

Be Strong in the Lord
Put on the Whole
Armor of God
Part 10

The Sword
of
THE SPIRIT!



OUR DAILY BREAD

Junior Edition
3-16-08



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)

Before we begin today's lesson, let's do just a little REVIEW. We have been studying scriptures that tell us about the special



SPIRITUAL ARMOR

that God has given to all His children. We have learned that God gives His children this spiritual armor. This special armor protects their MINDS from all the lies that they will hear about God & life. This special armor makes God's children STRONG! It gives them POWER to resist all the lies & temptations of this world that are designed to lead them away from following God. Listen to this:

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:10-12 KJB

God says there is a battle going on. God calls it WRESTLING!

What is WRESTLING?

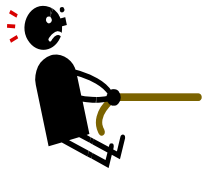
Here is what the dictionary says:

1. to fight somebody using special holds & moves to try to force the other person's shoulders down onto a mat.
2. To have a struggling fight. To fight with



- somebody by gripping & pushing rather than hitting.
3. To struggle to deal with something difficult.
 4. To struggle to lift or move something.

God says that His children are wrestling against or struggling against someone who is trying to grip them, push or pull them down - make them feel trapped, afraid, worried, weak, miserable, angry etc. They are wrestling or struggling against something difficult.



If YOU have accepted Jesus as your Savior, you are in this battle of wrestling & struggling too! God is drawing you toward Him! Satan & the world try to pull you toward them!

The important thing that God tells us CLEARLY is that this battle or wrestling match is NOT against other people. Flesh & blood means “people”. All people are made of flesh & blood. God CLEARLY tells us that His children struggle against wicked spiritual powers & the rulers of the darkness of this world & the devil who is the ruler of them all! 2Corinthians 4:3-4 tells us that Satan is the ruler of this world, for now! God has allowed that for Satan for now. But God is STILL the TOP authority of ALL creation & someday, Jesus is going to come back & throw Satan out of that position. But for now, Satan is the “god of this world” & Satan HATES all God’s children!

Once you become God’s child by simply accepting Jesus as your Savior (John1:12), God then works in your life to teach you His Truth. God works in your life to show you how to live like Jesus & glorify Him! See 1Timothy 2:3-6; Titus 2:11-14; Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 8:28-29. But Satan wants to PREVENT you from doing those things!

One IMPORTANT FACT you must remember is that once you have accepted Jesus as your Savior & God gives

you His eternal life & makes you His child, Satan CANNOT take you out of God's family. You will NEVER end up in the Lake of Fire, NEVER! God Himself PROTECTS you from that! He PROMISES that ALL who believe in Jesus will go right to heaven someday! Here is just ONE of God's promises about that. Jesus said this about all who accept Him as their Savior: John 10:27-28 KJB

"My sheep (Sheep is another word God uses to describe His children. If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, YOU are His child, one of His sheep!) hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

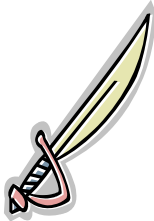


And I give them eternal life; and they shall never perish (never end up in the Lake of Fire), neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand."

If you are God's child, you ought to MEMORIZE that PROMISE! No one, can take you out of God's family - not even the powerful Satan! God is MORE powerful than Satan could ever be! God is the ONLY ONE who is ALL-POWERFUL- ALMIGHTY! And if you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, YOU belong to ALMIGHTY GOD FOR EVER!

But although Satan can never take you OUT of God's family, he & his wicked followers work REALLY HARD to take you away from learning about God, believing God & obeying God! Satan is a liar (John 8:44). He & his dark, wicked spiritual powers do anything they can to get you to believe their lies about God & life! They do all they can to tempt you to be TOO BUSY to follow God's way of

doing things & to live in ways that do NOT honor God as do people who know nothing about God! THAT is why we need God's SPIRITUAL ARMOR! So that we WON'T be tricked into thinking & speaking & living like people who know NOTHING about God! Read 2 Peter 3:14-18 KJB God's SPIRITUAL ARMOR will help us be more & more like Jesus! & honor God! The last part of this special armor that we learned about is



THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT!

What is the sword of the Spirit?

"...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:" Ephesians 6:17b KJB

The sword of the Spirit is
THE WORD OF GOD,
which we can read in for ourselves in our
King James Bible



In fact, last week we saw how Jesus used the sword of the Spirit, the WORD OF GOD, to resist ALL Satan's temptations! No matter what Satan tempted Jesus with, Jesus knew EXACTLY which part of God's Word to use to answer Satan! Eventually, Satan fled away from Jesus. And God says that when YOU use His Word to say NO to Satan's temptations, Satan will flee from you too! God says so!

"Submit yourselves therefore to God (Learn, believe, obey God's Word). Resist the devil, and he

will flee from you."

James 4:7 KJB

And now let's use the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT to answer the question: *How can I resist Satan?*

The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God & here is one PARTICULAR part of God's Word which answers that question. 1Peter 5:8-9 KJB

Be sober (serious) be vigilant (watchful & alert to guard against danger, difficulties, or errors) because your adversary (your enemy,) the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

Whom resist stedfast (firm, fixed, not to be moved) in the faith,"

God's SWORD OF THE SPIRIT tells us that to be able to RESIST the devil is to be serious, alert, firm in the faith! And what is THE FAITH? It is all God's PROMISES to us in His WORD! God never asks us to believe something that is not true! God has proven OVER & OVER again that what is written down in His Word is absolutely TRUE!



"as for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried (tested & proven to be true by evidence!): he is a buckler (a shield, protection, armor) to all those that trust in him."

Psalms 18:30 KJB

Someday soon we will study how God has shown mankind that He is REAL & His Word is TRUE! Read John 13:19

So we have learned that the SWORD of the

SPIRIT is God's Word. We have learned a little bit about how to use it from Jesus' example in the desert. Read Matthew 4:1-11 if you need to review. Now we will learn another VERY IMPORTANT fact about



THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT.

Do you see that little word "OF" between THE SWORD and THE SPIRIT? That little word "OF" is very important. It tells us something very important about THE SWORD that God has given His children. That tiny word is a preposition. What does a preposition do? A preposition is a word that introduces a word that comes AFTER it. And that word that comes AFTER it, is a word that gives us more information about the word that comes BEFORE it! In this case, that little preposition OF tells us 2 things about THE SWORD!

1. It tells us WHO the sword belongs to.

It tells us that the sword belongs to THE SPIRIT!

2. It also tells us a very important QUALITY that the sword has. It tells us the KIND of sword it is. We already know that the sword of the Spirit is the WORD OF GOD. Now read what Jesus tells us about His WORDS:

"... the words that I speak unto you *they* are spirit and *they* are life."

That tiny preposition “OF” tells us that the Sword belongs to the SPIRIT! It tells us that the Sword, which is the WORD of GOD, IS spirit!

So our next question to answer in our study about the ARMOR OF GOD is this:

Who is the SPIRIT to whom the Sword belongs?

After our “EASTER LESSON” we will look into God’s written Word to find out. We hope you can join us!

Bible Study

If you want to get a HEAD START on the lesson, here are just a few scriptures that you can read. As you read them, look for the answer to
WHO IS THE SPIRIT?

John 4:24

1John 4:2

1John 4:14

John 16:12-15

1Corinthians 2:9-10-13

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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