIELD against our enemy, Satan! In the meantime, keep READING YOUR BIBLE & GOING TO CHURCH & OBEYING GOD & guess what will happen! Your shield of faith will be getting BIGGER & STRONGER!

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

Read these scriptures in your King James Bible to find out more about how the Lord is a SHIELD for all His children! See if you can FIGURE OUT why God calls this shield a SHIELD OF FAITH!

Psalm 3:1-8

Psalm 5:11-12

Psalm 18:35

Psalm 33:18-22

Psalm 84:11-12

Psalm 91:1-6

PROVERBS 30:5

2Corinthians 6:7

Romans 13:12-14

There are MANY more scriptures that tell us about the SHIELD OF FAITH!

These are only a few!

GRACE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Pastor John A. Ricci

Sunday Morning Service

10:00 A.M.

Sunday Transportation Service ~ Call 24 hours Prior

Weekly Services

Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:30 P.M.

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:00-7:20 P.M.

Communion Service

First Sunday of Every Month

Children's Prep School (Ages 5-14) & Mother's Room

Available for Every Service

Email

info@gracecfellowship.org

Directions

From I-95

- RI Exit #22; *Left* at split to **Rt. 6 W.**
- Take Killingly St (Rt. 128) Exit; *Right* off Exit.
- Take Killingly to end; *Right* on Manton Ave; cross bridge.
- Turn *Left* at light (CVS on corner), and then bear *Left* at the split. You are now on Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1 mi.
- **G.C.F.** is on the *Left*.

From Rt. 146

- Mineral Spring Ave Exit in Providence.
- From **146 N** turn *Left* off Exit; from **146 S** turn *Right*.
- Take Mineral Spring to end and stay *Left* around the rotary (pass North Providence Town Hall).
- Take next *Right* onto Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1½ mi.
- **G.C.F.** is on the *Right*.



Grace Christian Fellowship

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