

Be Alert-Armor On – Aug. 17, 2022

Some have been going thru a lot. It was unexpected. Not to God.
If we're living for Jesus, trials shouldn't be unexpected for us.

Ephesians 6 – 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions w/ all kinds of prayers & requests.
With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

1 – Be Alert

- Firewood. Environment. Expected.
- If we live for Jesus, attacks will happen. Target on your back.
 - Job - target. Was blameless & upright; honored God, shunned evil.
 - 4 calamities. “While the servant was still speaking....”
 - Then his health. He didn't see it coming.
 - **Job 3:25** – “What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me.”
 - **Job 7:20-21** – “what have I done to” deserve this? “Why have you made me your target? **Job was bitter.**
 - God allowed it. In testing, we grow. Mature. Understanding.
 - Job did. And he knew his friends - 3 caring friends - 3 for 7d/n
- How do you not become bitter? Lessons to learn - **1) Be Alert.** Coming!

2 - Our enemy is not God. Our enemy is not other people.

- **Eph. 6:10** – “our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the ... powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil.”
 - Understand mission – to keep you from God, or, not serving God.
 - Enemy tried to keep Jesus from serving God – he’ll work on you, too!
 - **1 John 4:4** – “You, dear children, are from God and have overcome [the forces of evil], because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” **Good news!**

3 – We have **7-point defense** system – the “full armor of God.” We need it all!

- **Belt of truth** - to not believe Enemy’s lies. He’s “the great deceiver”
- **Breastplate of righteousness** – protects the heart
 - **Rom. 3:22** – “righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe” (NIV) Ro. 3:10 – there is none righteous
 - NLT - “We are made right w/God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ”
 - We believe first w/our hearts – love draws us to God.
 - **Prov. 4:23** – “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” NLT – “it determines the course of your life.”
- **Feet fitted w/the gospel of peace.** – God’s desire for us is peace.
- **Shield of faith** - extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one
 - **Vs.11** - Put on the full armor ... to “stand against the **devil’s schemes**”
- **Helmet of salvation** – protect your mind. You are God’s. You belong.
 - Enemy wanted to create doubt for Jesus 2x – “if you are...”
 - As a child of God, you have permanent place at the table.
 - We don’t lose salvation. Heaven is guaranteed.

4 – We have only 1 offensive tool – **Sword** – the Word of God.

- It really is our defense as well. Jesus used it 3x

5 – We have one other tool – **prayer**.

- **Vs.18** – “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.”
- Pray for ourselves and pray for each other. Paul asked for prayer.

“put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, **and after you have done everything, stand.**”

- Don’t give up. Don’t give in. Hold your ground. **Just stand!**
- Paul was “hard pressed on all sides, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair” – don’t you be either!

Stay positive. Test negative. Vaccinated. “Stand” – Donnie McClurken