



...a prayer letter from John and Jackie



October 31, 2008

Dear friends,

We greet you once again in the wonderful name of Jesus! Thank you for taking time to read our letters. You are a blessing!

"Armed to the teeth" ...?

...no, armed to the tongue!

Anyone who serves the Lord knows that there are times when you face great resistance, either in your circumstances or internally in your thoughts -- and usually both of them at the same time. The Bible makes it clear that it is a spiritual battle.

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

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

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

"Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

"Stand firm therefore, having (1) girded your loins with truth, and (2) having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and (3) having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, (4) taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

"And (5) take helmet of salvation, and (6) the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

"With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints..."

Eph 6:10-18

The armor of God is all about Jesus.

Romans 13:-- points this out: *"Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh."*

The picture of the armor of God helps us to capture and make active by faith the essential provision *in Christ* that keeps us protected from -- and dangerous to -- the enemy of our souls, Satan. We would be fools to ignore this battle, and fools for trying to fight it with our self made efforts.

God has given us *in Christ* His own armor with which he fights His enemies. God showed the prophet Isaiah about this armor of God:

"Now the LORD saw, and it was displeasing in His sight that there was no justice. And He saw that there was no man, and was astonished that there was no one to intercede; then His own arm brought salvation to Him, and His righteousness upheld Him. He put on righteousness like a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head; and He put on garments of vengeance for clothing and wrapped Himself with zeal as a mantle." Isa 59:15-17

The armor of God is exactly that...it is the armor that God Himself uses!

1. Jesus is your truth. (John 14:6) To gird your loins with truth is to anchor your minds in the truth of Christ. Let Him be the cornerstone, the anchor, the foundation of your thinking. Your mind is very imaginative, and can dream up scenarios that capture you and take you on a mental trip down the wrong road. I Peter 1:13 says *"gird up the loins of your mind..."*

2. Jesus is your righteousness. (1 Cor. 1:30) What else would be an armor for you against the condemnation that Satan shoots at you to get you out of the battle? Your faith in the righteousness of Christ is what keeps you spiritually alive through anything that takes place in your life!

3. Jesus is your peace. (Ephesians 2:14) In that peace you stand. Shodding your feet well is one of the most important things for a soldier. Good strong boots protect a soldier's feet. The word "preparation" is also translated "foundation" or "establishment". The Bible word for peace means much more than absence of war. God's

"Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your inheritance, the very ends of the earth Your possession." Ps. 2:8

peace means everything is normal and healthy; everything is provided for; everything is blessed, everything is protected. His peace is the foundation on which you securely stand -- anywhere!

4. Jesus is your shield of faith. He is the author and finisher of your faith. (Hebrews 12:2) Ephesians 6 says "above all, or with all" take this shield. More than anything, it is your faith in Jesus Christ that arms and protects you against the attacks of Satan.

5. Jesus is your salvation. His name means "Jehovah is salvation". (Vine's dictionary) Salvation is more than forgiveness. It includes life, healing, protection, deliverance, provision, and more. The helmet protects everything inside your skull. The helmet of salvation enables you to think according to the promises of God. In other words, you expect salvation in every situation. In every problem, you think about the hope of salvation, the fact that God has saved and will intervene again to save you, help you, protect you provide for you, have mercy on you, give grace to you, restore you, and bring a great victory!

6. Jesus is your sword. He is the living Word of God. (John 1:1) He is in you, and the truth about Him which is in the Bible is alive in you. The placement of the sword in wearing your armor can be found in Revelation 1:16: "Out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword..." The sword of the living Word of God belongs in your mouth, in the same place Jesus carries it. God has issued this weapon, His Word, to every one of His soldiers, and it is to be spoken.

You fight spiritual battles with the power of the Word of God. Get it off the bookshelf and in your hand first; read it so that it gets into your mind; meditate on the Word to get it down into your heart, where you can mix faith with it. Then go to war with that sword by putting it in your mouth. It comes out of your mouth in words. Speak THE WORD. It also works in praise and in worship. Sing THE WORD. It works in all kinds of prayer. Pray THE WORD over every situation. Put THE WORD OF GOD into your conversations, so it will cleanse the spiritual atmosphere and bring life to those around you.

Proclaim THE WORD over any circumstance that resists the promises of God. Jesus said if you speak to a mountain, and believe in your heart that what you say will come to pass, that mountain will move. (Mark 11:23)

What have you been doing about your mountains? Worrying about them? Staring at them? Denying that they exist? Are you accepting things

in your life as unchangeable that are in disagreement with God's Word?

The first mountain to be pulled down is what is in your thoughts. Use the Word of God first to bring your own mind into submission to God's Word. Only then you can use the sword of His Word for circumstances and situations that need change.

I remember a afternoon while I was in India alone. I sat in a hot village bedroom waiting for evening to come. I was discouraged and wanted to go home. I decided to pray for India. As I spoke out some words on behalf of India, it was as if the words fell to the floor. I then heard a still, small voice inside of me: "John, first take authority over your own mind; then you can take authority over India."

I saw my mistake: I brought down the stronghold of discouragement through repentance and put God's wonderful promises on my lips, and that Word caused the joy of the Lord to rise from deep within me. Once I had used my weapon of the Word to win the battle in my own mind, I had a great time praying for India!

Use your sword. It is the sword of the Lord. *"For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses; we are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."* (II Corinthians 10:4,5)

Do you have your armor on? Do you have your loins girded, and breastplate in place? Are you standing solidly in you boots of the good news of God's peace -- assured of His love, His blessing, provision, and protection in every area of life? Is your shield up, your helmet on, and your sword in your mouth?

Now, where is the war?

You will find the primary battlefield pointed out in Ephesians 6:18, which immediately follows the instructions about the armor:

"With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints..."

Get fully dressed in your armor: in other words put on the Lord Jesus Christ in your heart, your mind, and your mouth. Now, get out on the battlefield, soldier of God! Go to prayer, and stay there! That's where the battles are won! And stay in your armor! Why would you ever take it off?

...to be continued.

We postponed our travel to Indonesia...

We did not go to Indonesia this month. Some of you know this, because you are on the e-mail list, and we wrote a e-mail note at the beginning of October.

Jackie flew home from Ukraine a week before I did. She fainted during one of the flights, but got home OK. We hoped to leave for Indonesia shortly after I arrived home a week later. However, when I did arrive home, she was in the hospital with low heart rate problems. The day before, she had felt weak and about to faint for many hours. Our daughter-in-law, Jermaine, took her to the doctor, who then put her into the hospital for tests. While there, they recorded her heart as low as 32 beats a minute.

The heart specialist concluded that her blood pressure medication might be causing this, so it was stopped. She has not had any more of those episodes. A week after discharge, they had her wear a portable heart monitor for 24 hours. We are waiting for a final evaluation of that test.

Opportunity to sow into Indonesia...

We'd like to give an opportunity for you to sow seed into the people of Indonesia. We were going for the purpose of teaching blood covenant to a group of Indonesians being groomed for church planting in unreached places of Indonesia.

They are a wonderful group of ministers, dedicated to carrying the gospel to unreached peoples among the thousands of islands in their country.

There is a \$5000 need to help some pay their tuition, and pay very soon for air tickets to get them to the places where they will serve in the work of the gospel. They come from poor villages, and are trusting God for their supply. We have decided to send them the \$1400 which some of you gave to us for our travel to Indonesia. Since we are not sure when we will go, we think it best to put this money to work immediately in Indonesia.

For gifts toward this need, please include a note with your check: "For the Indonesian ministers" .

Churches of Praise

The work of the Lord continues strong in Ukraine. After 15 years, there is a solid base in the 20 Churches of Praise in the Krivoy Rog, and there are many, many small village churches sprinkled

in various regions of the country. This fellowship of churches, with the rehab center and colleges, is an excellent healing and training ground for both broken people, and for those ready to go out and preach the gospel. To be part of this church family is one of our greatest joys! We believe the best is yet to come!

Ukraine is the home for the Churches of Praise, but as you may remember, outreach has begun in other countries. A work in Kyrgyzstan was opened a few years ago. Joy turned to sorrow because of strained relationships and the death of the lead missionary, and the work was turned over to another mission. Nevertheless, we thank God for several churches that now exist in southern Kyrgyzstan because of missionaries from Ukraine. There are also several Churches of Praise in Armenia, and a work began recently in Afghanistan. Through relationships with our partners in Afghanistan, we are now believing with pastor Gregory that new work will soon begin in Tajikistan and perhaps Iran.

Pray for God's continued open door for the Word in places where there are not only large numbers of spiritually hungry people, but also many forces present which are hostile to the gospel.

While home...

We plan to accomplish things not yet done that have been repeatedly pushed aside by travel. Among them are the writing, translation, and publication and distribution of our blood covenant teachings. We want to see this done at least in the seven languages and several countries where we have been working. We know we can never get to all the young believers in person, and want to give them what God has given us. This of course is a long term goal, and will continue to take considerable time apart from mission travel.

We have a web site that has been partially completed for several months, so we will be working to have it up and running in the near future.

We also are committed to teach blood covenant seminars wherever God opens the door. We have done several this year, and will continue to teach this foundation in Christ anywhere He leads us.

Thank you...

The foundation of our ministry consists of *the Lord, you and us*. Whether you just read and remember us, or pray for us on occasion, or pray every day; whether you give financially on occasion, or are among the faithful who support us every month....*all of you are precious to us*.

We trust that God will bless and protect you according to his faithful blood covenant in Christ.

With love,
John and Jackie



Some of the Indonesian ministers