



**Life Point Church International  
Sermon Journal 2020**

**Ephesians 6:11**

*“Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.”*



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# The Armor of God

Monthly Theme and Message Direction

**Ephesians 6:10-19**

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## January:

### Using the Strength of His Might

Ephesians 6:10

January 5 <sup>th</sup>	What does strength look like?
January 12 <sup>th</sup>	The purpose of strength # 1
January 19 <sup>th</sup>	The purpose of strength # 2
January 26 <sup>th</sup>	The purpose of strength # 3

## February:

### Uncovering the Schemes of the Devil

Ephesians 6:11 / Job 1:6-12

February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Scheme # 1 – Our Conduct
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	Scheme # 2 – Our Family
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	Scheme # 3 – Our Possessions
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Scheme # 4 – Our Labor

## March:

### Girding your Loins with Truth

Ephesians 6:14a

March 1 <sup>st</sup>	What is Truth?
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Continuing in Truth – God's Word
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Continuing in Truth – Our words
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Continuing in Truth – Exposing bad
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	The Manifestation of Truth

## **April:**

### **Putting on the Breastplate of Righteousness**

Ephesians 6:14b

April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Different types of righteousness
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	The power to live righteous
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	The fruit of righteousness
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	The “how?”, of righteousness

## **May:**

### **Having shod your Feet with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace**

Ephesians 6:15

May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	The need for peace
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mother’s Day
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Advancing through forgiveness
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	The testing of forgiveness
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	The result of peace

## **June:**

### **Taking up the Shield of Faith – Part 1**

Ephesians 6:16 / Hebrews 11

June 7 <sup>th</sup>	The substance of faith
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	The giving of faith
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	Father’s Day: The man of faith
June 28 <sup>th</sup>	The ability of faith

## **July:**

### **Taking up the Shield of Faith – Part 2**

Ephesians 6:16 / Hebrews 11

July 5 <sup>th</sup>	The sacrifice of faith
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	The separation of faith
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	The advancement of faith
July 26 <sup>th</sup>	The protection of faith

## **August:**

### **Take the Helmet of Salvation**

Ephesians 6:17a

August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Darkness and Light
August 9 <sup>th</sup>	Standing in the salvation of the Lord
August 16 <sup>th</sup>	The peace of salvation in Battle
August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Missions Celebration!
August 30 <sup>th</sup>	Bringing Salvation to those near to us

## **September:**

### **Take the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God**

Ephesians 6:17b

September 6 <sup>th</sup>	Church Picnic – No Service
September 13 <sup>th</sup>	Hiding the Word in our heart
September 20 <sup>th</sup>	Speaking out the Word of God
September 27 <sup>th</sup>	Defeating the enemy with the Word

## **October:**

### **Using Prayer and Petition**

Ephesians 6:18a

October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Unleashing God's will
October 11 <sup>th</sup>	Crowding out prayer
October 18 <sup>th</sup>	Principles for a powerful prayer meeting: Part 1
October 25 <sup>th</sup>	Principles for a powerful prayer meeting: Part 2

## **November:**

### **Being on Alert**

Ephesians 6:18b

November 1 <sup>st</sup>	Called to be a watchman
November 8 <sup>th</sup>	Responsibilities of a watchman
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Privilege of a watchman
November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Christian alertness Part 1
November 29 <sup>th</sup>	Christian alertness Part 2

## **December:**

### **Walking with Full Armor**

Ephesians 6:10-19

December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Full armor to speak with
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Full armor in boldness
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	The coming of our armor
December 27 <sup>th</sup>	The result of our armor



**Let the Journey  
Begin...**





January

# Using the Strength of His Might

[lpci.tv](http://lpci.tv)

Ephesians 6:10

## Monthly Message Direction:

January 5<sup>th</sup>

January 12<sup>th</sup>

January 19<sup>th</sup>

January 26<sup>th</sup>

What does strength look like?

The purpose of strength # 1

The purpose of strength # 2

The purpose of strength # 3

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**Title: What does strength look like?**

Text: Ephesians 6:10, Isaiah 40:29-31

Because we are limited to a human world view, our definition of strength is usually skewed.

- “Waiting on the Lord,” brings a *new* strength. It is not of or from our own.

We desire the strength listed in verse 29.

- But waiting on the Lord produces a strength that is far greater.

The strength of the Lord brings with it:

1. Sustenance through the situation.
2. Clarity through the situation.
3. Growth through the situation.

**1 – This new strength will cause us to mount up with wings like eagles. Verse 31a**

What is the value of soaring as high as eagles do?

1. Perspective.
2. Safety.
3. Pin-point accuracy.

**2 – This new strength will cause us to run and not get tired. Verse 31b**

People run for two reasons:

1. People run for a purpose.
2. People run to be free from attack.

The new strength of the Lord will empower us to fulfill the purpose that He intends for our lives.

The new strength of the Lord will empower us to run free from the attacks of the enemy.

**3 – This new strength will cause us to walk and not become weary. Verse 31c**

Look at the progress in each part of this verse.

1. Strength for soaring.
2. Strength for purpose.
3. Strength when at a standstill.

These are three different places in life and in each one, the strength of the Lord sustains us in a different and unique way.

- Deuteronomy 8:2-4

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***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Expect the strength of the Lord in your life and spend some time thanking Christ for His provision.

2 – Read through the book of Ephesians this week.

**Speaker:** Dr. Rai Paparatti

**Date:** January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**Title: 1<sup>st</sup> Purpose of Strength:  
For the Lost.**

**Text:** 1 Kings 18:20-39

*“The power of God is so extreme to our natural power that it stands separate so that people can easily differentiate it.”* Verse 38

The power of verse 38, was put together by 2 actions and 1 declaration of intent.

### **Action 1 – The restoring of the altar of God.**

#### **Verse 30**

- Interesting that the strength of the Lord came through the restoration of the altar that was torn down.

In today’s modern application, the altar of God represents the place and structure to seek God.

- Repairing the place and structure of prayer with God is very difficult in our progressive life.

#### **It will take:**

1. Resolve.
2. Hunger for what it will produce.
3. Rearrangement.
4. Discipline.

## 5. Commitment.

### **Action 2 – Building the altar on past experiences with God and building on future expectation of what God will do.**

#### **Verses 31-32**

- Past: Stones for the 12 tribes.
- Future: Digging a trench.

In our lives, the two always go hand-in-hand.

1. Because God has shown His faithfulness in my past, His plan for my future is secure.
2. If God has done a good work in my past, God will do a good work in my future.

### **Declaration – Speaking out His will for His purpose for my life.**

#### **Verse 37**

- The strength of His might will always manifest for the salvation and restoring of souls.

Can we pray for our needs to be met so that we fit into the plan of God?

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Make your time with God secure! Write it down. When will you do it?

Which day of the week? \_\_\_\_\_

What time? \_\_\_\_\_

How much time reading the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

How much time on my knees in prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Title: **2<sup>nd</sup> Purpose of Strength:  
For the Believer.**

Text: 1 Samuel 30:1-24

**1 – God gave David victory over the Amalekites  
with unrealistic odds. Verse 10**

- 400 exhausted and emotional men plus 1 sick Egyptian.

What was against David:

Odds                      His own people                      Situation

The only thing that David had going for him was  
verse 10b.

- David strengthened himself in the Lord.

**How did David strengthen himself in the Lord?**

1. David immediately went to God as his source. Verse 6b
2. David surrounded himself immediately with the godly. Verse 7
3. David asked and waited on the Lord until the answer came. Verse 8

Our situation should never shake us! We must  
strengthen ourselves in the *strength of His might*.

- The victory of the Lord is never reliant upon the odds or how well our situation seems.

- The victory of the Lord is **only** reliant upon the trust of the Believer towards the Lord.

Sick Egyptian – We must not lose sight of people that may seemingly be a burden.

- David's kindness towards this man allowed God to use him towards victory in David's life.
- The entire picture is always bigger than we are!

## **2 – God restored the loss of other men for the sake of David.**

**Verse 19**

- All the men were embittered and desired to kill David. David alone, trusts in the Lord.
- Yet, the Lord blessed all the men for David's sake.

As we strengthen ourselves in the Lord, we find that His strength brings restoration in the lives of those surrounding us.

## **3 – God's strength will always bring with it wisdom for relational struggle.**

**Verses 22-24**

- God's purpose for us is always restoration.
- Restoration for our own lives – restoration for those in our lives.

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – In each situation of our day we must do 3 things: (1) Go to God, (2) surround yourself with godly people, (3) wait for the answer!

Speaker: Dr. Rai Papparatti

Date: January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**Title: 3<sup>rd</sup> Purpose of Strength:  
For God's Glory.**

Text: Ephesians 6:10; Hebrews 1:3

*“The power of the glory of God was not manifested for a mere display of power. God needs no proof through competition. God's glory was and is always displayed for the benefit of the Believer.”*

**1 – The power of God for His glory brings miracles in the lives of Believers.**

**John 2:11**

- Miracles bring about the manifestation of His glory so that we can believe what He came to do.
- John 20:31

**2 – The power of God for His glory brings provision in the lives of Believers.**

**Exodus 16:7-8**

- It is the glory of God to provide for His people. Even amidst grumbling.
- Worry which often leads to grumbling is broken by the manifestation of God's care towards us.
- Matthew 6:25-34

### **3 – The power of God for His glory brings instruction in the lives of Believers.**

**Exodus 24:12-18**

- God provides instruction because He cares about the progress of our journey.
- There is a specific way which we should walk for the most we can gain through this life.

**Proverbs 3:5-12**

### **4 – The power of God for His glory brings direction in the lives of Believers.**

**Exodus 40:34-38**

- It is the glory of God to lead us into His ways and His plan for our lives.

Living in the strength of His might causes God to be glorified in that we follow His lead.

He desires to lead us. **Jeremiah 29:11**

### **We receive from God's might:**

Miracles    Provision    Instruction    Direction

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Ask specifically for God to be glorified in your life. You will see that through prayer, God will bring a great care over each part of your life.

Pray specifically that your life will contain the glory of God.

# Uncovering the Schemes of the Devil



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February

## Monthly Message Direction:

February 2<sup>nd</sup>

February 9<sup>th</sup>

February 16<sup>th</sup>

February 23<sup>rd</sup>

Scheme # 1 – Our Conduct.

Scheme # 2 – Our Family.

Scheme # 3 – Our Possessions

Scheme # 4 – Our Labor

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020



Title: Scheme # 1:  
Our Conduct.

Text: Ephesians 6:11; Job 1:6-12;  
Philippians 1:27-30

*“The motive behind ‘what we do for the Lord,’ can advance us increasingly toward His will or it can destroy us in one fell swoop.”*

We must learn to yield *what we do* to the Lord.

Wrong conduct produces an alarmed and fearful demeanor when faced with any opposition.

Verse 28

We must conduct ourselves (*in everything that we do*) in a manner worthy of the Gospel.

Verse 27

➤ What conduct is then *worthy* of the Gospel?

**1 – In our actions, we must practice a self-sacrificing nature.**

Verse 29

➤ The great difficulty in this practice is that our own advancement and the advancement of the Gospel often oppose each other.

This is where the devil desires to bring the first level of attack.

He desires that we come first in everything that we do!

1. First in spiritual priority.
2. First in material advancement.
3. First in social status.

**2 – In our actions, we must practice a compassionate nature. Verse 27b**

- With one mind striving together.

Compassion changes our vision. Compassion causes us to see people in the situations of our lives in a different light.

- Who has been a *jerk* this week?
- Who has been an *inconvenience* this week?
- Who has been *hurting* this week?

Compassion is the activity of self-sacrifice.

**3 – In our actions, we must practice seeking to advance someone else before we advance ourselves. Philippians 2:1-3**

- How can we advance someone else?
- Advancing someone else, allows us to be the channel of God's love and purpose made manifest in our very situation.

If we can lift up another over ourselves while we seem to be in lack, we reap from a harvest that is ripe.

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***Daily Discipline!***

- 1 – Advance someone this week as unto the Lord.
  - Be creative in meeting a need.

**Illustration for opening of message:  
Second Scheme of the Devil.**

It started with Rent-A-Wife, a small Petaluma, California, company created by Karen Donovan to help clients decorate their homes, balance checkbooks, run errands, etc. Donovan, who launched her business through a small ad in the local newspaper, is already thinking big after four months of operation. She wants to hire her father to initiate Rent-A-Husband and her two teens to start Rent-A-Family. "We can do what any family does," the newfangled entrepreneur joked. "We can come over and eat all the food, turn on all the lights, put handprints on the walls, take showers and leave the towels on the floor. When clients are finished with Rent-A-Family, they'll have to call Rent-A-Wife.

*Campus Life, October, 1980.*

Speaker: Dr. Rai Papparatti

Date: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**Title: Scheme # 2:  
Our Family.**

Text: Job 1:10; 2 Samuel 11:1-5

Because of sin, David gave in and the devil unleashed a plan over his family that included:

### **1 – Premature death.**

#### **2 Samuel 12:19**

- The same way that David lost his son because of sin, is the same exact method that the devil used in his scheme against Job.
- Job 1:19

The devil takes much pleasure in premature death for tragedy challenges fidelity.

The devil's main objective in all of his schemes is for us to blame God. Job 1:22

### **2 – Sexual abuse in the family.**

#### **2 Samuel 13:7-8, 11-14**

- Sexual abuse is the scheme of the devil to bring brokenness, confusion, and sinful defiance by marring our God created image.

## **Tamar lists the outcome the devil is after:**

2 Samuel 13:12-13, 20

1. It is not done in Israel! Sinful minority is never to dictate welfare for the majority.
2. It is disgraceful. There is no justification in this sin.
3. Where can I get rid of my reproach. It is a long term hurt.
4. She was desolate. Depression will cloud over life.

The devil takes much pleasure in sexual abuse for the broken intimacy of abuse causes the heart much pain in being able to yield towards a loving God.

## **3 – Deep rooted hatred.**

2 Samuel 13:22-23

- Hatred in our family motivates our time, conversation, and effort.

## **The effect of hatred:**

1 John 2:11

1. Darkness – is surrounded by sin.
2. Confusion – he walks in darkness.
3. No Direction – he does not know where he is going.
4. No rationality – Darkness has blinded his eyes.

The devil takes much pleasure in deep rooted hatred, for hatred is his very own emotional motivation against God. Hatred is partnership with the character of the devil.

## **4 – Broken relationships.**

### **2 Samuel 13:37-39**

The banishment of David's son brought a sadness upon David, increased hatred over Absalom, and a spirit of uneasiness over everyone that was close to David.

The main effect of broken relationships is actually the separation of relationships.

The further away the relationship, the less likely reconciliation becomes.

The devil takes much pleasure in broken relationships for they immediately attack the work of Christ on the cross – Reconciliation!

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### **God also schemes when it comes to families!**

There was a prophetic word to David in the midst of all his family trouble.      2 Samuel 14:14

- *God plans ways so that the banished one will not be cast out from him.*

God's plan in defeating the scheme of the devil against the family is all contained in this attribute of Christ:

- Self-Sacrifice!

We must integrate the self-sacrificing nature of Jesus in each of the schemes against our families.

**In premature death** – we must sacrifice our emotions to the Lord.

**In sexual abuse** – we must sacrifice our rage of unforgiveness.

**In deep rooted hatred** – we must sacrifice our position of rightness.

**In broken relationships** – we must sacrifice our nature of pride.

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

Make it a strong point to reconcile each member of our family this month.

Spend time with each one of them:

**First:** Praying on our own they we would be clear of any ill feelings towards them.

**Second:** Spending some time genuinely interested in them and asking God to reveal a way to express His love towards them.

**Third:** Out loud praying for them that their lives would be blessed and transformed by the goodness of God.

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**Title: Scheme # 3:  
Our Possessions.**

Text: Job 1:10; Mark 10:17-30

The scheme of the devil over our possessions is in the unhealthy attachments to them.

**1 – The devil’s scheme is that our priority shifts based on what we do or do not have.**

**Verse 17b**

- The rich young ruler’s question came not of priority, but from pride.

His possession gave him a false sense of God’s approval over his life.

- God’s approval is not based on what we have or do not have.
- God’s approval comes with our response to Christ with what we have!

At what point do we become uncomfortable in releasing our possessions? It is at that point that we give in to the scheme of the devil.

**2 – The devil’s scheme is that our desire shifts to seek out that which is material rather than that which is eternal.**

**Verse 22**

Material things deeply affect who we are before Christ.

1. They bring sudden and manipulative emotional expression.  
Saddened Verse 22a
2. They bring a false sense of loss.  
Grieving Verse 22b
3. They bring a unhealthy attachment to self-accomplishment.  
Owned much Verse 22c

**3 – The devil’s scheme is that we are riddled with feelings of lack towards the presence of God. Verses 21b-22**

One tremendous point to note is that we are never asked to release our material possessions without promise of His presence. Hebrews 13:5

He equated following Christ as experiencing lack!  
He could have been another disciple.

- The potential was immense.

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***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Give to God without clenching your teeth!

2 – Give to each other (meet a need) for the sake of Christ.

Speaker: Dr. Rai Papparatti

Date: February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020



**Title: Scheme # 4:  
Our Labor.**

Text: Job 1:10; Genesis 39:2-23

*“We can turn an ordinary job into an extraordinary mission if we realize that God has placed us in our work as an opportunity to influence others for His kingdom.”* Walt Larimore

**1 – The devil will look to destroy our lives through our workplace by tempting us at the level of our sin desire. Verses 6b-7**

- Joseph was good looking and built.
- James 1:14

**If we are prone to/towards a:**

Sensual stimulation...Opportunity for adultery.  
Desire to be first.....Opportunity to ruin someone.  
Greed.....Opportunity to steal.  
Vanity.....Opportunity to gossip.  
Poor self-image...Opportunity to hurt with words.

**2 – Taking a godly stand in the midst of our work is not a singular even. It is a persistent process. Verse 10**

- The devil is a master of the wear-out strategy.
- The more bombardment, the easier it is to get used to the idea of a particular sin.

## **How to stand against the constant buffeting of sin and temptation?**

1. Know the boundaries and be vocal with the stand taken. Verse 8a, 9a
  - *He refused and said...*
2. Know your purpose. Verse 8b
  - If we know what we are to do, we have a set mind to do it.
3. Know your God. Verse 9b
  - Sinning against God was the primary reason for Joseph's denial.

### **3 – When lies begin against us through the workplace for the sake of holiness, we must prepare our heart and attitude for promotion.**

Verse 14-18, 23

- The devil will bring falsehood and cause it to reach many different people groups.  
Verse 14

When we deny sin for the sake of our relationship with God, we do not have to retaliate against what people do. Verse 9b

### **The Greatest Contrast      Verse 9b – Verse 23b**

Exposing the devil's scheme at work produces:

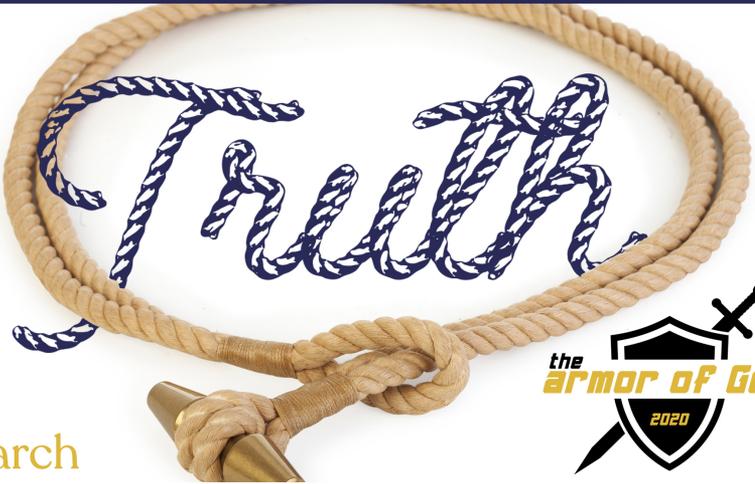
1 – Presence    2 – Peace    3 – Prosperity  
Verse 23b

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Be clear about why you work as you do. Man's purpose & God's purpose! Be vocal about it.

# Girding your loins with



March

## Monthly Message Direction:

March 1<sup>st</sup>

What is Truth?

March 8<sup>th</sup>

Continuing in Truth – God's Word.

March 15<sup>th</sup>

Continuing in Truth – Our Words

March 22<sup>nd</sup>

Continuing in Truth – Exposing Bad.

March 29<sup>th</sup>

The manifestation of Truth.

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020



Title: What is Truth?

Text: Ephesians 6:14, John 14:1-26

*“Truth refers us to reality, it causes us to see things as they really are, to things as God knows them.”* – Larry Richards

Truth is not always at the forefront and is not always the first thing visible. Yet, it holds all things together.

**The Unfolding of Truth : We need truth in:**

1. Situational settings – Knowing direction
2. Problematic settings – In serious life tragedies and conditions.
3. Relational settings – Navigating personal relationships.
4. Moral settings – Choosing absolutes.

The greatest aspect of possessing the *Belt of Truth* is having a legitimate and constant relationship with Christ.

**1 – The only answer to each of the questions of truth remains solely in the person of Christ.**

**Verses 1a; 5-6**

- Truth is not in the pursuance of knowledge. Truth is the pursuance of a person – Christ.

Apart from *knowing* Christ we will all struggle with finding truth to the extent that it satisfies our very core – our personhood – our spirit.

The more we develop our relationship with Christ, the more the Truth (Christ) manifests Himself in all the areas of our life.

Without relationship we struggle with:

- Anxiety – lack of truth situationally.
- Sin – momentary pleasure with harmful results.
- Isolation – the lie of self-sufficiency.

**2 – The pursuance of truth is in the reception of the Holy Spirit, the obedience to His ways, and in the revelation of Christ. Verses 16-17; 21**

- It is the effectual process.

The Holy Spirit reveals what pleases God. As we please God, God reciprocates by revealing His presence and will in the life of the believer.

**3 – Understanding the truth in all things is never disconnected from knowing Christ.**

**Verse 26**

- Our relationship with the Belt of Truth is paramount to knowing the way in each of our situations.

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Intentionally develop a daily relationship with Christ – Make a plan...follow it!

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Title: Continuing in Truth –  
God’s Word!

Text: John 8:31-32

*“It is never enough to stay at belief. We must always continue in His Word.”*

What it means to continue.

- *Continue* is the Greek word *meno* and means *to stay, abide, or remain*.
- It holds the understanding of living through continual practice.

At the point of belief, Jesus calls us deeper still to the practice of abiding.

Continuing in the Word: Hebrews 4:9-13

**1 – We must make the Word of God our Sabbath.** **Hebrews 4:9-12**

- The Word must have decision, ruling authority and priority in our life.

We must learn to run to the Word of God and allow it to make its home in the fabric of our very beings. Verse 12

1. It is alive and always producing – its activity never stops. Verse 12a

2. It reaches all realms of our life – both physical and spiritual. Verse 12b
3. It has effect over the decision faculty of our life. Verse 12c

## **2 – The priority of God’s Word reveals truth in our expressions. Verse 12c**

- Our emotional conduct. Our character conduct, our ethical conduct, and our relational conduct.
- The more we open to the Word of God, the stronger the conviction and display of truth is revealed in us and through us.

We will display truth.

We will emanate/convict truth.

## **3 – The priority of God’s Word reveals truth in our relationships. Verse 13**

- There is a transition from the *people of God* in Verse 9 to *every creature* in verse 13.
- Every relationship in this world is confronted with the truth of God’s word.

The more we intake God’s Word, the more transparent the relationships in our lives become.

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Practice the intake of God’s Word. Memorize this week:

Psalm 27:1; Deuteronomy 31:8; Job 5:11;  
Lamentations 3:22-23; Psalm 46:1; John 16:33

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**Title: Continuing in Truth –  
Our Words!**

Text: Ephesians 4:14-15; 25-30

Today's acceptable definitions of truth:

1. Truthiness: *The quality of seeming or being felt to be true, even if not necessarily true.*
2. Alt Truth: *The supporting of proven false information as factual regardless of evidence or reality.*
3. Post Truth: *relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion.*

Psychology Today

**1 – We must actively and quickly confess our  
lies and speak out truth.**

**Verse 25**

- Without question, it is a choice that we must make.

Choices are not made without a predetermined influence.

- Choices are made when we have conditioned ourselves to prefer something else.

The right influence pushes us to make the right choices because it promotes the right conviction.

**2 – We must not let anger cause us to speak over our situations that which is not truth.**

**Verse 26**

- Anger can produce a level of speech that brings with it a declaration or intent which the devil uses as an opportunity for his plan to unfold.

Numbers 14:28, (2), 29

Cursing our current situation is the same as speaking a lie. We can speak lies:

- in our past situations.
- In our current situations.
- In our future situations.

**3 – We must develop and condition ourselves to speak words of edification.**

**Verse 29**

- Biblical and godly encouragement is truth and reality.

Edification spoken according to the need of the moment, releases grace into the lives of those that hear.

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***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Let's pause this morning and turn and speak a word of edification over someone's life.

2 – Let's speak that same word over our situation and over our tomorrow!

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020



**Title: Continuing in Truth –  
Exposing Bad!**

Text: Psalm 139:23-24; Ephesians 5:11

**1 – We must get to the place where we willingly  
break our participation with unfruitful deeds.**

**Ephesians 5:11**

- This verse partnered with David’s prayer in Psalm 139 allows us to see that this takes us deeper than only evil.

Yes, we ought to stay away from evil, but the desire for truth **cautions** us to stay away from things that have no benefit for us.

We ought to break the participation with things that may not be bad, but yet produce nothing. Why?

It is all about **INTAKE**.

- By removing that which does not bear fruit, we make room for that which will.
- Mark 5:40

**2 – As we expose the lack of fruit in these deeds,  
we break the hold it has over our lives to  
maintain strongholds. Mathew 21:18-22**

The tree served no benefit to them since it had no fruit. Jesus uses it as a teaching illustration for His disciples teaching them that:

1. Exposing the lack of fruit and removing it, we can prepare to remove mountains.
2. The removal of fruit lacking trees in our lives, deepens our prayer life.
3. The removal of fruit lacking trees in our lives deepens our level of believing to receive from God's hand.
4. The removal of fruit lacking trees in our lives deepens our level of faith.

The more we release out of our life to take hold of the truth, the deeper become the positive consequences (better named as prosequences) that unfold in and through us.

This exposing of falsehood and fruit-lacking leeches, opens us up to speaking to mountains!

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Take inventory of your life. What are some things that have taken your time and effort but are not producing fruit? List them here:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2 – Replace in immediately with some time spent with God. Begin speaking to mountains!!

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**Title: The Manifestation  
of Truth!**

Text: 2 Corinthians 4:1-10

**1 – Through truth, we have the treasure of the  
power of God manifested in our earthen vessels.**

**Verse 7**

- This is the beautiful contrast of this world.
- Earthen in the fact that we feel and are bound to the events of this life.

Yet, the power of God becomes manifest through us!

- The sponge: either weakness inside or power. It is up to us.

**2 – The manifestation of truth produces a not-  
crushed spirit.**

**Verse 8a**

- We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed.
- We are not crushed because we see the motivation and purpose through it.

*Afflicted* is better translated as *hard pressed*.

- It means *to be in distress like when circumstances press us the wrong way and make us feel confined or restricted to a narrow place.*

When we are pressed in these types of situations, we are not crushed but we release the strength of the power of God.

And, the power of God is always manifested differently. Depending on the situation, the power of God is manifested by His grace in reaching people at the right and critical time.

**3 – The manifestation of truth produces a not-despairing spirit. Verse 8b**

- Perplexed but not despairing.
- We may be uncertain about the *why* or *how long*, yet we are not in despair.

This is important to us because many times we *do not know* the reason behind a situation. Yet, we do not despair, because God is still over the situation and over us.

**4 – The manifestation of truth produces a not-forsaken lifestyle. Verse 9a**

- Persecuted, but not forsaken.
- We are part of a group. Acts 23:10-11

**5 – The manifestation of truth produces a not-destroyed person. Verse 9b**

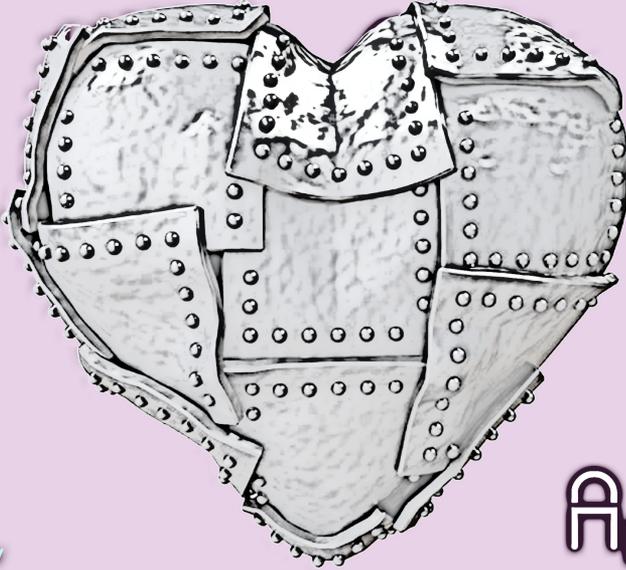
- Struck down but not destroyed.
- We live out the victory of Jesus in what we face!!
- 2 Corinthians 4:10
- We lay down our lives and subsequently Jesus power and life lives through us.

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***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Take inventory of each thing you are facing. Write it down. Now, receive the power of Jesus' life to flow through you!

# Putting on the Breastplate of Righteousness



lpci.tv

April

## Monthly Message Direction:

April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Different types of righteousness
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	The power to live righteous
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	The fruit of righteousness
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	The how? of righteousness

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**Title: Different types of Righteousness!**

Text: Ephesians 4:22-24; 6:14

There are four kinds of righteousness talked about in the Bible:

1. **Perfect Righteousness**—God’s level of righteousness which no man can attain.
2. **Comparative Righteousness**—Our personal behavior that conforms to God’s moral and ethical standards.
3. **Imputed Righteousness**—Knowing that humans can’t live up to God’s righteous character demands, love caused God to accept those who trust Him despite their flaws.
4. **Realized Righteousness**—Jesus’ death on the cross allows us to live in harmony with God in the present time.
  - This is the Breastplate of Righteousness

*“Righteousness blocks the main entry points through which the most deadly and common assaults may gain access to our lives.”*

1. Trauma,
2. A sinful lifestyle,
3. The occult,
4. Authority figures & the family line.

The question then becomes : How do we live life in Realized Righteousness?

**1 – Practice the discipline of laying aside the old self. Verse 22**

- It must be a choice we make in our mind and then act upon it.

It is difficult sometimes to lay aside something we have been using for so long. We must be willing to release!

**2 – We must be renewed in the spirit of our mind. Verse 23**

- *Renewed* holds the idea of a process which intensifies us. It is going to a higher stage by God's power.
- Progressing to a higher stage always comes through challenge!

The problem is that we like to determine when and how we face challenges. Yet, God, as all-knowing, allows us to face the challenges at the time He sees will bring us the most advancement.

**3 – We must put on the new self. Verse 24**

- We must choose the things that benefit our life in this walk of faith.
- Without choosing them, we cannot expect to grow by association only.

We must grow by participation! Don't get stuck at the association stage only...move to participation.

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***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Make the expression of your faith visible through the participation of your faith.

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Title: EASTER SUNDAY!

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:3-20

*“God is most glorified in me when I am most satisfied in Him. Therefore, whenever I see Him at work in the Bible to satisfy my soul, I see Him at work to glorify His name.” – John Piper*

The resurrection is our greatest satisfaction!

**If Christ has not been raised from the dead, we would be in bad shape. If Christ has not been raised from the dead:**

1. Our preaching is in vain. + Verse 14
2. Our faith is in vain. + Verse 14
3. We are false witnesses. + Verse 15
4. Our faith is futile and we remain bound in sin. + Verse 17
5. Those who have died have perished in eternal damnation. + Verse 18
6. We are to be pitied. + Verse 19

We know that He has risen from the dead.

- We know from the testimony of those in the Scripture. The Bible being the most accurate book of history.

- We know from the renewed life that we have experienced when we have received Him into our lives.
- We know from visibly seeing the way He transforms and delivers people in our own societies and cultures today.

If the resurrection is our greatest satisfaction, Jesus alive meets our greatest longings. Longings that nothing or no person on this earth can fill.

**1 – We are forgiven of our sins. Verse 17**

- + ➤ Because Jesus lives, we are forgiven of our sins and our faith become powerful in what it produces.
- Romans 4:25

By His death, Jesus paid the penalty for our sins. God raised Jesus from the dead to validate our forgiveness.

**2 – We can absolutely rely on One who will never fail us. Verse 14b**

- + ➤ Because He has raised from the dead, His Word is true, His purpose accomplished, His plan for our lives unshakable, His promise of continuance in our lives guaranteed.
- We can finally rely on someone who will never abandon us, forsake us, walk out on us, hurt us, or lie to us.

**3 – We can have a foundation of absolute truth to base the decisions of our lives upon. Verse 15**

- + ➤ Who can we then trust for the inspired and absolute truth? We can turn to the writers of Scripture because of their eye-witness account. Verse 5-7

**4 – We have within us the life that is to be completely envied. Verse 19**

- + ➤ We all long to be accepted. So many times we struggle with lack and self-depreciation.
- We often think that we do not have anything inside of us that is truly worthwhile.

Because of the resurrection of Jesus, we have the fulness of life. Ephesians 3:19

**5 – We have the message of power and life in our words when our faith is shared. Verse 14a**

- + ➤ So often we wonder if what we say really makes an impact.
- We have the backing of God because of the resurrection of Jesus that our words are words of life.

Our faith-filled words are not in vain but are sent with authority.

**6 – We have the hope that our loved ones in Christ are enjoying eternity with Jesus.**

- + Verse 18
- We sorrow not like those without hope.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

The Resurrection of Jesus fulfills our every longing!!!!



He  
has  
Risen

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**Title: The Fruit of Righteousness!**

Text: Philippians 1:11

Putting on the Breastplate of righteousness is not about fulfilling an obligation or meeting a standard which seems unattainable. It is about receiving and living according to what has been received.

- Philippians 1:11

**1 – The greatest result of receiving the Righteousness of Christ is that it becomes for us a Tree of Life. Proverbs 11:30**

- It moves us from living in stagnancy and retreat to living in vibrancy and advancement.

The righteousness of Christ moves us from being self-centered to becoming people restorers.

One of the greatest attacks of the enemy against righteousness in people is to cause them to become inactive, inert, and then ineffective.

- Inactivity causes a depressive and oppressive demeanor.
- Inertia sets in from an inactive tendency. It multiplies.

- Ineffective is the place the devil wants your life to be. When we prove ourselves ineffective, we let in sin.

## **2 – The righteousness of Christ, received into our lives is rewarded. Proverbs 11:31**

- As if the righteousness of Christ was not reward enough, the righteousness of Christ produces the rewards of His power.

When we put on the righteousness of Christ, we add it addition to it the power of Christ against all of the attacks of the devil.

The devil cannot win against us because:

- God receives us as righteous.
- God blesses the righteous (Psalms 5:11-12).

## **3 – The righteousness of Christ, received into our lives brings real knowledge and discernment. Philippians 1:9-11**

- We gain the edge of perspective and strength in the midst of cloudy circumstances.
- Want to know the why this pandemic? (Ephesians 6:10-13)

It produces in our lives an atmosphere of excellency. (Philippians 1:10)

- *Excelent* is the Greek word *diaphero* from 2 Greek words, *dia* = *through*, *phero* = *carry*.
- Excellent are the things God produces in our lives to carry us through, to surpass, and make a great impact.

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Title: **The How of  
Righteousness!**

Text: Acts 19:17-20

**1 – Without community we end up losing  
accountability. Verse 18a**

➤ Community is key!

**1. Solitude magnifies fear and uncertainty.**

➤ This is why isolation begins to destroy the mental fabric of our society.

**2. Solitude skews perspective.**

➤ Monsters in the dark, sounds at night.

**3. Solitude feeds sinful secrecy.**

➤ The collective conviction is missing.

**2 – Transparency is the strong arm of response  
to conviction. Verse 18b**

➤ Being vulnerable in Christian community produces strength.

➤ 1 Thessalonians 5:11

1. Transparency brings the light of the Holy Spirit in; so darkness can no longer rule.

➤ Ephesians 5:11, 13

2. Transparency allows the strength of the multitude to work with our own strength.
  - Romans 15:1
3. Transparency allows for the Righteousness of Christ to become a stronghold.

### **3 – We begin to practice righteousness by the public release of that which held us bound.**

#### **Verse 19**

- What in our own life do we need to burn publicly.

Our expressed emotions?

Our unbridled tongue?

Our bitterness and rage?

Our addictions?

When the How of Righteousness begins to unfold in our lives, we experience something truly breathtaking from God.

#### **Verse 20**

- The Word of God in power. Manifested literally in our life.
- The Word of God Prevailing. Bringing advancement to our lives.

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Connect to your Christians Community, even in the midst of global quarantine. Share with them your fear and frustration and experience the release of Jesus Christ and the power of His Word.

# having shod your feet with

the preparation of the gospel



## Monthly Message Direction:

May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Need for Peace
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mother's Day
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Advancing through Forgiveness
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	The Testing of Forgiveness
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	The Result of Peace

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020



Title: The Need for Peace!

Text: Ephesians 2:11-16  
Ephesians 6:15

We are in desperate need of peace. This piece of armor is not talking about world peace; it is talking about relational peace.

## 1 – We must remember our condition.

### Verses 11-12

- Paul does a fantastic job with our memory. He does not want us to remember for the sake of bitterness and harm. He wants us to remember for the sake of highlighting the depth from which Christ has saved us.

### 1. They were separated from Christ.

Verse 12a

- They had no knowledge of a Savior; they knew no atonement for sin.

### 2. Excluded from the commonwealth of Israel.

Verse 12b

- They had not the privilege of knowledge, worship, and ordinances of God.

### 3. Strangers to the covenants of promise.

Verse 12c

**4. Having no hope and without God in the world.** Verse 12d

*“Some rely on morality; some on forms of religion; some on the doctrine of universal salvation; all who are impenitent believe that they do not “deserve” eternal death, and expect to be saved by “justice.” Such hopes, however, must be unfounded. No hope of life in a future world can be founded on a proper basis which does not rest on some promise of God, or some assurance that He will save us; and these hopes, therefore, which people take up they know not why, are delusive and vain.” - Barnes*

**2 – We must partake and deeply value the nearness we have been afforded through the blood of Jesus Christ.** Verse 13

- Nearness to God through forgiveness.
- Nearness to His plan for our lives.
- Nearness to His protection and provision.

**(COMMUNION SERVICE)**

**3 – Christ Himself IS our Peace.** Verse 14

- He ALONE is our peace. He does not provide peace outside of Himself. He IS the peace we need.
- Without Him, there is no peace.

Too often people look for ways to receive peace or even ask God for peace. But outside of the relationship with Jesus, there is no peace; for He IS peace.

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***Daily Discipline!***

- 1 – To receive peace, spend time with Him!

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

# MOTHER'S DAY

Date: May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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Title: **Mother's Day!**



Text: 1 Samuel 1:1-20

*“Societies’ Mother’s Day expectations do not define a mother. A mother is defined by the intent of her Creator.”*

**1 – One of the greatest human expressions is emotional transparency before the Lord.**

**Verse 10**

- Emotions are needed in life.
- But before people, emotions are most often misunderstood.

When Hannah expressed her feelings before her husband, he turned the attention to himself.

- Verse 8

But, when feelings are expressed before God, God takes notice and fills the void that our feelings are crying out for.

- Before her husband, (verses 8-9) she went through the motions but sadness remained.
- Before God, (verse 18) she was genuinely fulfilled and her sadness was lifted.

**2 – When working out our troubles before God, be on guard against the misunderstanding of people. Verses 12-15**

- We must be quick to cast off offense!
- We must be quick to turn our focus upon God.

**3 – Worshipping God sets perspective and fulfillment. Verse 19**

- She was able to worship God because He took away her sadness.
- She was made happy and fulfilled *before* God gave her a child.

The answer we are emotionally seeking from God is first found in Him.

When God fulfills us, we can give back to God what He has given to us because He becomes the fulfiller. Verse 28

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***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Emotional “*chaos*” expressed before God is really strength and wisdom.

- Go ahead, let it all out to the Lord!
- Tell Him out loud your need to have fulfillment!

2 – Declare to God, “Before I follow after \_\_\_\_\_, I follow you!”

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Title: Advancing through Forgiveness!

Text: 2 Samuel 9:1-13

Karl Menninger, the famed psychiatrist, once said that if he could convince the patients in psychiatric hospitals that their sins were forgiven, 75 percent of them could walk out the next day.

**1 – We forgive as Christians because it is the kindness of God. Verse 3**

- What an incredible way that David viewed his responsibility towards those who have brought him harm.

Forgiveness is such a unique quality from God. As we display the forgiveness of God (*Kindness of God*), the **offender** receives **grace** and the **offeror** receives **healing**.

In fact, we receive so much through forgiveness that the most memorized prayer in the bible stems from this realization.

- Matthew 6:9-14
- Key verse 14

The key word in this passage is *for*! In the Greek it is the word *gar*; a conjunction used to express *cause, explanation, inference, or continuation*.

The forgiveness we offer people, unlocks for us the benefits not only of communication with God, but of blessings from God:

1. Receiving God's Kingdom. Verse 10a
2. Receiving God's will. Verse 10b
3. Receiving God's provision. Verse 11
4. Forgiveness from God. Verse 12
5. Strength in temptation. Verse 13a
6. Deliverance in times of evil. Verse 13b

## **2 – Forgiveness breaks the bond of fear.**

**Verse 7a**

- 1 John 4:18

David had been the one deeply wronged. Yet, he choose **freedom** and **future** over psychological **prison** and **past**.

## **3 – Forgiveness seeks to restore; not to delude oneself into forgetting.**

**Verse 7b**

- One of the most misinterpreted attributes of God is His forgiveness. He forgives and forgets?????
- God forgives but does not forget. He forgives and chooses not to hold it against us anymore.

## **4 – Forgiveness takes regular sacrifice on the part of the offeror.**

**Verse 7c.**

- He ate at his table regularly.
- It is a daily and lived through process.

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Forgive today out of God's kindness and receive God's blessing over your life.

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**Title: The Testing of Forgiveness!**

Text: 2 Samuel 16:1-4; 19:24-30

*“Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, was reminded one day of a vicious deed that someone had done to her years before. But she acted as if she had never even heard of the incident. ‘Don’t you remember it?’ her friend asked. ‘No,’ came Barton’s reply, ‘I distinctly remember forgetting it.’” – Luis Palau in his book Experiencing God’s Forgiveness.*

The enemy of our soul often looks to test the level and commitment we have towards those we have forgiven.

**1 – The wearing down of life’s trials, becomes the opportune time for the enemy to revisit hurt. 2 Samuel 16:1-4**

- King David, since he first showed kindness towards Mephibosheth has experienced dark and dismal days. Both from his own doing and the trials of life.
- King David’s mind is bombarded with heartache. The perfect time for the enemy to revisit hurt.

This armor of forgiveness, remember is on our feet. Forgiveness is about movement. Not staying stuck in the same dismal place.

Bitterness and unforgiveness keep an individual stuck in churning and unforgiving emotional distress.

**2 – When a forgiven hurt is revisited, the offense of it is almost always skewed.**

**2 Samuel 16:3-4**

- The great deceiver, does exactly that. He deceives.

The enemy deceives through the channels of:

1. **Emotion.** You start to feel feelings that have long ago been put to sleep. Those feelings are manipulative and have in its intention to keep one grounded in stagnancy and isolation.
2. **Hearsay.** We often are manipulated by what others say instead of by what we hear for ourselves. This is very difficult to break.
3. **Depression.** If it seems that everyone is against me then no one is for me. This is a lie.

**3 – We must remember the salvation of God given in specific victories and transfer that to the offense that is revisited. 2 Samuel 19:22**

- Because God is for us, we can forgive. Continually.

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***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Awareness is victory. If we are aware that the enemy is trying to assault us, we are able to yield to God and enjoy His victory.

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020



Title: **The Result of Peace!**

Text: John 13:21-35

The result of our walking in peace is a direct attack upon the enemy.

**1 – The result of peace is a life that loudly proclaims the testimony of Jesus. Verse 35a**

- “By this, all men will know that you are my disciples.

Jesus gives this new commandment of love immediately after Judas leaves to betray Him.

It is a direct connection and association with Christ.

- Therefore, forgiveness and the peace it brings is unique only to Christ.

**2 – The result of peace is a life that is undeniably connected to Jesus. Verse 35a**

- Jesus tells the disciples that all men will know that they are, “My disciples.”

What does it mean for us that Jesus uses the term, “*My disciples.*”

- The connection we have for Jesus has been accomplished by Him and sustained by Him.

Because Jesus has spoken out connection towards us, we can be certain of many things:

➤ John 10:27-30

**1. We can hear the voice of Christ in the midst of this life. Verse 27a**

➤ *My sheep hear My voice.*

**2. Personal and intimate participation of Christ in the affairs of our life. Verse 27b**

➤ *I know them.*

**3. Dependence because of sustenance and provision. Verse 27c**

➤ *They follow Me.*

**4. Hope in crisis. Verse 28a**

➤ *I give eternal life to them.*

**5. Victory in crisis. Verse 28b**

➤ *They will never perish.*

**6. Security. Verse 28c**

➤ *No one will snatch them out of my Hand.*

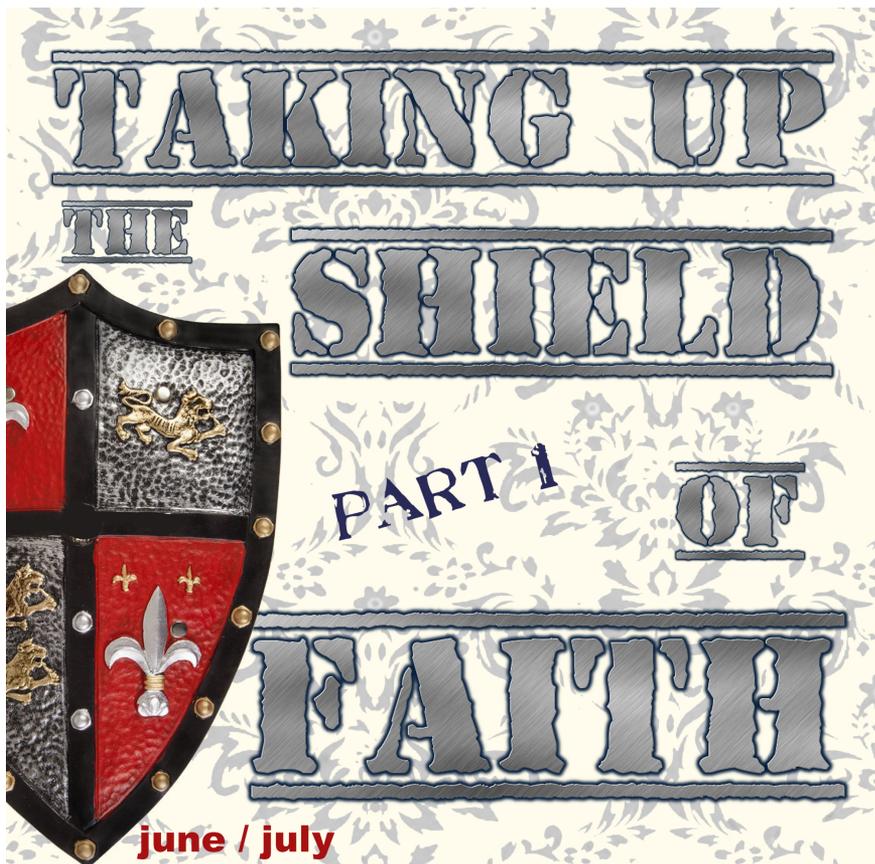
**7. Worth and importance. Verse 29**

➤ *No one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.*

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – The armor of peace is one of movement in forgiveness. Boldly and verbally forgive someone who has hurt you. Declare it as you move forward.



## Monthly Message Direction:

June 7 <sup>th</sup>	The Substance of Faith
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	The Giving of Faith
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	The Man of Faith
June 28 <sup>th</sup>	The Ability of Faith

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Title: The Substance of Faith!

Text: Hebrews 11:1-3

Ephesians 6:16, *“In addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”*

## **1 – Faith is the assurance of things hoped for.**

### **Verse 1a**

- Faith is the substance, assurance, or surety of things hoped for.
- It is not having faith that something good will happen.
- It is faith that what God said has already happened.

We have surety of salvation through Christ and every byproduct from the Kingdom of Heaven as our motivating factor.

Hebrews 10:32-39 sets the stage for what it is that we are hoping for.

## **2 – Faith is the conviction of things not seen.**

### **Verse 1b**

- We can better understand conviction as the voice of the Holy Spirit.

The voice of the Holy Spirit brings proof that what we are walking through is right and pleasing to Him, even when the physical situation seems unbearable.

The faith experiences of Hebrews 11 are written considering the hardship of Hebrews 10 and understanding that God accomplishes much through the difficulties of life.

### **3 – Through faith men of old gained approval.**

#### **Verse 2**

- If the biblical ancestors accomplished much through their expressed faith against the devil and against human persecution, how much more today will the faith that we have from Christ accomplish.
- Verse 39-40

We are living in a dynamic SEASON of faith!

- Dynamic in our experiences and dynamic in our action.

### **4 – Through faith, we understand the power of the Word of God over what we see. Verse 3**

- God created this world (what we see), therefore, it produces a testimony of greatness of God and the power of faith.

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## ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Come to realize the POWER in our faith in God. Speak it out! Live it out!

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Title: The Giving of Faith!

Text: Hebrews 11:4  
Genesis 4:1-8

Abel had flocks and Cain was a farmer. Abel offered to God a better sacrifice. What was so great about it?

**1 – By faith, Abel offered the FIRST and the BEST of what he had and God had regard for it. Genesis 4:4**

- It is always about giving to God that which matters to us.

If we feel hard pressed, we must give to God from our difficulty.

If we feel like we are in lack, we must give to God from our lack.

We must give to God from our needs.

1. Widow of Zarephath. 1 Kings 17:12-14
2. Widow's mite. Luke 21:1-4

As we give to God based on the faith we have in Him, we prove His faithfulness and declare a release on the bondages of this world.

## **2 – The giving of faith develops our testimony.**

**Hebrews 11:4b**

- A testimony is always about the difficulty and how you overcame.
- Our giving to God produces a level of testimony that proves the faithfulness and trustworthiness of God in our life.

What giving entails:

- The action of yielding personal and temporal things, especially necessities to a God that is higher and greater than our need.

## **3 – The giving through faith protects us from the onslaught of the enemy because whomever God recommends, God sustains.**

**Hebrews 11:4c**

- God testifying about the gift of Abel, is God standing for the sacrifice and gift of Abel.
- Whatever we release into the hands of God, especially things which are of deep connection to us, release the touch of God.

Job 1:1, 5, 8

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

Take inventory. What is the greatest pressing need in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How can you give to God through it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020



Title: The Man of Faith!

Text: Hebrews 11:7  
Genesis 6:5-14, 22

*“Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore seek not to understand that thou mayest believe, but believe that thou mayest understand.”*

-Augustine

**1 – Noah activated his faith by being sensitive to the warning of God about the things to come.  
Hebrews 11:7a**

- We must always strive to live life for that which God plans ahead of us.

It is easy to misalign ourselves and live according to the misleading feelings of the present moment.

- WE MUST LIVE FOR ETERNITY!

This is one reason why the current uprising in our country is wreaking havoc. It wants us to focus on the feeling of the moment.

- We must make our decisions based on the coming reality, not the present deception.

**2 – The difficulty of faith is not whether we believe in the power of God, but in our manifestation of it while a corrupt world watches and condemns that expression of faith.**

**Hebrews 11:7b**

- Noah was obedient by building the ark (something strange and foreign considering the times).

By doing this, he condemned the world, better yet, he clashed with the world.

It has been said that the church is to shape the culture of society. Yet, the Bible cries out to separate from society.

**3 – Faith will regard reverence to the Lord as priority to personal comfort. Hebrews 11:7b**

- The word used for *reverence* is the Greek word *eulabeomai* and holds the idea of cautiousness and fear.

Noah's fear of God was greater than the fear of man. Greater than the fear of:

1. Fitting in.
2. Being accepted.
3. Offending others.
4. Being bullied into societal norms.

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Let YOUR faith in Christ dictate the decisions you make rather than letting emotions pull you towards shame.

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Title: The Ability of Faith!

Text: Hebrews 11:11  
Genesis 17:17; 18:11-15

## **1 – Faith manifests itself as an opportunity which we must seize and not question.**

**Hebrews 11:11a**

- Sarah received *ability*!
- The word translated *ability* is the Greek word *dunamis* which means *power to achieve by applying the Lord's inherent abilities*.

This stems from Acts 1:8 as a promise.

- God allows faith to manifest miraculously in our lives for the sake of reaching people for His purpose.

The edge for us is that faith often times moves fluidly in the life of a Believer from belief to miraculous power.

There will come in each of our lives moments when God desires to manifest His power through our inabilities and weaknesses.

- It is in these moments that we ought not to question our capabilities because of our inabilities/weaknesses.
- But we must step out in action towards the power of faith.

## **Purpose of Power We Have Experienced in Missional Ministry:**

1. Power of preservation for purpose.
2. Power of supply for purpose.
3. Power of healing for purpose.
4. Power over earthly elements for purpose.
5. Power over circumstances for purpose.

Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

### **2 – Acting by faith produces power even if we struggle with believing.      Genesis 18:12**

- Sarah struggles with the idea of a child and especially with the action needed to make a child.

She did not believe her body and her husband's body would work. Especially the emotional thrill and pleasure receptors to function.

- She said, I don't believe I could *feel* the way I need to feel. Yet, she went to her husband.

### **3 – The power of faith is based upon God and not our own righteousness.      Genesis 18:15**

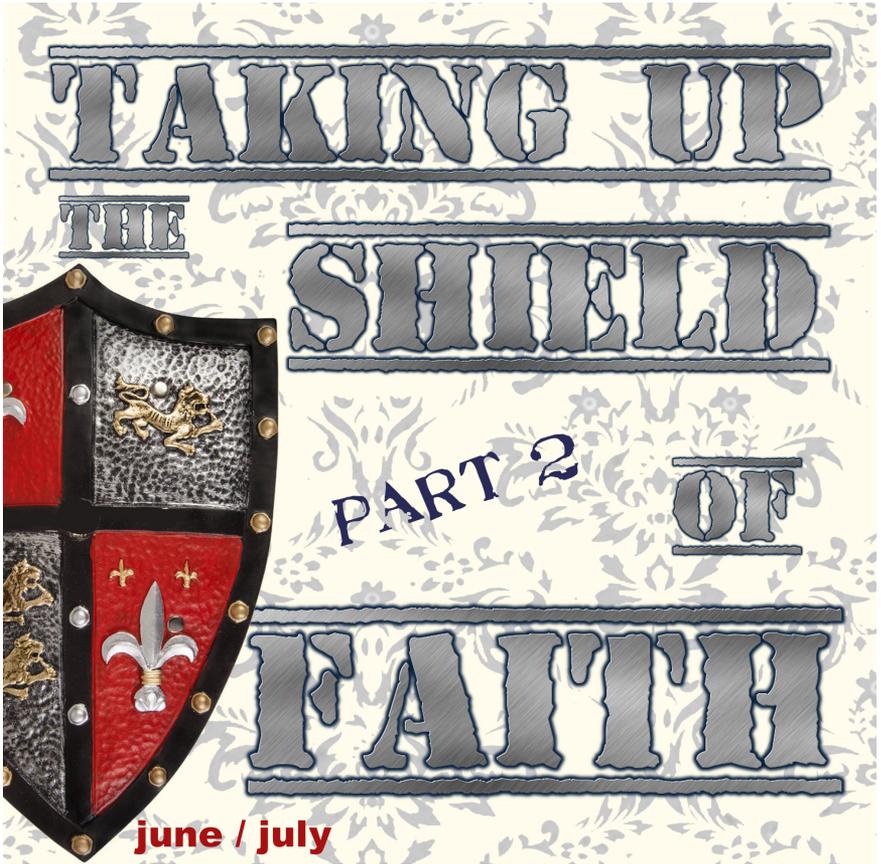
- God still honored Sarah's *action* even though she *lied* out of *fear*.
- Lies, fear, and disbelief, still produced Power because she ACTED upon Gods promise.

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## ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Pick up the Word of God; Read it; Pray; Actively do what it is telling you to do.

- Let the power of God move in your life.



## Monthly Message Direction:

July 5 <sup>th</sup>	The Sacrifice of Faith
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	The Separation of Faith
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	The Advancement of Faith
July 26 <sup>th</sup>	The Protection of Faith

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Title: **The Sacrifice of Faith!**

Text: Hebrews 11:17-19  
Genesis 22:1-12

Abraham was not banking on God *stopping* the sacrifice, but that God would raise the dead.

The purpose of testing is not limited only to the building of our faith.

- There is a greater progression we must experience in and through our lives.
- 1 Peter 4:12-19     Key verse: 13

### **The Benefits of Faith Testing 1 Peter 4:12-19:**

1. **Revelation** of the glory of God. In His returning and in our experience.     Verse 13b
2. Blessed from the **closeness** of the Spirit of God.     Verse 14
3. **Cleansing** from the hold of sin. A bright example to the world.     Verse 17

**1 – The depth of our trial brings truer revelation of the Glory of God in our life.**

**1 Peter 4:13, Hebrews 11:19**

- *He received him back as a type...*
- God was developing the testimony of Jesus in the Old Testament.

God is developing the life of Christ in and through our life.

- Galatians 2:20
- 2 Corinthians 13:5
- Romans 8:10
- Galatians 4:19

**2 – The more we persevere in sacrifice by faith, we destroy the plans of the enemy because we are developing the nature of Jesus.**

**Romans 8:29,  
2 Corinthians 3:18,  
Hebrews 11:18**

- The plan of the enemy is to snuff out our future.
- God's plan is that our future shines the image of Jesus.

The sacrifice of faith means that there will be things in our lives that we will have to choose Christ over.

- Is Christ more important?
- Is the gain of what Christ brings more valuable?

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – We often struggle with the sacrifices of our faith (*what we need to give up*) because we don't live out in the community of faith.

CONNECT with Believers and share the struggle of your faith. Share your addictions and stronghold. Gather a community of prayer around your life.!

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Title: The Separation of Faith!

Text: Hebrews 11:24-27

*“Nothing teaches us about the preciousness of the Creator as much as when we learn the emptiness of everything else.”*  
– Charles Spurgeon

**1 – Faith refuses associations that are not a part of God’s plan. Verse 24**

- It is so difficult at times to refuse things in this world that cause us to be seen in a popular light.
- Refusal may often mean discomfort in this world, but brings closeness of Presence.

**2 – Faith gravitates towards associations that emphasize the Presence of God. Verse 25**

- The people of God were mistreated and oppressed. The Egyptians were the dominating power and very rich.
- Yet, Moses gravitated towards the people of God because His presence was with them.

We can face oppression and hardship. Yet, we are not alone. There is a distinct line drawn between Believers in Christ and those who are not.

**3 – Faith tips the scale of: Christ over self-gain. Verse 26**

- *The reproach of Christ over the treasures of Egypt.*

The New Testament Church was struggling with persecution and pressure because they were followers of Christ.

- They wanted to return to the Old Covenant of offering sacrifices to God because they would rather be bound to tradition than suffer for Christ.
- Hebrews tells us that Moses (the writer of the Old Covenant) chose reproach for Christ more than comfort of lifestyle.

Do we want an easy life or one of God's Presence?

- What we do daily proves and solidifies which one we choose.

#### **4 – Faith conquers fear.**

#### **Verse 27**

- Faith in Christ conquers fear and anxiety of:
  1. Uncertainty
  2. Provision
  3. Safety
  4. Identity
  5. Direction

The more we establish our faith and solidify our relationship with Christ, the more we can see:

- God's protection (our faith and salvation secure).
- God's plan unfolding.
- God's purpose realized.
- God's person experienced.

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – What in your life do you need to separate from to be able to draw closer to God? \_\_\_\_\_

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Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**Title: The Advancement  
of Faith!**

Text: Hebrews 11:30  
Joshua 6:1-6; 15-16; 20

*“We advance in faith every time we receive a decree from the Lord. This happens very often in our lives. We often have the decree but we miss the participation aspect, avoiding God’s plan and silently disbelieving the confident shout of victory.”*

## **1 – God speaks to us a decree to advance.**

### **Verse 2**

- God speaks to Joshua a reality that has not yet happened.
- In God the work is already accomplished.
- In ourselves, we must walk in obedience to actuate it.

This is where fear and uncertainty often wreak havoc over our lives. We must hear the decree and act upon it. Not just hear and try to believe.

1. Peace I leave you. John 14:27
2. Joy of the Lord is strength. Nehemiah 8:10
3. Pulling down strongholds. 2 Cor. 10:4-5
4. He bears our burdens. Psalm 68:19-20
5. We receive comfort and can give comfort.  
2 Cor. 1:4
6. We are conquerors. Romans 8:37

We must act upon the decree. If God has issued it, it is a spiritual reality that we must tie to our earthly situation.

## **2 – God reveals to us a plan for His decree.**

**Verses 3-4**

The plan for Joshua and the people was very simple and straight forward. Yet, it required obedience and personal responsibility.

Some conditions they might have felt:

1. Embarrassment and fear. Verse 3a
2. Frustration in repetition. Verse 3b
3. Humility in positions. Verse 4a
4. Tiredness in pressing through. Verse 4b

## **3 – There is a moment where the shout of faith ties our belief in God’s word to His power revealed.**

**Verses 5, 20**

- Our voice is the very connection to the depths of who we are.

Matthew 12:34; Proverbs 4:23; Proverbs 10:11;  
Luke 6:45

The shout of faith comes when the heart has been given to faith and the mouth speaks the reality of it into the situation.

The Israelites **heard** the decree, **followed** the plan, **believed** in their hearts, and **spoke** it into their condition.

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Do a bit more shouting when it comes to the specific trials we are facing. We have no problem speaking the bad. Let us shout the good!

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Title: **The Protection  
of Faith!**

Text: Hebrews 11:31

Joshua 2:1-15; 6:20, 22-23, 25

God doesn't hold our past like we do. – Verse 1

God isn't looking for perfection. – Verse 3

God is looking for our realization of who He is in  
the midst of our lives. – Verse 11b

**1 – It is faith in God in the midst of chaos that  
brings us through. Joshua 2:11**

Rahab expressed faith in God as supreme in the  
heavenly realm. (God in heaven)

- This is where most of us express our faith.
- We believe that God is “*out there*.”

But God is so much more personable and relatable  
towards the details of our life.

Rahab expressed faith in God as supreme in the  
situations of her life. (God on earth)

- This is where faith meets relational  
expression.

In the fear and chaos of the moment, God ordained  
that He would visit Rahab of all the people in the  
city because her heart was receptive.

She confesses God over the situations of life because she has *seen* God as work.

1. She had heard about His work. Joshua 2:10
2. She had felt conviction for which she had translated verbally as fear. Joshua 2:11a

## **2 – It is faith in God in the midst of chaos that brings a saving effect over our families.**

**Joshua 6:23**

Rahab was the one who expressed faith. Yet her household was spared.

- Our expression of faith is irresistible.
- It brings conviction.
- Even when others are angry at the presence of conviction, their hearts are confronted.

## **3 – When God protects, it is so that He develops a new plan, new direction, and new purpose for the outcome of our good.**

**Joshua 6:25**

- She lived in the midst of Israel.
- In the midst: in the middle of God's working.

May that ever be said of us. Our lives are lived in the midst of His Presence.

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Don't let what has happened in your life dictate what God can and will do. Go after Him. Seek Him. Love Him. Fear Him. Serve Him. You will find yourself in the center of His Presence!

# **The Protection of Faith**

Sunday, July, 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020



## **Jericho Wall.**

Only part of the wall that was standing during modern excavation.

TAKE THE HELMET  
OF  
SALVATION



AUGUST

**Monthly Message Direction:**

August 2<sup>nd</sup>

Darkness and Light

August 9<sup>th</sup>

Standing in the Salvation of the Lord

August 16<sup>th</sup>

The Peace of Salvation in Battle

August 23<sup>rd</sup>

Celebrating Salvation

August 30<sup>th</sup>

Bringing Salvation to those near to us

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020



Title: **Darkness and Light!**

Text: Ephesians 5:8-11  
Psalm 27:1; Matthew 5:14-16

*“We must come to understand the stark difference between darkness and light. When we come to differentiate between the two, we come to live according to the one.”*

**1 – The light (salvation) of the Lord protects our mind from fear. Psalm 27:1a**

- So often we want an immediate reprieve from fear that plagues us when in fact we don't want to give in totally to the salvation of the Lord.

Salvation is always about being brought away from harm (far away) and brought to a place of stability.

- You cannot be saved from hanging off the edge of a cliff and then settle for living on the edge of a cliff.

David puts some disciplines in place for the Salvation of the Lord to take full effect in his life:  
Psalm 27

1. Asking – a prayerful life. Verse 4a
2. Seeking – a determined life. Verse 4b
3. Meditating – a prioritized life. Verse 4c

- |                                    |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 4. Giving – a purposed life.       | Verse 6b  |
| 5. Worshipping – a humble life.    | Verse 6c  |
| 6. Vocalizing – an unashamed life. | Verse 7a  |
| 7. Obedience – a doing life.       | Verse 8   |
| 8. Teaching – a willing life.      | Verse 11a |
| 9. Following – a trusting life.    | Verse 11b |
| 10. Believing – a life of faith.   | Verse 13  |

All of this is *waiting for the Lord*. Verse 14

## **2 – The Light is the defense of our life.**

### **Psalm 27:1b**

- Defense is the Hebrew word *maoz* and means *place of safety and protection*.
- It is likened to an impenetrable fortress.

Our salvation is the protection we have in this life leading us to the next.

- It guards our present so we do not lose our future.

## **3 – Light (salvation) must be active.**

### **Matthew 5:14**

- We must be expressive in our salvation.
- We must be noticeable in our salvation.

## **4 – Light must be manifested through our actions.**

### **Matthew 5:16**

- Good works are not good ethical deeds.
- Good works is seeing where God is actively working and participating in that work.

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## ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Actively look for the differences between darkness and light around you. Take note of them. Live as the light.

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**Title: Standing in the Salvation  
of the Lord!**

Text: Exodus 14:11-31

**The enemy attacks our salvation by bringing:**

1. Fear of not knowing the future. Verse 11a
2. Comfort in bondage. Verse 11b
3. Delusion in sin. Verse 12a
4. Nearsightedness. Verse 12b

**1 – God calls us to advance when there is no  
humanly possible way to advance.**

**Verse 15**

- Waiting for God to do something great in our life never entails immobility.

Verses 13-14 we claim. Verse 15 is our faith put into action.

*Why are you crying out? Go Forward!*

- We may ask, “*How do I go forward? Which way do I go?*”
- The answer, when we don’t have one is to progress in our spiritual walk with Christ.
- As we know Him, we know the way to move.

2 Peter 1:2-3

-

Ephesians 1:17-19

## **2 – The Lord is our Light and our Salvation.**

### **Verses 19-20**

- He became darkness for the enemy and light for His people.

When we rest in the salvation of the Lord, God confuses and confounds the work and plans of the enemy.

## **3 – If we can't see anything around us in our situation, it is because God wants us to only see Him.**

### **Verses 21-22**

- They could not see behind themselves, or to either side of themselves.
- Only forward.

### **The salvation of the Lord is breaking:**

1. Our past stronghold.
2. The bonding intention of our enemy: (write it down)\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Wayward paths. (right & left)

The only thing our salvation will allow us to see is:

1. Jesus Christ.
2. His future for us.

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Confess what type of past God is freeing you from. Speak it out! Aloud!!!!!!!

2 – Speak out that all you see is Jesus and His plan for you!

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**the  
armor of God**

**Title: The Peace of Salvation  
in Battle!**



Text: Psalm 62:1-12

**1 – Waiting on God allows the fruit of His  
salvation in a situation to be manifested.**

**Verses 1, 5**

This *silent waiting* denotes an attitude that:

1. Does not jump to conclusion. Both good conclusion and bad.
2. Does not allow anxiety to gain past a fleeting thought.
  - (Philippians 4:6, 2 Corinthians 10:5)
3. Cuts off all other answers. Silently waiting for God does not mean that a heart is not poured out to God. It means that we become quiet towards receiving answers from everyone else and listen for a word only from God.

**2 – His salvation in and through our lives is  
active and productive through the life of a  
Believer.**

**Verses 2, 6, 7**

- Salvation is not a singular experience.
- It is an active and daily manifestation through the Believer.

We must desperately look for and strive for its fruit in our daily dealings.

- Look for the work of Salvation.
- Strive for the work of Salvation.
- Listen to the conviction of Salvation.
- Use the power of Salvation.

The activity of Salvation produces peace through:

1. **Strength.** (Our Rock)                      Verses 2, 6
  - The word used for *rock* is the Hebrew word *tsoor* and means *a rocky wall or cliff*.
  - His strength in our lives is unmatched.
  
2. **Stability.** (Our Rock)                      Verses 2, 6
  - Isaiah 33:6
  - Stability in the midst of every changing times, people, and events.
  
3. **Protection.** (My Stronghold)          Verses 2, 6
  - Hebrew word *misgab* and means *a secure height, lofty or inaccessible place*.
  - He brings us higher than where our situation can manage.
  - Isaiah 55:8-9 – He brings us to higher thoughts and ways.
  
4. **Outcome.** (My Glory)                      Verse 7
  - He alone becomes our desire of benefit. Not possessions, not people, and not position. Jesus and Him alone!

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Let your tomorrow be a day fully concentrated on the salvation of Christ manifested in your life.

Speaker: Dr. Rai Papparatti

Date: August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020



**Title: The Celebration of Salvation!**

Text: 1 Peter 1:1-9

*“The helmet of salvation prepares us to live in such a way that not only protects us from the onslaught of the enemy, but makes vivid association with to whom we belong.”*

Celebration has to do with active association and active participation.

- It is an agreement of ideals.

**1 – We are born again to a living hope.**

**Verse 3**

Naturally speaking, we are born with an expiration date.

- The moment of conception, we are dated to complete our cycle of life and will one day die.

John 3:15-16 – Being born again gives us the hope of eternal life after our life here in this world.

- A living hope is more than eternal life. It is eternal life manifested in this life through the experience of Jesus in us.

**2 – We obtain an inheritance that is active from the moment of salvation. Verse 4**

- It becomes our account to which we can withdraw from.
  
- 1. It is imperishable. It cannot be destroyed.
- 2. It is undefiled. No consequence of sin can touch it.
- 3. It will not fade away. The more we spend from it the more we accrue.

**3 – We are protected by the power of God through faith. Verse 5a**

- Peter is encouraging a church that will likely lose their lives in persecution.
- Yet, their lives will display the power of God.

What they have through Christ will be protected from anything this would can muster.

**4 – We are prepared for a salvation which is to be revealed in our days. Verse 5b**

The strength of the church in this verse is the removal of fear and of the courage and witness to stand for Christ.

- They don't fear death for death only reveals God's salvation.

WHAT IS BEING REVEALED FROM OUR LIVES?

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***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Become the testimony of Jesus in your life's setting. Make the distinction evident!

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**Title: Bringing Salvation to Those Near to Us!**

**Text: Matthew 9:35-38**

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**Occupations of the Disciples:**

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1. **Fishermen** – Andrew, Peter, James, and John. Matthew 4:18-22. They were not merely fishermen but business owners.
    - Thomas, Nathaniel, and 2 others may have also worked as fishermen, for they were all together fishing when Jesus appeared to them in John 21:2-8.
  2. **Tax Collector** – Matthew. Worked for the Roman Government and earned a portion of what he collected. He was wealthy.
  3. **Zealot** – Simon was a political anarchist attempting to overthrow the Roman government.
  4. **Accountant** – Judas was a career embezzler; John 12:4-6. He might have been an accountant or bookkeeper since he handled the money box.
- 

The disciples followed Jesus even though they had careers and families. Jesus' work was their work.

**1 – Our salvation must have a going aspect.**

**Verse 35a**

- If we are not specific about going, our life will have an aspect of self-gratification that will consume our motivation for everything we do.

**2 – We must be able to teach what we have experienced with Christ.**

**Verse 35b**

- Hebrews 5:11-14

- Maturity is being able to take what we have received from Christ and teach it to others.
- Teaching others primarily holds the discipline of desiring to hear the Word of God and practicing the choosing of good over evil ways. (Hebrews 5:11, 14)

**3 – We must desire to share the Kingdom over the methods of this life. Verse 35c**

- Every time we choose and share the kingdom ways, we set the stage of the kingdom works to be made evident.

**4 – We must take *every* opportunity to pray and transform a life. Verse 35d**

- This requires boldness and motivation.

**5 – We must develop eyes to see past the current condition of people. Verse 36a**

- Jesus saw their distress, their sadness, and their emptiness. (vs. 36)

**6 – Our compassion should be the motivating factor and not our worldly advancement.**

**Verse 36b**

- Jesus' compassion was always the precursor to action. Compassion must lead to action.

**7 – Our salvation must push us to pray.**

**Verse 28**

- Ephesians 6:17-18

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***Daily Discipline!***

Let the salvation of Christ overtake your mind!



Take the **S****W****O****R****D** of the

Spirit

which is the

**W****O****R****D** of God

September

### Monthly Message Direction:

- |                            |                                   |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| September 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Church Picnic (No Service)        |
| September 13 <sup>th</sup> | Hiding the Word in our Heart      |
| September 20 <sup>th</sup> | Defeating the Enemy with the Word |
| September 27 <sup>th</sup> | Speaking the Word of God Out      |

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**Title: Hiding the Word in  
our Heart!**

Text: Deuteronomy 6:6; Psalm 119:9-11

We fight the enemy with our purity.

**1 – Purity must only be judged according to  
God’s Word. Psalm 119:9**

- The Word of God is our standard for morality and purity.

Knowing what to do is not the hard part. Doing what we know to be right is the hard part.

- It is the battle of the ages.
- Romans 7:15-25

It is a war against the mind. Romans 7:23

We are in need of deliverance. Romans 7:25

- Deliverance from the **body of death**.

**2 – The Word of God moves from our hearts to  
each extension of our lives through our action  
upon it. Psalm 119:9b**

- James 1:22, 25
- James 2:26

**How do we respond to the Word? Luke 6:46-49**

1. Come to Jesus. Verse 47a
2. Hear His Words. Verse 47b

3. Act on them.

Verse 47c

### **What is the result of His Word acted upon?**

1. Builds a house. Verse 48a
2. Digs deep. Verse 48b
3. Lays a foundation on the rock. Verse 48c

### **What life can only produce.**

- Floods occur. Verse 48d
- Torrents strike with force. Verse 48e

### **The power of the Word acted upon.**

- Could not shake the house. Verse 48f
- The house has been well built. Verse 48g

### **3 – The value we place on God’s Word determines the risk of sin which we take.**

**Psalm 119:11**

- Do we value our sword?

If we value the Word of God, the power of sin is broken within our lives.

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

What level of priority does God’s Word have in your life: (CIRCLE ONE)

Utmost (consumes my time)

So-so (I fit it in when I have time)

Not there (I usually forget to spend time with the Word)

Sunday, September 13, 2020

**Body of Death Illustration for:**

**Hiding the Word in our Heart Sermon Point #1**

Virgil paints this in all its horrors, in the account he gives of the tyrant Mezentius. Aeneid, lib. viii. ver. 485.

What tongue can such barbarities record, Or count the slaughters of his ruthless sword? 'Twas not enough the good, the guiltless bled, Still worse, **he bound the living to the dead: These, limb to limb, and face to face, he joined;** O! monstrous crime, of unexampled kind! Till choked with stench, the lingering wretches lay, And, in the loathed embraces, died away!

Roasting, burning, racking, crucifying, etc., were nothing when compared to this diabolically invented punishment. We may naturally suppose that the cry of such a person would be, “Wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from this dead body?”

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**the  
armor of God**

**Title: Defeating the Enemy  
with the Word!**



Text: Ephesians 6:12; 1 John 2:14

*“No matter the battles or struggles we face, one thing is for certain: None of them stem from human initiative. They stem from history’s greatest dilemma: sin and its desire to have us.”*

If our struggle is not a flesh and blood struggle, it is only logical that our weapon to defeat these onslaughts come from a supernatural place.

Why we avoid the Word of God amidst struggle?

1. It is convicting. Nehemiah 8:9
2. It requires change. James 1:21
3. It forces faith. This is especially difficult when sight is desired.
4. It speaks truth and not the delusion we want to hear.
5. It reveals our deep intentions. Hebrews 4:12

**1 – When the Word of God abides in us, the defeat of the enemy is realized.**

**1 John 2:24**

- The Word of God must move from hearing or reading to a deep rooted state in our heart.
- It must abide in us.

*Abide* is the Greek word *meno* and means *not to depart, not to leave, to continue to be present. It is to maintain unbroken fellowship.*

Many believe that the spoken confession of scripture brings the defeat of the devil without the scripture living in them.

- This cannot work.
  - Acts 19:11-16
- 

**Time** spent in the Word transforms our mind.

- Romans 12:2

Intentional **application** of the Word produces God's unique touch and blessing on that which we do.

- James 1:22-25
  - What God blesses, the enemy cannot disrupt.
  - Job 1:7-11
- 

### ***Daily Discipline!***

Where can you begin by raising the intake of God's Word? \_\_\_\_\_

How can you specifically and intentionally apply God's Word to your current situation?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Speaker: Jose Gavidia

Date: Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Title: **Speaking the Word of God Out!**

Text: Proverbs 18:21, Numbers 14:28-29

**There is power in the Word of God that we allow to come from our lives.**

- If we speak against our situation, God will allow it.
- If we speak the Word of God, God will let His power flow through us.

**The Power in the Word of God:**

1. 1 Corinthians 1:18
2. 2 Timothy 1:7
3. Ephesians 3:20-21
4. Romans 1:16
5. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

The power of God is in His Word, and we access that power when we speak the Word of God.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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Using

# Prayer and Petition



October

## Monthly Message Direction:

October 4<sup>th</sup>

Unleashing God's Will

October 11<sup>th</sup>

Crowding out Prayer

October 18<sup>th</sup>

Principles for a Powerful Prayer Meeting – Part 1

October 25<sup>th</sup>

Principles for a Powerful Prayer Meeting – Part 2

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

*the*  
**armor of God**

Title: **Unleashing God's Will!**

**2020**

Text: Acts 12:1, 5, 12

*“The Early Church didn’t have a prayer meeting.  
The Early Church was the prayer meeting.”*

– Armin Gesswein

In the face of insurmountable odds, Christians did not shrink back from the onslaught of persecution and pressure. They did what they knew was of importance – Pray!

- The fact that Peter went to this location suggests that this is a regular house church continually meeting and praying together.

## **1 – The church had the habit of meeting for prayer no matter the circumstance. Verse 5**

1. Persecution did not threaten prayer.
2. Politics did not threaten prayer.
3. Fear did not threaten prayer.
4. Suffering did not threaten prayer.
5. Depression did not threaten prayer.

## **2 – Collective church prayer causes fervency in the life of an individual. Verse 5**

- The word translated *earnest* or *fervent* is only used 3 times in the N. T.
- Luke 22:44; Acts 12:5; 1 Peter 1:22

- It carries the idea of being continuous (strength when one wants to give up) and of having intense feelings.

The church was *ignited* together because they *prayed* together.

### **3 – Prayer involves personal risk. Verses 1-2**

When we pray together we risk:

1. Facing the attack of the world.
2. Facing the conviction of God.
3. Being in contact with each other.

### **4 – Prayer becomes powerful when it disrupts our natural and convenient lifestyle.**

**Verses 6, 12**

- The church prioritized prayer over sleep.

The power is not in the time of day that prayer was offered. The power was in the sacrifice of the prayer.

When we *give up* to pray, we emphasize the spiritual authority we have over our fleshly longings.

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## ***Daily Discipline!***

1 week of prayer. What will I give up to pray?

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When will I give it up? Time?

M \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm T \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm W \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm T \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm  
F \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm S \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm S \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm

# My Life, My Church, Our Prayers!

WEEK OF 10/5 THROUGH 10/11

**Tuesday, October 6, 2020**

**Prayer emphasis is on Personal Growth.**

## **Direction in Prayer.**

So often we go to God out of our lack and frustration. Our prayers become limited to begging God for personal relief.

But when we learn to pray in specific ways; we begin to speak the heart and will of God through our life.

In John 17, Jesus prays for His disciples at a moment in time when He probably needed prayer for Himself and what He was just about to endure. Yet, He prays specific and targeted prayers that forever change the course of history for the disciples and for us.

Jesus saw what both the Father wanted to accomplish and what He desired for the disciples to do.

## **What direction do we move in when we pray?**

- 1. We must desire above all things, knowledge of the heart of God. Verse 3**
  - Before all of the protection prayers and blessings prayer, we must desire to know God above all things.
  - As we know Him, we already have the direction to pray in.
  - 2 Peter 1:3
  
- 2. We must desire in whatever we seek from God that our focus and purpose is to remain in Him. Verse 11**
  - If we remain in Him, our focus will be to have His will over what we *think* we desire.
  
- 3. As we pray, we must decide in prayer that our joy (our answer) comes only in having Christ. Verse 13**
  
- 4. We must pray that we be kept from the schemes of the devil as we seek to follow the will of God. Verse 15**
  
- 5. We must pray and base what we pray according to God's Word. Verse 17**
  
- 6. We must pray in whatever we ask of God, that we be used in His master plan – bringing His light to the world. Verse 21**

# My Life, My Church, Our Prayers!

WEEK OF 10/5 THROUGH 10/11

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

**Prayer emphasis is on a Church Location.**

## **Distractions in Prayer.**

Mark 4:19 (NASB)

*<sup>19</sup> but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.*

The enemy of our soul knows exactly where to bring temptations. Just as Jesus was giving the illustration of how some people allow things to take them away from the Word; in the same way, the enemy continually brings the same attack in the life of a believer attempting to wear him down.

When we begin this prayer process, you can be aware that the enemy will bring to our attention these subtle but gripping distractions:

### **1. The worries of the world.**

It is safe to say that many of us have experienced *worries* in this world.

➤ Political – Emotional – Racial - Relational

We are bombarded daily with things that strive to bring fear and frustration.

The oxford definition for worry is: *to allow one's mind to dwell on difficulty or troubles.*

## 2. The deceitfulness of riches.

So often when we pray, our mind begins to turn towards **what** we want rather than **who** we want.

Riches being that which profits in carnal ways. The profit of **wealth, possessions, people, pleasures**, etc.

- The enemy will try to deceive you with these *things*. For what reason? To manipulate our emotions!
- *We often desire things from emotions rather than truth.*

## 3. The desire for other things.

This seems very broad. What does He mean, *desire for other things*? It is about where you want to place your **TIME**.

You will find in prayer that distractions come in the time spent. We think about what we will eat, watch, or do other than pray.

### How to break these distractions: **Philippians 4:4-9**

1. **Rejoice.** Verse 4
2. **Release** all your thoughts to God. Verse 6
3. **Reflect** on the attributes of God. Verse 8
4. **Rehearse** what you have learned. Verse 9

Ant the peace of God will guard your heart, mind, and be with you! Verses 7, 9

# My Life, My Church, Our Prayers!

WEEK OF 10/5 THROUGH 10/11

Thursday, October 8, 2020

**Prayer emphasis is on Church People.**

## **Using God's Word in Prayer.**

*“Power in the use of the Word depends on the prayer life. Power in prayer depends on the use of the Word.” – Dr. Wesley Duewel*

### **John 14:21**

<sup>21</sup> He who has **My commandments** and keeps them is the one **who loves Me**; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”

### **John 14:23**

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, “**If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word**; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.

### **John 14:26**

<sup>26</sup> But the Helper, **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and **bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.**

### **John 15:5**

<sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches; **he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit**, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

### **John 15:7**

<sup>7</sup> **If you abide in Me**, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

### **John 15:8**

<sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, **that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.**

## **1 John 5:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, **if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.** <sup>15</sup> And if we know that He hears us *in* whatever we ask, **we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.**

When we pray the Word, we are using a weapon that is mighty in deed:

## **2 Corinthians 10:4**

<sup>4</sup> for the weapons of our warfare **are not of the flesh,** but **divinely powerful** for the destruction of fortresses.

**1 – As we fill ourselves with the Word of God, we prime ourselves for a time of prayer that will be effective and productive.**

**2 – Reading, studying, hearing, and surrounding ourselves with the Word, gives the Holy Spirit the library from which to remind us when we seek God.**

## **Romans 8:26-27**

<sup>26</sup> In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for **we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us** with groanings too deep for words; <sup>27</sup> and **He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is,** because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God.*

**3 – When we pray the Words of God which the Holy Spirit has brought to our attention, we are praying the will of God.**

- When we pray the will of God, we have the answer to that which we have prayed.

Praying the Word of God, conforms us to His image, desires, and wants. When we pray that which God desires us to pray, not only do we have victory, but we also have the power of God displayed in miraculous form to accomplish what we have prayed.

# My Life, My Church, Our Prayers!

WEEK OF 10/5 THROUGH 10/11

Friday, October 9, 2020

**Prayer emphasis is on a Church People.**

## **Abiding in Prayer.**

Psalm 84:1-2, 4-7, 8, 10

We must develop the reflex of prayer. Whatever our situational experience is, we must immediately turn to God in prayer.

We were created for a continual communion with God. Yet, because of sin, our natural reflex has become to pull away from God and retreat the very moment we face the condemnation of sin.

The sons of Korah are linking themselves to the experiences that they are having when they spend time in the presence of God.

The more time we spend (abide), we experience a renewal of heart and of expression.

### **1. Those who abide in prayer experience strength. Verse 5a**

- *Whose strength is in you.*
- This is not natural strength.
- We are not the object of this strength.
- God is the object of strength.

➤ We are living through Him.

**2. Those who abide in prayer experience conviction and determination of heart direction. Verse 5b**

- *Whose heart are the highways to Zion.*
- Abiding in prayer is allowing the perfect alignment of our will to God's will.

**3. Those who abide in prayer find, not only passage through difficulty, but the ability to turn difficulty into blessing. Verse 6a**

- *Passing through the valley...they make it a spring.*
- Only time in His presence; learning to abide there, produces this type of working in hardship.

**4. Those who abide in prayer experience special moments of God's touch. Verse 6b**

- *Early rain...covers with blessing.*
- Early rain saturates the land and produces growth *before* the normal experience of growth.

**5. Those who abide in prayer move from strength to strength. Verse 7a**

It is not a rollercoaster life, but a life from stability and victory to greater experiences with God.

# My Life, My Church, Our Prayers!

WEEK OF 10/5 THROUGH 10/11

Saturday, October 10, 2020

**Prayer emphasis is on growth as a Church.**

## **My role in corporate prayer.**

Romans 12:4-8, 10-13; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

When we as Christians pray corporately, we bring a dynamic that emphasizes the gifting that is in our own lives.

God has given different gifts to the Church.

- Different gifts to individuals for the purpose of meeting the needs of the Body (Church).

Jesus gives the Church everything it needs through each individual Believer.

As Paul is instructing the Church to use their giftings, he adds in there that they must be devoted to prayer.

**1 – When we as individual Christians pray corporately, we add into the prayer meeting the power of God that He has given each person for the purpose of their gift.**

- If I am praying because of my lack of faith; and someone with the gift of faith begins

- praying for me; there is a powerful transfer which takes place.

## **2 – When we as individual Christians pray corporately, we emphasize the importance of the Body of Christ in our own personal lives.**

- The closer we are to the Church, the more we will grow.
- The more absolute we make our stand to join with Believers and pray, the more we break the strongholds of self-reliance and isolation.

## **3 – When we as individual Christians pray corporately, we are able to receive from God, tangibly (through word, touch, and action) His touch and strength which only comes through prayer.**

- Yes, we can receive a touch from God when we pray alone.
- But God's institution of the Church magnifies His touch over a world that is seeking and a Believer which is asking.

We need the Church. We need to pray together. As we do, we experience the closeness, the touch, the favor, and the sweet presence of Jesus.

**Opening Illustration and Quote.**

That great missionary to India, William Carey, became deeply concerned about the attitude of his son Felix. The young man, a professing Christian, had promised to become a missionary. But he broke his vow when he was appointed ambassador to Burma.

Carey requested prayer for him: "*Pray for Felix. He has degenerated into an ambassador of the British government when he should be serving the King of kings.*"

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Title: Crowding Out Prayer!

Text: Luke 10:38-42

*“...he has degenerated into an ambassador...when he should be serving the King of kings.”*

– William Carey

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**1 – We must not raise obligation higher than time spent with God. Verse 40**

- Her preparations!

When we allow our obligations to challenge and gain victory over time spent with God, we allow there to be an open door for:

**1. Distractions. Verse 40a**

- Distraction in this case is that which causes us to miss an opportunity of growth and experience with Christ.

**2. Assumptions. Verse 40b**

- *“Do you not care?”* Assumptions cause us to speak for God telling Him what the truth is about our lives.

**3. Worry. Verse 41a**

- Worry about obligations causes aggravation and a gateway for a skewed attitude.

**4. A Bothered Spirit. Verse 41b**

- Attitude shifts and is the greatest block against a tender heart of reception to the words of Christ.

**2 – We must resolve to make time spent with God the greatest necessity. Verse 42a**

- When only one thing becomes our necessity, great risks are taken and great stances are made.

We take **risks** by:

- Being used by God in His ministry; through His Church.
- Giving from our sources to be used for His purpose.
- Loving the people of Christ by our fellowship with them.

We take **stances** by:

- Separating from sin and its appearance.
- Proclaiming boldly our relationship with Christ.
- Blocking entryways of sin and temptation.

**3 – What we receive from Christ in prayer is solid and immovable. Verse 42b**

- *It shall not be taken away from her.*
- Romans 8:26-27, 31, 35, 37-39

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***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Let us corporately pray for one another. Pray the goodness that you have experienced from God in your life over someone else's life.

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

*the*  
**armor of God**

**Title: Principles for a Powerful  
Prayer Meeting (Part 1)**



Text: Acts 3:1-8; 4:1-4, 21, 23-35

The early Church had much against them. Yet, they disciplined and abandoned themselves completely to the cause of Christ. Acts 4

**1 – Prayer was completely responsive to the issues the church was currently facing.**

**Verse 24a**

- Prayer should be our situational reflex.

Competing Reflexes:

1. Wandering and assumptive thought process.
2. Other people.
3. Substance abuse.

**2 – There was togetherness in prayer which caused everyone to seek God for the same end goal.**

**Verse 24b**

- Each person held fast to the burden of the church.
- Growth and advancement.

Are the burdens of this Church our priority?

**3 – There was solid biblical theology evident when the Church prayed.**

**Verse 24c**

- They used the Word to glorify God instead of getting an edge over their situation.

**4 – They realized when they prayed that nothing in this world could stand against the will of God. Verses 25-26**

God is greater than great worldly forces.

- Gentiles – Those who do not know God.
- Peoples devising – War against morality.
- Kings of the earth – Leaders who are ungodly.
- Rulers – Local government making hardship against Christians.

**5 – When they prayed, they were able to pray in clarity knowing that their hardship in situation was not a personal attack, but an attack against Christ. Verse 27**

- John 15:18-19; Ephesians 6:12

**6 – They acknowledged in prayer that nothing they faced was outside of the will of God. Verse 28**

- No matter what they faced, (even evil in nature) they were not outside of the watchful eye and purpose of God. Genesis 50:20

God will use what has come against us as:

1. A benefit to us,
2. Glory to His name and,
3. An advancement of His purpose to reach others.

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***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Using the current points, let's go to God in corporate prayer.

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Title: Principles for a Powerful Prayer Meeting (Part 2)

Text: Acts 3:1-8; 4:1-4, 21, 23-35

*“Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?”*  
- Corrie ten Boom

**7 – The Church did not pray for personal vindication or to have God alleviate their situation. They prayed for boldness to speak God’s Word. Verse 29**

*When desire to be used by God becomes greater than desire to be in peace, we experience a personal revival and a spiritual determination.*

**8 – The Church was praying for people to experience the healing of salvation and restoration through Christ. Verse 30a**

Whenever hardship and persecution struck, the Church saw it as a cue that the hearts of people were open.

We must pray for people to experience the touch of Christ while we are enduring difficulty.

*“Difficulty in our personal experience is softness of heart in someone else’s.”*

**9 – The Church was praying in anticipation that they would see and be used by God through the experience of His signs and wonders.**

**Verse 30b**

- Because the focus of prayer was God, Christ, and His purpose, signs and wonders became inevitable.

So often we want to see signs and wonders for our own situation and purpose. Yet, signs and wonders only follow His ministry and purpose.

**10 – The Church received immediately from prayer.**

**Verse 31a**

- The shaking of the building is so often what people desire from prayer.
- But, the action of the Believers is what was of importance.

The Believers were all filled with:

1. The Holy Spirit
2. Boldness

How do we know that this is what their prayer produced?

- They were immediately active following prayer.

**11 – The Church went out immediately after prayer.**

**Verse 31b**

- They did not wait for something to happen.
- They desired to be used of God through their active witness.

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***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Corporate Church Prayer

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: October 27-31, 2020

**the  
armor of God**

**Title: Principles for a Powerful  
Prayer Meeting (Part 3)**



Text: Acts 3:1-8; 4:1-4, 21, 23-35

How God answered the unspoken prayers of the Believers.

**Tuesday Night:**

**12 – Prayer became the unifying factor between  
the Believers.**

**Verse 32a**

- They did not *feel* alone because they prayed with each other.
- Prayer caused their feelings to be in check.

They were of one heart and soul.

- **Heart**, (*Gk. kardia*) which means *mind, inner self, will, intention*.
- **Soul**, (*Gk. psuche*) which means *individual personality*.

The emotional and temporal feelings of the Believers were kept in check and made stable because they were connected together in prayer with other Believers.

There is stability in our emotional, spiritual, physical, societal relationships when we pray together.

## The Redwood Root System

You would think that a 350-foot-tall tree would need deep roots, but that's not the case at all with the *Sequoia sempervirens*. Redwood tree roots are very shallow, often only five or six feet deep. But they make up for it in width, sometimes extending up to 100 feet from the trunk. They thrive in thick groves, where the roots can intertwine and even fuse together. This gives them tremendous strength against the forces of nature. This way they can withstand high winds and raging floods.

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### Wednesday Night:

**13 – Prayer caused the Church to have a change in material perspective. Verse 32b**

- Every person had something of value to offer someone else.

Desire to meet needs became the passion within the church of Christ.

**Their material ideology shifted from possessor to steward.**

A **possessor** sees what he has as a benefit to himself. He has worked hard. Only he should enjoy the fruit of his own labor.

A **steward** sees what he has as a benefit to someone else. He has worked hard so that Christ may use fruit as a so as to meet the need in someone else.

## **What is it that is in our hands?**

- A pot and stove?
- Car?
- A paycheck?
- A washer & dryer?
- Extra food?
- A home?

Whatsoever we have is exactly what we need to meet the needs of those whom we are admonished to pray with.

## **What is it that we lack?**

- Whatsoever we lack, the answer is provided for through our brothers and sisters in Christ.

## **Ephesians 4:15-16**

*“But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”*

We move from praying, *“Lord, this is what I need am feel terrible because I am in lack.”*

To praying, *“Lord, show me how to use that what is already in my hand so I can be active in the Body of Christ.”*

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## Thursday Night:

**14 – The unity of the Church through prayer, the sacrifice and love of the people, caused there to be a great display of power through the testimony of the leaders. Verse 33a**

- Why?
- Because the Church was meeting the needs of the Church.

The actions of the Church caused there to be a reaction in the hearts of those who were receiving Christ.

- People saw the love and connection that was available through Jesus.
- Therefore, their hearts were open to receive the gospel and the gospel went forth in power.

The power through the testimony of the apostles was in conjunction (*and – kai Gk.*) with the heart of meeting needs.

As we become one (heart and soul) with our Church, we display the truth of the Gospel.

- The truth of the gospel never moves forward without power!

When there are enough people receiving the Word of God and growing in faith, the collective Spirit of God in each one of us works together.

Illustration:

- Women set free from spiritual bondage. Church working together to deliver her.

- When the church is being the Church, power is present.
- 

## **Friday Night:**

### **15 – The Church experienced the abundant grace of Jesus. Verse 33b**

This phrase is often paralleled with Luke 2:40:

*“Now the Child continued to grow and to become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him.”:*

Favor and grace in these two passages are the same word.

What does it mean that the grace of God was upon Jesus? It means:

1. He was protected for the purpose which God had for Him.
2. He walked in signs and wonders in order to reach a lost and dying world.
3. He shared a closeness with the Father that was evident by His communication and reception of God’s works.
4. He endured whatever hardship because He was given to the purpose and plan of God.

The grace of Jesus being on the Church did not mean that they were exempt from hardship and struggle. It meant that they had PURPOSE and they KNEW that purpose.

It is one thing to **have** purpose and yet **not know** it.

It is another thing to **have** purpose and **also know** it.

The Church altogether *knew* the purpose they had from God. Therefore, they were able to meet each situation head-on and filter each event through the **lens of the grace of Christ Jesus.**

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### **Saturday Night:**

**16 – Praying to be used of God caused the individual to be cared for by God. Verse 34a**

God will meet our specific needs.

We must differentiate between needs and wants.

As each person was seeking to be used of God to meet the needs of someone else, God was thereby meeting the needs of that one.

**17 – Prayer moved the heart of ALL and not only some. Verse 34b**

The expectancy of the Church is that ALL are used for God and not only some.

- When all are used, all are moved, and all are blessed.

The Church used that which defined them in this world (wealth and land), and released it to God declaring a new definition: Christ and His Purpose!

What is it in our life which defines us? What are we working so hard to hold on to?

Can we readily release it to redefine ourselves as The Church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

### **Illustration:**

Charles Thomas Studd was a famous English cricketer who went on to be a missionary to China, Africa and India. The youngest of the 'Studd Brothers', who were known for their cricket skills at Eton and Cambridge.

He was converted to Christianity along with his brothers while at Eton. Of the moment he met God for the first time, he said: "*right then and there joy and peace came into my soul. I knew then what it was to be 'born again,' and the Bible which had been so dry to me before, became everything.*"

When he decided to give up sport to pursue a career as a missionary, he said: "*I know that cricket would not last, and honor would not last, and nothing in this world would last, but it was worthwhile living for the world to come.*"

In his twenties, he served in the China Inland Mission, where he married missionary Priscilla Livingstone Stewart. They lived in China for 10 years, but moved back to the UK due to ill health. Later, Priscilla and the couple's four daughter stayed in England, while Charles worked in Central Africa until his death in 1931.

According to his biography by Norman Grubb, in one of his last letters home, Studd wrote:

"As I believe I am now nearing my departure from this world, I have but a few things to rejoice in; they are these:

1. That God called me to China and I went in spite of utmost opposition from all my loved ones.

2. That I joyfully acted as Christ told that rich young man to act.

3. That I deliberately at the call of God, when alone on the Bibby liner in 1910, gave up my life for this work, which was to be henceforth not for the Sudan only, but for the whole unevangelized World.

My only joys therefore are that when God has given me a work to do, I have not refused it."

# Being on Alert



## November

### Monthly Message Direction:

November 1 <sup>st</sup>	Called to be a Watchman
November 8 <sup>th</sup>	Responsibilities of a Watchman
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	The Privilege of being a Watchman
November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Christian Alertness Part 1
November 29 <sup>th</sup>	Christian Alertness Part 2

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020



Title: Called to be a  
Watchman!

Text: Ephesians 6:18b, Isaiah 21:6-10

**1 – Our alertness is not so much in seeing how the enemy will attack us, but seeing how God will come through for us.**

**Verses 7, 9**

- If we are continually looking at the attack of the enemy, we become desensitized and worn down.

But, if we anticipate the moving of the Lord, our attitudes and actions adjust themselves to His plan and method.

- We become conduits!

We must look for and anticipate the moving of our God.

- Joshua 3:5
- Micah 7:7

**2 – Our alertness is for the purpose of people who are bound.**

**Verse 10**

- We are already free. We must not make every aspect of life about “getting free.”
- When we spend so much time being self-absorbed, we come up short in the potential of changing lives.

Growing as an individual is always about other people. We do not grow for ourselves.

- Growth is always tied to purpose. Purpose is always about God and His plan. God's plan is always about setting people free.
- 2 Peter 3:9

### **3 – We must look for the details of God's salvation and deliverance. Verse 7b**

- Why is it that the watchman must pay close attention?
- Because we can easily miss, or misinterpret what is happening based on the misdirected cry of our emotions.

If God is concerned in the details of our life (Matthew 10:30), we can be sure that He is working in the details that surround our life.

What details are we to look for?

- The list given in verse 7, is a very disconcerting scene. War, trouble, and uncertainty. God says...pay attention.

*“This apparently is the expected sign that great events are on foot; when the riders are seen the watchman is to listen intently to discover who they are and what they are doing.”* Cambridge Commentary

How will God use us today? Joel 2:1-3, 28-29

- By His Spirit!

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Look at the events of the coming week. How do you see the working of God?\_\_\_\_\_.

# **Illustration for Responsibilities of a Watchman**

November 8, 2020

## **Point #2**

On February 27, 2010 at 6am on an isolated Pacific island, there were few people around to notice as lobster fishing boats moored in the tiny harbor started to bob crazily and crash together.

It was the first sign that the tsunami that followed the Chilean 8.8 magnitude earthquake was soon to wreak terrible carnage on Robinson Crusoe Island.

After a tsunami early warning system failed, the island's only village was at the mercy of the waves. It took the intervention of one 12-year-old girl to save the majority of the 650 islanders.

Martina Maturana, the daughter of the community's policeman, was at home when she felt a tremor. Her father was on the telephone to the mainland when Martina peered out of the window at the pitching boats and acted decisively.

She ran 400 meters (1/4 mile) from her home to the town square to ring the emergency bell and rouse the fishing community from their sleep. Martina did not know the emergency codes for ringing the bell – two rings for fire, three for landslides – but her prompt actions nevertheless prompted other islanders to flee to the safety of high ground.

A few minutes later, waves crashed on to the land and swept 300 meters into the village, destroying homes, schools and killing up to eight people.

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**Title: Responsibilities of a Watchman!**

Text: Ezekiel 33:1-9

**1 – A watchman must keep open eyes to see and interpret the signs of the age. Verse 3**

- It is so easy to see what is happening around our lives as tragedy, misfortune, bad luck, or fate.
- But, a Believer has the privilege to interpret the times and see the plan of God unfold.

This is where the enemy really brings an attack. His desire is that we get consumed in fear and chaos.

1 Chronicles 12:32

- These men understood the times. They saw purpose and knew judgment.

Ephesians 1:15-19

- In Christ Jesus we receive Wisdom and Revelation through knowing Him. Verse 17
- We receive perception (enlightenment, insight, understanding) for hope. Verse 18

So that we can have:

1. Hope in His calling. Verse 18b
2. Riches of His glory. Verse 18c

The point of the Biblical watchman was always to direct people back to God in the midst of judgment.

If we proclaim problem without message, we magnify problem and confess its destructive power.

- But, if we declare message in the midst of problem, we magnify the saving power of Christ and problem is defeated.

## **2 – A watchman (Christian) has responsibility for what has been placed in him. Verse 6**

- God wanted Ezekiel to love people when they so desperately deserved punishment.

We must break the desire of vindication and promote the power of the mercy of God.

- We would see more spiritual stirring through the venues of our lives.

Applauding Martina Maturana!

## **3 – A watchman will desire to hear from God and live life according to His message.**

**Verse 7b**

- How many of our actions would be completely different if we lived acting out the command of God?

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – 1 Person! Become the watchman for 1 person this week. Take responsibility. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Speaker: Dr. Rai Papparatti

Date: Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**Title: The Privilege of Being a Watchman!**

Text: Ephesians 6:18

*“The battle of prayer is against two things in the earthlies: wandering thoughts and lack of intimacy with God’s character as revealed in His word. Neither can be cured at once, but they can be cured by discipline.”*  
Oswald Chambers

**1 – The privilege of being a watchman is tied to the responsibility. As we pray, we will see.**

**Verse 18a**

- *With every prayer and request...watching...being on alert.*

Privilege = seeing.

Responsibility = praying.

2 Corinthians 4:18

2 Corinthians 5:7

Hebrews 4:12-13, 16

It is in the context of praying that we receive the command to be a watchman on alert.

- God graciously gives us insight as we pray to see the hardship that comes against His Church.

If we are not praying, we are not seeing!

## **2 – As we see, we face attack from the enemy.**

### **Verse 18b**

- *Be alert with perseverance.*
- We are encouraged to persevere because of what we face.

So often after prayer we *give up* because the attack becomes so strong. We must resist the emotional cry to quit.

- Daniel 6:10, 16

Sin pacifies our emotions. Righteousness matures them.

## **3 – As we pray through the attack, we pray with power, purpose, and progression.**

### **Verse 18**

- We must continue praying for the saints.
- James 5:16-17

Our prayers (through righteousness):

- |                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| 1. Bring healing.    | James 5:16a |
| 2. Accomplish much.  | James 6:16b |
| 3. Produce miracles. | James 5:17  |

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## ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Make a watching and prayer meeting this week with someone from this church.

Get together, not to talk about problems, but to simply pray for one another.

Then get ready. When the attack comes, call the person and pray again!

Illustration for Sunday, November 22, 2020

Message: Christian Alertness Part 1

**Illustration: Jumping from snakes.**

Pastor Rai recounts story of when he was a youth pastor, they held an exotic pets night. Each youth was to bring in their pet.

Pastor Rai brought in an 8 ft. Albino Burmese Python. Upon revealing it to the crowd, one youth jumped to his feet and ran out of the church. He would not come back in until the snake was removed.

We should have that type of instinct and action each time we come in contact with anxieties. We must respond by releasing them and running from them.

**Illustration: Mimic Octopus**

Finally, no discussion of mimicry is complete without mentioning the ultimate maestro of mimics, the well-named **mimic octopus**. This octopus has been known to imitate a flatfish, a poisonous lionfish, a sea snake, jellyfish, and on other occasions, a coconut.

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020



Title: Christian Alertness  
Part 1!

Text: 1 Peter 5:6-11

*“Lord, give me eyes to see and a heart to respond,  
‘Your will be done.’ For without Your sight I am  
blind and without Your will I am bound.”*

-unknown

## **1 – Our alertness is born through prayer and through care-releasing before God.**

**Verses 6-7**

- Prayer is the call to duty.
- Care-releasing is the action of mental stability.

### **1. We must become humble to give in to God.**

**Verse 6a**

- We give in to God’s ultimate control over a situation.

### **2. We must release our own timing.**

**Verse 6b**

- Exalting is not a position of superiority in this context.
- It is a position of breakthrough.

Psalms 31:14-15

Isaiah 49:8

**3. We receive care through casting. Verse 7**

- *Cast* is the GK word *epiripto* and means *to throw suddenly*.
- It is an intense and deliberate *casting off* of something that has been a stronghold.

Jumping from snakes (illustration).

**2 – Our alertness recognizes the falsity of our enemy. Verse 8**

- The devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
- He prowls *like* a lion. But he is *not* a lion.

The Mimic Octopus (illustration).

The enemy is a fraud who has already been defeated!  
Therefore:

1. Resist him.
2. Be firm in faith.
3. Realize we are not alone in this life.

As we endure in being alert, Christ:

- Perfects us,
- Confirms us,
- Strengthens us,
- And establishes us.

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***Daily Discipline!***

Practice a casting session! Throw your cares to God this week by being forceful and vocal with them.

Call someone and let them know that they are not alone. Encourage someone to cast their cares to the Lord.

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Title: **Christian Alertness  
Part 2!**

Text: 1 Peter 5:6-11

**1 – The Christian stays alert through constant resistance.** **Verse 9a**

- We must resist the devil.

**The practical's of resistance** **James 4:4-8**

1. Choosing the right friends. **Verse 4**
  - Weighing eternal value.
  - Do we make decisions based on eternity.
  - Try one every day!
2. Realizing how much we are wanted by God. **Verse 5**
3. There is a specific grace extended to each situation. **Verse 6**
  - Greater grace than how the world knows grace. Therefore, it is supernatural grace.
4. Submitting to God. **Verse 7**
  - This is about the choosing of disciplines to know Him.
5. Cleansing our hands. **Verse 8**
  - Running and living in and through forgivingness.

## 2 – The Christian stays alert through the firmness of faith. Verse 9b

- Firmness of faith is more of a resolved faith.
- Not just holding to what we believe, but being convinced of what we believe.

*“And the words for ‘steadfast in the faith’ seem to mean not only that each individual is to stand firm, but that they are to present all together a solid front to the lion.”*  
*-Ellicott’s Commentary*

### Resolved involves C.A.R.E.. It is being:

1. **Committed** – Committed to the outcome of faith.
2. **Abandoned** – No other competition.
3. **Reliant** – it must become our every source in this life.
4. **Expressive** – It must pour out in our daily dealings.

## 3 – The Christian stays alert through family association. Verse 9c

- The more we associate with our *family* the more we build strength to stand for what we believe in.
- We cannot do it alone.

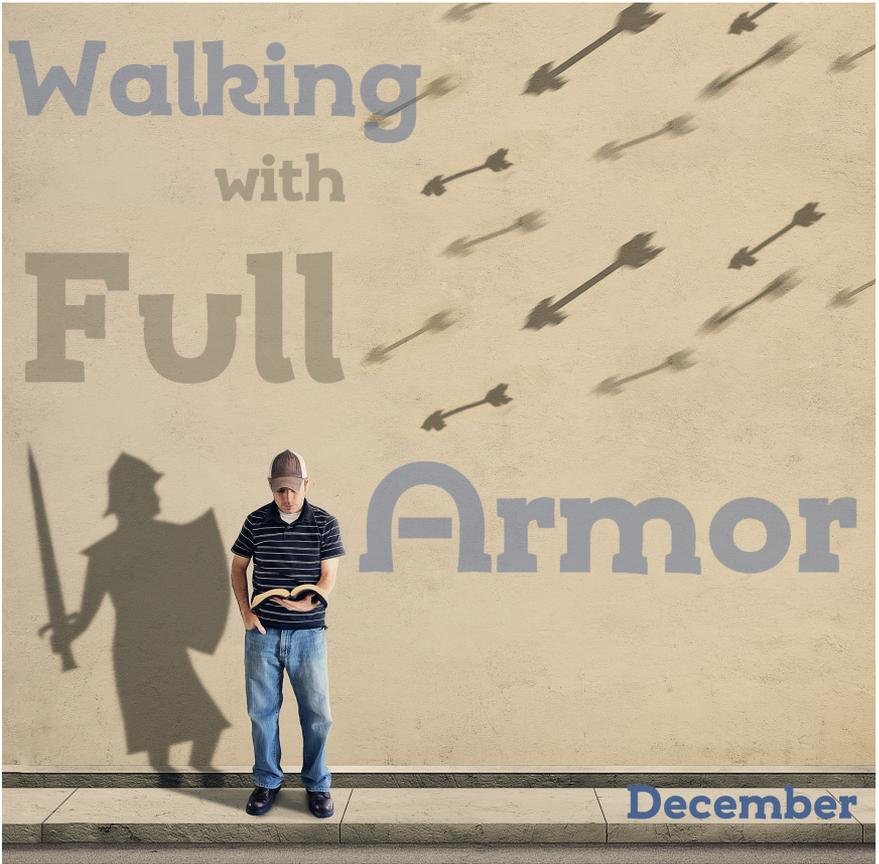
*Accomplished* comes from two Greek words, *epi* and *teleo* which mean *to complete, accomplish and make perfect*.

- Our sufferings perfect the expressions of faith and prove them powerful and true.

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

Each day, make a conscious decision that will affect eternity!



## Monthly Message Direction:

December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Full Armor to Speak With
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Full Armor in Boldness
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	The Coming of our Armor
December 27 <sup>th</sup>	The Result of our Armor

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: December 6, 2020



Title: Full Armor to Speak

Text: Ephesians 6:19-20

## **1 – The concentrated effect of the armor of God is power in our speech. Verse 19a**

- This is the greatest moving and changing of personal countenance.
- When our lives have been covered with the full armor of God, when we have devoted time to praying, we find that power moves through our voice and changes the countenance of our situations.

If we don't experience the full armor of God through our words, we find that evil is readily waiting to move in through them. We can speak:

1. Harm to people and harm to ourselves.
2. Sadness about our life.
3. Loneliness in our walk.
4. Anger about our injustice.
5. Curses about our stagnancy.

### **James 3:2, 5-6**

Not given to the ways of the Spirit of God through the armor we have been studying, our words:

- Contain a world of unrighteousness,
- Defies the whole body,
- Sets on fire the course of our life,
- Set on fire by hell.

But, as we put on the full armor of God, our words boast of life and purpose. It boasts of the mystery of the Gospel.

**2 – The power of the armor of God through our speech is determined by the intended target of our calling. Verse 20**

- Paul’s target was two-fold. He wanted to encourage the Ephesian church and reach those who had put him in chains.
- He knew the target of people surrounding his calling.

Who has God called us to reach through the situations of our life?

We must have a Gospel purpose in our life.

**Gospel Purpose takes:**

1. Priority above all else.
2. Looks strategically at current situations.
3. Receives God’s presence in current situations and does not reject Christ as non-existent in the situation.

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***Daily Discipline!***

Spend 1 hour of purposed full armor speech this week:

1. Declare who you are before Christ. 10 min
2. Declare the closeness of Jesus. 10 min
3. Declare His power in your situation. 10 min
4. Declare His purpose in your life. 10 min
5. Declare your yielding to Him. 10 min
6. Declare His Word out loud. 10 min

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Title: Full Armor in Boldness

Text: Ephesians 6:19-20  
Acts 3:1-12, 29

As Paul declared, we must declare “*Pray that I may make known with boldness the mystery of the Gospel.*”

## **1 – Peter and John were bold in their dedication to the Lord.**

**Verse 1**

- The ninth hour of prayer was mid-afternoon around 3pm.
- This was the greatest bustle of the day. Everyone was out and watching.

They were:

- Specific in their time to pray.
- Outward about their initiative to pray.
- They prayed together.

## **2 – Peter and John were bold in their public display of faith.**

**Verse 6**

- There are many things that we do not have that we allow to limit what we can do?
- How often do we boast about what we do have?

They were bold in their public display because they were certain of what they did have!

- We do not have to experience Jesus as healer to proclaim Him as healer.
- We do not have to walk through tragedy to proclaim Jesus as restorer.
- We only have to taste salvation to know that Jesus is more than enough.

### **3 – Peter and John were bold in seizing the opportunity for a verbal message. Verse 12**

- The more verbal we become in presenting the message of Christ, the less verbal we become in cursing the situations of our lives.
- Romans 10:14-17

### **4 – Because Peter and John lived in boldness, they desired to pray for more boldness.**

**Acts 4:29**

- Praying for boldness opens the opportunity to use our faith publicly.
- It also provides opportunity for the enemy of our soul to cause us to feel terribly inadequate.

Every attack that we are currently facing (no matter its spectrum) is to silence the Gospel that must come from our mouths.

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Let's specify the time of our prayer with someone else. Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

2 – We must release the saving Gospel from our mouths this week to at least 1!

# CHOOSING THE BEST CHRISTMAS TREE

According to an article by arborist Mark Crisholm on **Picking the Best Christmas Tree**, He lists these important tips to keep in mind:

1. **Select your location** – You must be certain of where you want to place your tree.
2. **Select the right tree** – Choose one that is not too full but with some empty space. Otherwise it will not have too much room for decorations.
3. **Try a live tree** – Make sure that the species you choose will thrive in your climate.
4. **Test your tree for freshness** – Flexibility in the limbs is a must if the tree is to remain green for the next few weeks indoors.
5. **Prepare your tree for indoors** – Take a blower and blast the tree to remove any loose needles, debris, insects or eggs.

# GOD CHOOSES US

Just as the Christmas Tree Guide:

1. **God has selected our location.** We are right where He has intended us to be for the greatest impact. We are NOT outside of His plan.
2. **God has selected the right tree.** The only part we play in this is that we make enough room and emptiness so that God can adorn us the way He intends.
3. **God has made us ALIVE.** It does not matter the climate or our current condition. With Christ, we thrive wherever we are planted. Psalm 1:1-3
4. **God tests us for freshness.** We must make sure there is flexibility in the situations we are in. We may bend, but through Christ we never break. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9
5. **God prepares us for indoors.** Impurities are removed.

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**Title: The Coming of our  
Armor!**

Text: 1 Samuel 16:5-13, Luke 1:30-33

*“As we look to the coming of our armor (Jesus Christ), we realize that our lives thrive, not that we chose Him, but that He chose us!”*

God chose David. God chose Mary.  
God chose Me!

**Choosing the best tree.**

**1 – God’s choosing is always a platform to display His power.**

**1 Samuel 16:13; Luke 1:35**

- *The Spirit of the Lord came mightily on David.*
- *Mightily is the Hebrew word tsalach and means sudden possession and then advancement. To make prosperous and to bring success to a man’s ways.*

In Mary’s case, the word used is *overshadow*. It is the Greek word *episkiazo* and means *to cast a shadow on which leaves a natural result. It is used in the N.T. of God’s over-shadowing presence which always brings His plan to pass.*

God promises us success! The problem is how we all view success.

**Success is not always self/situational promotion.**

But, God's promise of success will always include some aspect of redemption for someone within our reach!

## **2 – God's choosing comes at our most pressing time.**

Most pressing time in:

- Individuality – David is at a dead end. Mary is young and engaged.
- Relational Friction – David is struggling with acceptance from his family. Mary is put at ease twice by the angel (favored).
- National Emptiness – David is living in sinful days. Mary is living in oppressed days.

1 Samuel 14:52 – 1 Samuel 15:23 – 1 Samuel 16:2  
Luke 1:5 – Luke 2:1-3

- Prior to the killing of firstborns in Israel, Herod had murdered his wife, relatives, and his own first born.

## **3 – God's choosing is an invitation to know Him in deep and purpose filled ways.**

He desires that we come to: **Hebrews 4:14-16**

Draw **closer** to Him, **Hear** Him, and **Know** Him.

**God's choosing of us!**

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### ***Daily Discipline!***

1 – Declare out loud, *“I accept your choosing! Use me!”* Pray for God to reveal His plan.

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Date: Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Title: **The Result of our  
Armor!**

Text: Ephesians 6:10-20

### Using the Strength of His Might:

**1 – The power of God for His glory brings instruction in the lives of Believers.**

**Exodus 24:12-18**

- God provides instruction because He cares about the progress of our journey.
- There is a specific way which we should walk for the most we can gain through this life.

**Proverbs 3:5-12**

**2 – The power of God for His glory brings direction in the lives of Believers.**

**Exodus 40:34-38**

- It is the glory of God to lead us into His ways and His plan for our lives.

Living in the strength of His might causes God to be glorified in that, we follow His lead.

### Uncovering the Schemes of the Devil:

**3 – The devil's scheme is that our priority shifts based on what we do or do not have.**

**Mark 10:17, 21**

The rich young ruler's possessions gave him a false sense of God's approval over his life.

- God's approval is not based on what we have or do not have.

**4 – The devil's scheme is that we are riddled with feelings of lack towards the presence of God. Mark 10:21b-22**

We are never asked to release our material possessions without the promise of His presence.  
Hebrews 13:5

He equated following Christ as experiencing lack!  
He could have been another disciple.

### Girding your Loins with Truth:

**5 – Understanding the truth in all things is never disconnected from knowing Christ. John 14:26**

- Our relationship with the Belt of Truth is paramount to knowing the way in each of our situations.

**6 – The priority of God's Word reveals truth in our expressions. Hebrews 4:12c**

**7 – The priority of God's Word reveals truth in our relationships. Hebrews 4:13**

- There is a transition from the *people of God* in Verse 9 to *every creature* in verse 13.

The more we intake God's Word, the more transparent the relationships in our lives become.

## Putting on the Breastplate of Righteousness:

**8 – Putting on the Breastplate of righteousness is not about fulfilling an obligation or meeting a standard which seems unattainable. It is about receiving and living according to what has been received.**

**Philippians 1:11**

## Having Shod Your Feet with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace:

**9 – Christ Himself IS our Peace.**

**Ephesians 2:14**

- He ALONE is our peace. He does not provide peace outside of Himself. He IS the peace we need.

## Taking up the Shield of Faith:

**10 – Faith will regard reverence to the Lord as priority to personal comfort. Hebrews 11:7b**

**The Benefits of Faith Testing 1 Peter 4:12-19:**

1. *Revelation* of the glory of God. In His returning and in our experience. Verse 13b
2. Blessed from the *closeness* of the Spirit of God. Verse 14
3. *Cleansing* from the hold of sin. A bright example to the world. Verse 17

## Take the Helmet of Salvation:

**11 – God calls us to advance when there is no humanly possible way to advance.**

**Exodus 14:15**

- Waiting for God to do something great in our life never entails immobility.

**12 – Our salvation must have a going aspect.**

**Matthew 9:35a**

- If we are not specific about going, our life will have an aspect of self-gratification that will consume our motivation for everything we do.

**Take the Sword of the Spirit:**

**13 – When the Word of God abides in us, the defeat of the enemy is realized.      1 John 2:24**

**Using Prayer and Petition:**

**14 – The Church did not pray for personal vindication or to have God alleviate their situation. They prayed for boldness to speak God's Word.      Acts 4:29**

**Being on Alert:**

**15 – Our alertness is not so much in seeing how the enemy will attack us, but seeing how God will come through for us.      Isaiah 21:7, 9**

**16 – Our alertness is born through prayer and through care-releasing before God.**

**1 Peter 5:6-7**

**Walking with Full Armor:**

**17 – The concentrated effect of the armor of God is power in our speech.      Ephesians 6:19a**

# *The Armor of God*



*This is the Journey!*