

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –  
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE  
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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –  
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare  
TITLE: Program 63 – Winning The Warfare For Our Minds**

**WEDNESDAY**

**OPEN**

How, Beloved, do you win the warfare for your mind? How do you keep every thought under control, under the obedience of Jesus Christ? You need to know and you need to understand because, Beloved, if you don’t, you can be decimated by the enemy. It is warfare and you need to keep on that helmet of salvation. You need to have that shield of faith. You need to stand in the peace of God. We’ll talk about it today.

**PART ONE**

You have an enemy, Beloved, and that enemy is Satan himself. In all of his demonic hosts he has multitudes of demons, multitudes of evil spirits and he is the prince of this world. He is the spirit that works in the sons of disobedience. And yet God has left you in the midst of the world and yet

Jesus prayed, Father, I don’t ask you take them out of the world but I ask you to keep them from the evil one. How on earth, can you and I, while we are living here, be kept from the power of the evil one? How can you and I stand firm in the midst of this conflict, when in a sense, [“we are surrounded by sons of disobedience, by children of wrath who belong to the kingdom of darkness? And above us are the evil spirits and the rulers and the authorities and the principalities and the powers.”] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 6:12) How does God expect you and me to stand firm and why does he allow us to go through this? Well he allows us to go through this because he wants to make us a demonstration to all those around us of the sufficiency of Christ’s grace, of the power of his grace, and how its perfected in weakness and he accounts us as sheep for the slaughter. Romans 8 says, “**...We are...put to death all day long [and yet]...in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.**” (Romans 8:36b-37) And this is the why Paul at the end of this epistle to the church at Ephesus writes finally brethren, and he’s telling us in this final passage about the warfare that we are going to encounter but how we can stand firm. How we can hold our position, the position that he’s taught us about in chapters 1, 2 and 3, and how we can live according to that walk that we’re to have, [where we walk in a manner worthy of the high calling in Christ Jesus.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 4:1) So he’s come to this final portion using a Roman soldier as an illustration, as a visual demonstration of the things that we need. He tells us put on the belt of truth, “**...Having put on the breastplate of righteousness, having shod [our] feet with the [Gospel with the] preparation of the Gospel of Peace....**” (Ephesians 6:14b-15) we are able to stand firm. [“But we have to put on the whole armor. We have to take up the shield of faith, we have to put on the helmet of salvation and we have to take that sword of the spirit which is the Word of God and then with all of that we are ready to stand and “...having done everything to stand firm in the Lord.”] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 6:13-17) So he wants us to know

truth. He wants us to understand righteousness. If I’m going to stand I’m going to stand by knowing truth and by walking in truth and living according to the truth. I’m going to live and stand against the enemy in righteousness by keeping my life righteous because its sin that gives the devil an advantage over us, because sin is not to be in the child of God’s life. And that’s why we are to forsake sin and that’s why we’re to [“take our members and yield them as instruments of righteousness,”] as Romans 6 says, [“and not as instruments of sin.”] (PARAPHRASE, Romans 6:13) We are to **“...Shod [our] feet with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace.” (Ephesians 6:15)**

One of the things that I love to do beside reading and studying the Bible is I love history. And I love “Christian History Magazine”. Here’s a “Christian History Magazine” on John Knox, the thundering Scott, and he was a man who understood warfare. He was a man that was not intimidated. He was a man that was mightily used of God in Scotland to stand for the Word of God. Another story is the story of Jan Hus or if you want to say Jan, J-a-n Hus, is another man, he proceeded John Knox. He came around the time of the 1400’s after Wycliffe was dying. He saw the impurity of doctrine in the church. And boy did he enter into warfare. He was a man that was burned at the stake. And when he was burned at the stake what he said reminded me of having on the sandals or the boots or the shoes of the Gospel of Peace.

Listen to what he said as he was tied to the stake and as the wood was piled about him and as 100’s stood there to watch him die, children and adults. He said this, “God as my witness, that the principle intention of my preaching and all the other acts or writings was solely that I might turn men from sin. And in that truth of the Gospel that I wrote, taught and preached in accordance with the sayings and expositions of the Holy Doctors I am willingly glad to die today.” (From Christian History magazine article, “To Build a Fire” by Thomas A. Fudge, 2000, Issue 68) He asked for forgiveness for those that were putting him to death. And he died singing at the stake. How could he stand? How could he be victorious? You say, “But he lost the

battle.” No, he didn’t, because **“...to be absent from the body, [is] to be present with the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 5:8b, KJV)** And that’s why, Beloved, you have to have on, if you’re going to stand, if you’re going to be the victor, you have to have **“...Your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.” (Ephesians 6:15b)** so that you can stand because you know that you’re at peace with God and you know that nothing can **“...Separate [you] from the love of God, which [was] in Christ Jesus....” (Romans 8:39b)** I think about one that came even before Jan Hus and many others but was an inspiration to them. And that was Paul and I want to take you to Paul’s final letter which is 2 Timothy. This is what he says. [“Don’t be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”] (PARAPHRASE, 2 Timothy 1:8) This is his message to his son. He’s saying, [“God has not given you the spirit of fear Timothy, but he’s given you power and he’s given you love and he’s given you a sound mind.”] 2 Timothy 1:7 (PARAPHRASE) And then he says, **“...Do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God.” (2 Timothy 1:8)** In other words, the power of God is there. You can be strong in the Lord. You can stand in the strength of his might. You can stand with truth, you can stand in righteousness, you can stand in peace with this Gospel of Peace. So he goes on to say, **“...But join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the Power of God, [God] who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.” (2 Timothy 1:8b-9)** Now stop and think, if you are standing there and you’ve got your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace, it means that you have believed. The good news that sinners can have peace with God because of what Christ has done, the good news about the death of Jesus Christ. Jesus **“...died for our sins according to the Scriptures...He was buried...[the third day] He was raised [again from the dead] according to the Scriptures.” (1 Corinthians**

**15:3b-4)** This is the Gospel. [“And because he died for our sins and we were united with him in death then when he is raised to walk in newness of life we are raised also.”] (PARAPHRASE, Romans 6:4) So Jan Hus, standing at that stake, knew this. That the minute that he was [absent from the body, he would be present with the Lord.] (PARAPHRASE, 2 Corinthians 5:8) Why? Because he stood in the peace of God. Remember, Jesus said, “**...in the world** [you’re going to] **have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**” (John 16:33b, KJV) So he wants them to remember, you have truth, you have righteousness, you have peace but also, you have put on the shield of faith. Now the shield had to go on before the helmet. And the shield went on because there was a way that it was attached around the arm in order for that arm to help support that shield. That shield was massive. That shield was made with heavy, thick leather. And many times what they would do is they would soak that shield in water so that when the flaming darts of the enemy came at them, those flaming missiles, and they could lift up their shield and by it they were able to quench all the fiery darts of the enemy. What did this man do endure, Jan Hus, as he stood at the stake? He was accused of being a heretic. He was accused of being a blasphemer of God. He was accused of distorting the scriptures. But he knew in his heart the truth. He knew that he was righteous in what he was doing. He knew he was at peace with God and so when the flaming missiles of the evil one came over and these were like torches. They would take these missiles and they would dip ‘em in tow and then they would ignite them and then they send them over and you can see this like in the movie “Gladiator” Well then they would simply put up their shield of faith. Now what is faith? Faith is saying I believe God. I’ve got truth. I know what God says and I believe God. So when a flaming missile comes at you then what you need to do is you so know the Word of God, you so know what God says that you hold up that shield and when that lie comes, when that deception comes, when that accusation comes you just hold up the shield of faith because you

know the truth and you know what God says and you are going to believe God. You’re going to believe him no matter what he says? Do you see it all, Beloved? It is such a beautiful, beautiful picture. And we have more to look at, more to discover in just a moment.

## **PART TWO**

As Paul continues in his description of the armor of a child of God that is going to enable them to stand firm he moves from having put on to taking up. So we’re to take up the shield of faith by which we might quench all the flaming missiles or the flaming arrows of the evil one. I think it’s so important to make sure that as we have been marking Satan, that you mark “evil one” here. And that you understand where these flaming missiles are. Remember in warfare, the purpose of warfare is to overpower, to conquer another people, to take away what they have to bring them into slavery or captivity to serve you or to put ‘em to death so that you can have what they have. And so we have to understand that we’re in a warfare. Satan wants to overpower us. And one of the ways he’s going to do it is he’s going to do it with these flaming missiles. And I think as I look at the shield of faith and I’m just telling you how I take the shield of faith. When the enemy sends an accusation against me, when the enemy reminds me of something that is wrong or when anything that comes against me in order to destroy me what I do is I take that particular Word of God, that particular truth and I hold up my shield of faith and I know that the enemy is saying this but God says, but God says, but God says, but this is the truth, but this is the truth. So if I’m afraid of dying it’s “**...absent from the body...present with the Lord.**” (2 **Corinthians 5:8, KJV**) If I’m afraid that somebody is going to get me and that has happened at times, I’ve stood and I have said, “God, you are sovereign, I know that you do according to your will in the army of heaven. I know that you create good, I know you create adversity.” So I have my

shield of faith up there to handle the flaming missiles of the evil one. And I just want to ask you a question, Beloved, how big is your shield? How big and how wet is that shield with the water of God’s Word? Because it needs to be big and it needs to be wet so that no matter what flaming missile comes against you, you are able to handle it. Now from the shield of faith he then talks about the helmet of salvation. So he has put on the belt of truth, he’s got on the breastplate of righteousness, he’s got his feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace, he’s hooked that shield over him so he can hold it. Now the helmet of salvation is put upon him. It says, taking **“...The helmet of salvation....” (Ephesians 6:17a)** So at this point when the shield goes on, when the helmet goes on they had an armor bearer. Remember David and Jonathan had armor bearers? Remember Saul had an armor bearer? Well this armor bearer was there then to hand them the helmet, to put on the helmet of salvation. Now what does it mean to put on the helmet of salvation? Well let me tell you a personal story about me. After I came to know Jesus Christ, I was doing great. I learned how to control my thoughts and when the past would come to me and I would begin to think about my past and my immorality and I would begin to become troubled, why did you do this and how could have done that and how could have sunk so low because I did sink low? I mean I sunk in a pit that I dug with my own hands. So how could I do that? Well I learned how to control those thoughts. I learned to bring **“...every thought captive to the obedience of [Jesus] Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:5)** But I couldn’t control my dreams, I couldn’t control my dreams. And so I was at a conference one day and I was there with my husband and I woke up in this dream, this immoral dream was so vivid and so real that I could not shake the thought of it, I could not shake the weight of it, I could not shake the awfulness of it. And I’m sitting there listening to Joe Carroll who is a dear brother in the Lord and who taught on spiritual warfare and just was a man deep in The Word. But I could not concentrate, I could not focus. I got up as soon as they

gave us a break and I went to the restroom and I went in and I locked the door. I said, “God, all I can assume is that I have a spirit of immorality coming against me. And God I don’t want that.” now listen to me very carefully, “God this is your body, this is your body, you redeemed it. This is your mind, you have given me the mind of Jesus Christ. And God, I am standing against the enemy, in the name of Jesus Christ and by the blood of Jesus Christ I command all these spirits, any spirit of immorality to be gone from me. You have no place here. This body has been redeemed by Jesus Christ. And I want the Holy Spirit to fill every nook and cranny. And so I command you in the authority that is mine in Christ Jesus. [“Greater is he that’s in me than he that’s in the world.”] (PARAPHRASE, 1 John 4:4) Now what was I doing? I was putting on the helmet of salvation. The helmet of salvation means that I have been saved from the power of the evil one. It means [“That I have been raised and seated in heavenly places far above all principality and authority and might and dominion.”] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 1:21) And because I am bone of his bone and all those principalities are subject under his feet then I have the power to resist the devil. I have the authority to resist the devil. In Revelation chapter 12 it says, they overcame him, Satan, the devil, the serpent of old, “**...they overcame him [by] the blood of the Lamb and...the word of their testimony....** (Revelation 12:11a) The blood of the lamb; what is the blood of the lamb? It’s the blood of the lamb that redeems me. We’re “**...not redeemed with corruptible things, [such] as silver and gold....but [I’m redeemed] with the precious blood of [the lamb of God] without...spot [or blemish.]** (1 Peter 1:18b-19 KJV) So they overcame him by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony. And what is the word of their testimony? The word of their testimony is, I belong to Christ. Christ belongs to me. It’s I John 4:4. [“Greater is he that’s in me than he that’s in the world.”] (PARAPHRASE, I John 4:4) So in warfare, what you need to learn to do is you need to learn to bring every thought captive to the obedience of Jesus



Christ. And that’s what Paul says in 2 Corinthians chapter 10. When he talks about his warfare he says, “**...the weapons of our warfare are not of...flesh, but [they are] divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.**” (2 Corinthians 10:4) What is a fortress? A fortress is like a brick habitation that the devil wants to build inside your life through wrong thinking. It’s wrong thoughts; it’s a brick after brick after brick of a lie, of an accusation of an untruth. And it says, “**We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing...**, now watch and listen, “**...raised up against the knowledge of God....**” (2 Corinthians 10:5a) “Knowledge” is one of the words that you want to mark and I color it deep green. “**...And we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of [Jesus] Christ.**” (2 Corinthians 10:5b) You need to have your head protected because if they can wound you in the head it can be a mortal wound. And it affects the rest of the body. So this is what he’s saying, that you have to put on this armor. You have to stand in the peace of God. You have to have faith and you hold up that shield and you believe God and you quench the fiery darts of the enemy and you put on that helmet and you remember that you have the mind of Christ. [“Greater is he that’s in you than he that’s in the world.”] (PARAPHRASE, 1 John 4:4) So you bring “**...every thought captive to the obedience of [Jesus] Christ.**” (2 Corinthians 10:5b) And because Christ is in you and [“Greater is he that’s in you than he that’s in the world.”] (PARAPHRASE, 1 John 4:4) you have the authority to resist the enemy and to command him to depart from you.