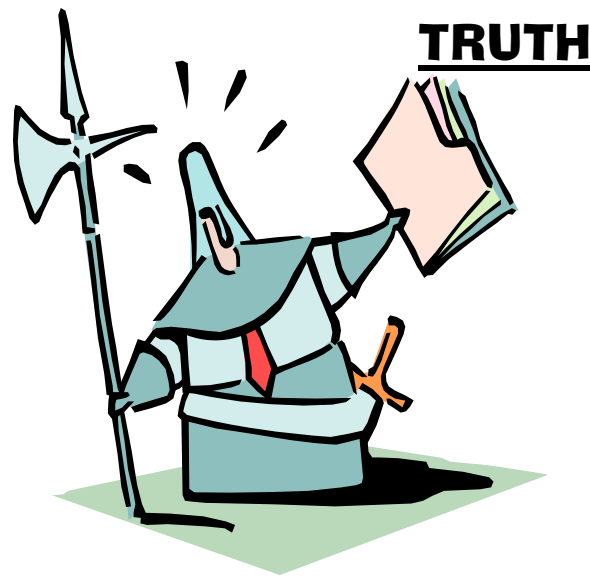


Be Strong in The Lord
Put on the Whole Armor of God
Part 1



OUR DAILY BREAD

Junior Edition

II-18-07



SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW:

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

(Romans 3:23a KJB)

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

Jesus Christ is our ONLY WAY to God and heaven.

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

(John 14:6 KJB)

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

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

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

(Colossians 3:16a KJB)

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

Ephesians 6:10 KJB

Today we will continue studying how God can give us His POWER & STRENGTH to handle all of our problems & resist temptations. We began this study when one of our students asked the question: *How can we resist temptations such as drugs & alcohol?*

It sure has been a LONG study, but problems & temptations can be REALLY BIG. We need BIG POWER to handle them. And there is NO BIGGER POWER we can get than GOD’S POWER! And it takes BIG AMOUNTS of TIME, CONCENTRATION & REPETITION to learn what God has to say! But it is very much worth our while to spend BIG amounts of time, concentration & repetition with God & His Word. Only then can we live lives that honor Him instead of wasting each precious day being all messed up while we live down here on earth! God is the CREATOR of this entire universe. He is the ONLY ONE who knows what is best! When we call upon God & search in His Word to see what He has to say, we praise Him. God is WORTHY of ALL our honor & praise! And look what happens when we call upon Him & praise Him:



“I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.”

Psalms 18:3 KJB

God says that when we call upon Him to help us, He will “save us from our enemies”! And things like addiction to drugs & alcohol & anything else that causes us to disobey God are certainly our ENEMIES! When we call upon Him that means we want to KNOW what HE SAYS about the situation & OBEY what HE SAYS !



So no matter how YOUNG or OLD you may be, spending time studying God’s Word honors God! It is a form of PRAISE! It is saying to God, “Father, you are more important than anything else to me. I know that You are the ONLY ONE who will tell me what is absolutely BEST for me to think & do, so I’m going to forget about everything else right now & listen to what You have to tell me in Your wonderful Word!”

When you BELIEVE what God says there in His Word & then OBEY what God says there in His Word, you’ll have HELP & POWER to be saved from whatever enemies you may have - drugs, alcohol, anger, hatred, bitterness, selfishness etc.. All those things and many more are our enemies because they eventually hurt us as well as other people! And most of all, when we do things that God has told us not to do, we are not PRAISING GOD who is the ONLY ONE worthy of our praise! Instead, look who we ARE praising when we disobey God:

“They that forsake the law praise the wicked:”

Proverbs 28:4 KJB

We must be **GRATEFUL & THANKFUL** that the God of all this universe **WANTS** to speak to little of us in His Word. Let's be **GRATEFUL & THANKFUL** that God has given us the **WAY** to use His power to be **Strong** in the Lord!

Last week we ended our lesson by reading Ephesians 6:10-18 in our King James Bible. We saw in that scripture God has told us that we can be **STRONG** in the Lord and in the **POWER** of His might by putting on a certain kind of



SPIRITUAL ARMOR

It is an armor that God gives us
to **PROTECT**
our thinking so that we can make
GOOD DECISIONS

to **OBEY** God rather than **GIVE IN** to all those temptations out in this world.

Today we'll begin to learn just a little bit about all the pieces of that armor that will make us **STRONG** in **THE LORD** and in the **POWER** of **HIS MIGHT** when we dress our minds with it! As we look at each part, we will see that they all have to do with **JESUS CHRIST & God's POWERFUL WORD**. But we will also learn about 2 other **POWERS** God gives to all His children too which we need to be able to **USE** the **POWER** of His Word! Last week, we saw that those 2 other **POWERS** are:

THE HOLY SPIRIT & PRAYER

And just to REMIND US of just how IMPORTANT it is for us to put on His armor, God REPEATS quite a few times in Ephesians 6:10-18 the REASON that we need His armor. So if God REPEATS IT, we should NOT get tired of HIS REPETITION! Watch how God REPEATS certain things BEFORE He tells us about all the pieces of His armor.

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

Ephesians 6:11 KJB

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

Ephesians 6:11 KJB

God repeats His command to us to PUT ON ALL HIS ARMOR! God repeats the reason we must PUT ON ALL HIS ARMOR! What is the reason that God REPEATS? SO WE CAN STAND AGAINST (resist) all the schemes of the devil!

Now, let's begin now with the first piece of armor, and oh, by the way, here God goes again, REPEATING HIMSELF! LOOK AT THE VERY FIRST WORD!



“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth,

Ephesians 6:14a KJB

OK now! Don't let those words “loins” & “girt” make you think you can't understand what God is saying here. All you have to do is take some TIME

to get out an OLD DICTIONARY & look up those old words! Well, we looked in a dictionary & here are what those words mean:

girt: Girt is an old way of spelling the word GIRD.

The word GIRT or GIRD simply means

“to get yourself ready for conflict or some kind of strong activity”

“to put a belt around yourself or another person”

“to fasten something on”

“to surround something”

loins: This is simply the area of our bodies near & just below our waste where we would wear a belt.

And guess what! When we looked up the word



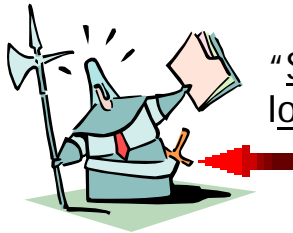
loins, part of the definition said:

“Gird up your loins” means to prepare yourself to do something difficult and challenging!

Well, we sure would say that **STANDING** against the **SCHEMES & WILES** of **SATAN** is **DIFFICULT & CHALLENGING!** And God knows that more than anyone else because **HE CREATED SATAN** as the most intelligent **CREATED** being! Read Ezekiel 28:11-19 KJB. But of course, God is **MORE INTELLIGENT & MORE POWERFUL!** And so God **ALREADY KNOWS** all Satan’s schemes. God also knows that Satan is **MUCH SMARTER** than we are in our “human thinking”! **THAT** is why we need to learn how

WORD can teach us THAT! We better learn from Jesus & God's Word how to STAND against the devil's temptations!

So now that we know what those old words mean, let's read about God's 1st piece of armor again to see if we can understand what it is & how it works.



“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth,

Ephesians 6:14a KJB

God tells all His children to STAND or RESIST or BE STRONG against the SCHEMES of the Devil by having something on them that will make them ready for conflict or battle! And saying NO to temptation sure can feel like a BIG BATTLE sometimes! God says to FASTEN something to your thinking - to your mind. God says SURROUND yourself with a certain thing to help you do something difficult and challenging - something that will help you say: “YES, I'll obey God & NO I won't give in to temptations to disobey Him.” What is that thing that God wants us to PUT ON ourselves? It is HIS TRUTH! What is God's TRUTH? It is JESUS CHRIST! It is His WRITTEN WORD! It is everything God

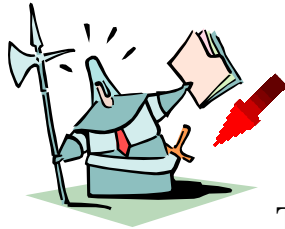


wants us to know to be
STRONG in THE LORD!

Believers are to STAND UP for Jesus & HONOR Him in everything they think, say & do! Only God's TRUTH can help us do that!

Something You Should Know!

God says that there is SPIRITUAL WARFARE going on in this universe. God's enemy is Satan. Satan's goal is to try to keep people from knowing Jesus & God's TRUTH. Satan tells many LIES about God. And when people don't know the TRUTH about God, they'll believe the LIES! Genesis 3:1-19; Acts 13:10; 2Corinthians 4:4; 1John 4:1-6. So to help us understand that there is a battle & what we need to be armed with to STAND FIRM (not fight) against the devil, God tells us that we are soldiers who need a certain kind of ARMOR like they used to wear in ancient times.



In ancient times, the soldiers would wear a belt or girdle just below their waste.

That belt was VERY IMPORTANT. You see, that belt held ALL the other parts of the soldier's uniform in place. If they did not have their belt on, their shirts & pants would not stay on. They would have no place for their swords & knives! Their breast-plates that they wore to protect their chests would not stay in place! Without their belt fastened really well, they would NOT be able to STAND in BATTLE! They'd be TOO BUSY trying to keep themselves dressed! Well, God's WORD - HIS TRUTH - is like that soldier's belt. We can't do ANYTHING in God's plan without it! John 15:5 We especially NEED it to be able to SAY NO to all Satan's LIES & say YES to GOD & STAND for Jesus!

GRACE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Pastor John A. Ricci

Sunday Morning Service

10:00 A.M.

Sunday Transportation Service ~ Call 24 hours Prior

Weekly Services

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

Prayer Meeting

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

Communion Service

First Sunday of Every Month

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

Available for Every Service

Email

info@gracecfellowship.org

From I-95

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

From Rt. 146

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



Grace Christian Fellowship

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