

### Recap

- We've been speaking about how to be saved
  - What we are saved from
  - What we are saved for
  - Being a disciple. Need to follow, spend time with, fellowship with, live with...Greg-share we don't live together but we share every Sunday
  - Why Are we saved? We are saved to have an intimate relationship with God, and to walk with Him in that intimate relationship, and to multiply His image on this earth, to expand and bring the Kingdom of God into this earth.
- Your life has meaning...God sets you up for success—but, you have to follow His ways.
  - Your life has value...God respects you and wants you to respect yourself.
  - Your life has significance...God wants you to reproduce and leave a legacy.
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### PART 1

**\*At the time of our rebirthing**, being born again in Christ, we were recruited into God's army, we are soldiers in His army. We have become warriors of light.

We were not placed in Disney World where everything is Magical, everything has a happy ending, and where we are told to just have fun. We are in a spiritual war and it's a war over your very soul.

—Wait a second, we're in a war? We're soldiers?

#### **2 Timothy 2:3-4** NLT

“Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.”

#### **\*God wants us to be equipped.**

Definition of equipped. Supplied with the necessary items for a particular purpose.

To Supply, furnish, provide, issue, deck out, fit out, stock, provision, and arm.

Equipped means you know how to pull out your weapon, your sword, the word of God, and use it; you know how to explain it but if you're not sure, you don't know how and if you have doubts on how to use it, you will not be equipped.

He has given us everything we need.

#### **2 Peter 1:3-4** NLT

“By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.”

## **PART 2**

### **\*The Authority**

#### Definition:

The power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience.

#### Spiritual Definition:

Spiritual authority can be defined as the divinely authorized legal right and responsibility given to us under the Lordship of Jesus Christ to rule and reign in bringing heaven to earth.

**Luke 7:1-10** (the Faith of the Roman Centurion)

### **1 Peter 2:13-14**

Citizens are to submit to the governing authorities.

### **Eph. 6:1-2**

Children are to obey parents.

There are exceptions. When a person in authority violates the trust granted by God, the source of all authority, the subordinate is free, indeed mandated, "to obey God rather than man" **Acts 5:29**

The apostle Peter provides the clearest example of what is called civil disobedience. In his epistle he encourages disciples of Christ to submit to governing authorities (**1 Peter 2:13**). According to Luke, however, when the governing authorities commanded Peter to cease preaching, he disobeyed (**Acts 5:29**).

In the Old Testament, God exercised his authority through prophets, priests, and kings.

In the New Testament, the time of Christ, the disciples submitted to the lordship of God the Father through obedience to Jesus. Christ, then, delegated authority to the apostles, who directed the affairs of the primitive church.

### **Father God gave Jesus authority**

**Authority** = the right to act

**Power** = the ability to act

When you walk in authority, the authority that God gives you, it releases Anointing

**Anointing** = favor, success

### **Matthew 28:18-19** NLT

"Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

### **John 12:49** NLT

"I don't speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it."

### **John 13:3-4** NLT

"Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist,"

**The Pharisees questioned His authority** over and over. As many still do today.

**Matthew 12:38** NLT

“One day some teachers of religious law and Pharisees came to Jesus and said, “Teacher, we want you to show us a miraculous sign to prove your authority.”

**Matthew 21:23** NLT

“When Jesus returned to the Temple and began teaching, the leading priests and elders came up to him. They demanded, “By what authority are you doing all these things? Who gave you the right?”

**Jesus gives the disciples authority**

**Matthew 10:1** NLT **Mark 6:7 / Luke 9:1**

“Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness.”

**Authority** is rooted in the relationship you have with Christ.

**Luke 10:17-20** NLT

“When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, “Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!” “Yes,” he told them, “I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. But don’t rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven.”

**Ephesians 1:19-23** NLT

“I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.”

**Authority** is Taking the personal responsibility to be everything that Jesus has created you to be and walk it out (I would have but...no blame shifting)

**\*Jesus was given authority by the Father** and Jesus gave us authority in His name. Although we have authority we need to remember to walk in humility, servant-hood and submission to God so we can accomplish His will and not our own.

**Authority** = To stand in every adversity and say –you don’t dictate my life. You don’t let him dictate your life, the devil. Don’t give your authority away! The devil can influence you to give your own authority away as he tried to do to Jesus in wilderness and the garden of Gethsemane; You keep the faith, you stand strong in God. Of course we walk in love but you stand. We need to demonstrate this authority the world.

**Authority**

- To surrender to the lordship of Jesus Christ
- Obedience to the promptings of the Holy Spirit
- speaking scripture / declaring God’s Word; When Jesus spoke He wasn’t just speaking He was aligning with God’s will

**Spoken** agreement equals warfare. In spoken agreement with God’s word you’re pulling it out of your thoughts and placing it into the atmosphere where it can confront darkness, where it shifts circumstances, and builds faith. You’re not improvising, you’re agreeing with God’s will, you’re not begging, you’re standing.

## **PART 3**

**\*What ensures** that we will be able to conquer our daily spiritual battles?

Let's read **Ephesians 6:10-18**

**Why do we need armor?**

**\*Because we have an enemy.** Because we are in a war! We live in an evil day. We are to stand against the wiles of the devil means the strategies, the schemes, the deceits of the devil, our enemy.

Some people don't believe that there are evil spirits, or that there is even a devil. The Word tells us right here there is a devil and we are to be aware that he doesn't have good plans towards us.

**\*Because** some people believe that the world is a playground, and as I've said before, some believe that when they get saved everything will always be easy, magical and fun and everybody will live happily ever after like in Disneyland; But we're not on a playground, we are on a battlefield. We are in a spiritual war and it's a war over your very soul.

Now I'm not saying that we shouldn't enjoy our life or God's blessings, of course we should because He has blessed us and He does want us to enjoy our life, but we have to remember that we're in a battle against spiritual forces of evil and we need to be alert and aware.

**\*Because we are in a spiritual battle** and we need to focus on the good fight, not the good life.

**We need to:**

1. **Submit to God** and resist satan (**James 4:7**) **\*\*Look up** biblical definition of submission

2. **Be alert** and stand firm (**1Peter 5:8-9**)AMP

"Be sober [well balanced and self-disciplined], be alert and cautious at all times. That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion [fiercely hungry], seeking someone to devour. But resist him, be firm in your faith [against his attack—rooted, established, immovable], knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being experienced by your brothers and sisters throughout the world. [You do not suffer alone.]"

3. **Put on the full armor** of God (**Ephesians 6:11**)

4. **Remember** that the desires of this world will pass away (**1John 2:17**)

**\*Because** Some people believe that Jesus did everything on the cross and we've got nothing to do. I wish that was true, but we are living in between the now and the not yet. We live in between where Yes, Christ has stripped the enemy of his power, but we have to actually exercise Christ's victory.

Like with Adam, When Satan said if you eat of the fruit you will die. Adam didn't die right away, but the dying began. So it is the same with Christ, the victory began, but **the temptations and trials and tribulations are not over until Christ comes again to rule and reign on this earth.** The Lord said we will have tribulations but not to fear He has overcome the world. He overcame so we can overcome.

Dear Christian, dear brothers and sisters, If we're not praying, preparing, and dressed in full armor, we are going to be silenced and deceived by the propaganda and the things that are going on in this world. We must keep our focus on the Lord to experience His peace, but that doesn't mean we hide from the battle.

**\*Because** the Lord also says **we are not to be ignorant of the devil's devices.** So in order to stand, we need to put on the full armor of God.

Let's read again **Ephesians 6:10-12**

We do not wrestle against flesh and blood. If you could name the person, (my mother-in-law, my sister, my cousin, Tommy, Jose), Know that they're not who your problem is. And. You're battling the wrong thing. Most times there is a spirit operating behind it.

-Look at principalities, powers, etc.

That means satan has a kingdom. There's rule, there's rank, there's order, there's authority; demons understand kingdom principles. So should you. Demons know people who **know** Jesus and demons know people who **know about** Jesus.

There are all kinds of demons. There are demons who study you, there are monitoring spirits, seducing spirits, familiar spirits, etc. I'm not telling you this to scare you or make you demon conscious. I just want you to be aware of your enemy and alert to his tactics.

You have to have an intimate relationship with Christ in order to have the authority you need. (Jesus I know, Paul I know, but who are you?)

\*Again, why are we putting on this armor??

**Because** you have a real adversary out there and it's not just one, it's an army. This is something not to be taken lightly. We are in a war, You are in a war. We're not in a playground, we are in a battleground! There is no neutral ground; Either you are on God's side, fighting His way, with His armor or you're not. The battle is Light against darkness, good against evil, Truth against lies. We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, we wrestle against principalities and powers. We have to stop wrestling with the flesh and blood. And we have to learn how To fight in the Spirit. We are learning not to wrestle in our own strength but the strength of the Lord.

When you became born again, you got pulled out of satan's dark kingdom, out from under his authority into God's Kingdom, into God's marvelous light. And now you become part of the Kingdom of God. Under His rule, under His rank, under His order, under His authority. You become a soldier in God's army.

We are in spiritual warfare, what does that mean, **spiritual warfare**? It's the tension between the Kingdom of Light, which is the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness, which is the devil and all of his cohorts. We can't hide from it, escape it or ignore it. Well actually you can, but then you will become another victim, another one who is seduced, deceived, bound up, and imprisoned by the enemy. Jesus came that we might have life and life more Abundantly and Jesus came to set the captive free. God has equipped us, He has given us all the tools we need to be victorious.

I'm going to read part of a devotion from Pastor Allen Jackson.

>Satan and his forces of evil have one goal: to lead us away from God and toward destruction. We are no match for the devil in our own strength, but we are not powerless. It's quite the opposite, in fact, because we stand in the authority of Jesus's name and in the power of his shed blood. God has filled us with his Holy Spirit, who gives us discernment to watch, listen, think, and act. And God has equipped us with spiritual armor and weapons that are more effective than anything humans can build. Unlike the weapons of physical armies, our weapons are designed for spiritual warfare: **2 Cor. 10:4** "The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds." Each one of us will face challenges that can only be overcome with the help of the Lord. It's important to remember that we are not fighting the battle alone. It is the Lord who will deliver victory. Our assignment is to plant our feet on the truth of His Word and take a stand.

God knows our challenges and the things that are before us. He alone is a refuge and a security. We need to know our Redeemer. In knowing Him we will know how to war, how to stand, how to fight this unseen enemy, where our real strength comes from and win. Our victory will always be in Christ, doing it His way. And God will get all the glory!

### **\*So, how do we fight?**

Is it fasting without ceasing? Speaking scripture only? Rebuking the enemy hourly?

According to Paul **Ephesians 6:11-13** (read NLT/AMP)

Paul taught that putting on the whole armor of God, He equips us, believers, to stand strong against the daily schemes of the enemy.

#### What the armor is:

1. The armor is God's armor
2. The armor must be put on and taken up.
3. The Armor must be worn in it's entirety.
4. The armor is designed to protect the believer in every area of their life.
5. The armor causes us to stand steadfast in our inheritance. We have steadfast determination. We've taken ground and we're not backing up or letting the enemy come back in not even an inch.
6. The armor is worn in prayer having prayerful consciousness. Prayer meaning that we are staying in dialogue and relationship with God as we wear it.

#### What the armor is **not**:

1. The armor is not automatic. It's not automatically on you when you get saved. You need awareness of it. You need to put it on and use it
2. The armor is not referring to natural acts or good deeds. For example, going to church, praying, feeding the hungry, etc. Although doing good things is wonderful it's not referring to that. The armor is underneath those good deeds that is dealing with all the conflicts and oppositions that arise as we do good deeds for the Lord.
3. The armor is not done once and forgotten about. We have to be conscious to put it on every day.
4. The armor is not someone else's responsibility. You have to put it on. No one else can do it for you. Not even God can do it for you. Even though he has created it and has given it to you, He cannot put it on you. We must accept responsibility ourselves and put on the armor of God.

Put on the armor, wear the full armor of God, what does that mean? Do we just visualize putting on armor, or clothes? Do we mentally envision ourselves decked out in armor? Are we dressing up in the armor like we did when we we're kids, putting on mommy and daddy's shoes, dresses, shirts and ties?

#### Let's read further **Ephesians 6:14-18**

We are going to take each piece of armor week by week and break it down to understand how we wear it, how to put it on, and what it does to the enemy.