



6/27/25

*On this week's Chosen and Cherished podcast we talked about the divine love of God that He calls us to... an impossible love that He makes possible. He's so good!!! If you'd like to listen to the podcast, just click on the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*Ephesians 6:12-18*

*This passage closes out a letter that Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus. He spent the first three chapters explaining the beauty of the gospel... Him for Me... and then the next several chapters of how God wants us to respond to the gospel in our lives... Me for Him. The beauty of the gospel is that it doesn't start with me having to pursue God. It starts with Him pursuing me when I didn't even want Him.*

*Even with understanding and embracing the gospel, God knows that I will be in a constant battle between His Spirit working with my spirit, and the world and the devil preying on my flesh... trying to pull me away from Jesus.*

*So in these final words, Paul says in vs. 10-11, "Finally, be strong IN THE LORD and in the strength of HIS might. Put on the whole armor OF GOD, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil." Truly, I do not have the power within myself to fight off the enemy. He is always looking for an opportunity to devour me or distract me so they he can destroy me. He is always willing to hide behind people to make me think my problem is with them and not with him. He is very effective at his mission IF I don't put on the WHOLE armor of God that God freely gives me.*

*I need to understand that I "do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." I cannot fight supernatural forces with natural weapons. Pride will make me think that I can. But the devil is not afraid of me. He IS, however,*

*afraid of God. When I "submit to God, and resist the devil, he WILL flee" (James 4:7).*

*How do I submit to God? I take up the whole armor of God, that I may be able to withstand in the evil day (which is every day that I'm on this earth) and having done all... having continually dressed myself with the armor of God... I stand firm. 1 Peter 5:9 tells me to resist the devil as I stand firm in my faith.*

*How do I take this stand, and what is the armor of God?*

- I fasten on the belt of truth... so I'm held together by God's absolute truth and not by my feelings. The devil uses the world to tempt me to believe that my feelings, emotions, or the plausible wisdom of the world hold more truth than God's word does. It's a lie. Who sacrificed Himself to prove His love, truth, and grace for me? Only Jesus. The devil is a liar and the father of lies. He came to steal, kill, and destroy. He is all too happy to get me to strip off the supernatural armor that my God supplies.*
- I put on the breastplate of righteousness... so that I love what God loves and hate what God hates. The devil tries to get me to believe that what God loves is not for my good, and that He is withholding good from me. The devil has even attached the word "righteous" with all kinds of UNRIGHTEOUS things to rationalize and justify sin. For example, the devil calls for "righteous justice" to give people license to kill and steal and destroy. Hmmm... sounds familiar to his character. His plan is always deception and destruction.*
- God gives me shoes that are fit with the readiness given by the gospel of peace... This is incredible! In what battle do I face without God where I get to walk in peace? With God, the battle is to bring the truth of the gospel in love, and He does it with peace, because He is the God of peace. Satan wants me to walk in anxiety, anger, fear, and despair. With God's peace, I will be stable and secure.*
- In ALL circumstances, I take up God's shield of faith. In ALL circumstances I put my full confidence in the Lord, absolutely convinced that He knows what I need, has the power to accomplish what I need, wants to give me what I need, and does give me what I need. I trust that He knows better than I do what I truly need, and I commit to drawing closer to Him and seeking Him. The devil is constantly barraging me with doubt from without, preying on my flesh that is constantly barraging me with doubt from within. It is only by holding up the supernatural shield of faith that I am able to extinguish ALL his evil, fiery darts.*
- I have to wear the helmet of salvation... so that by the Holy Spirit, I can be transformed by the renewing of my mind... so that I won't be conformed to the lies of the devil as he feeds deception and blindness to the world.*
- I will use the one offensive weapon I need... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. God's word is called the sword of the SPIRIT because it is the Spirit who moved men to write down the truth so that we would have it written on our hearts. The Holy Spirit uses the word to speak truth to our hearts so that we can use the word just*

*as Jesus did when the devil tried to tempt Him to sin. This is why it's so important that I know God's word, not just for information, but for transformation. The more I know of God's word, the bigger the vocabulary the Holy Spirit has to work with as He speaks to my heart. The devil can't stand up against me when God's word is flowing through me. But let me not forget... just as he did when he lost the battle with Jesus, he always looks for "an opportune time" (Luke 4:13). Let me not give it to him by ignoring the word of God and speaking lies to my own heart.*

*I don't know how to use this armor without the Holy Spirit's help. And that is why I need to ALWAYS be praying in the Spirit with ALL prayer and supplication. That means I need to keep crying out to the Lord for help.*

*What does praying in the Spirit at all times entail? It impacts the attitude of my prayer and the motivation of my prayer.*

*My attitude needs to be the same as Jesus ~*

- *Surrendered... saying , Not MY will, but YOURS be done."*
- *Humble... saying, "You must increase, but I must decrease."*
- *Grateful... Giving thanks in all circumstances, saying "I believe that ALL Your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who obey You... even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death."*
- *Confident... IN GOD, not in myself.*

*My motivation needs to be to*

- *Glorify God... asking Him to do in me what will honor Him regardless of the cost because I trust that He will work all things together for my good, even the things that are not good in an of themselves.*
- *Bear fruit for Him... I ask Him to let what I do produce fruit in whatever way He chooses as I abide in Him. I don't MAKE the fruit. I don't CHOOSE the fruit. I BEAR the fruit that He grows in me. I understand that apart from Him I can do nothing.*

*How would my prayers change if I were praying with those attitudes and those motives? O Lord, please help me to pray this way AT ALL TIMES, especially as I'm wrestling with the cosmic powers over this present darkness.*

*To that end... of putting on the whole armor of God and praying at ALL times in the Spirit... keep alert with ALL perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.*

*Keep alert in ALL circumstances... the good, the bad, and the ugly. The devil is always looking for an opportunity. My flesh is always trying to derail me. I have to intentionally speak truth to my heart or my thoughts and the devil will always be speaking lies to my mind. I will be tempted to seek comfort, security, control, and pleasure apart from God... In the good times, I'll get distracted. In the bad times, I'll get weary. God will strengthen me and help through whatever I go through if I let Him.*

*With all perseverance... because it's gonna be hard. I have to remember that I am living on a battlefield, not on a beach. This world is broken. This is not my heaven on earth. But heaven is coming. "Wait for the Lord. Be strong, and let your heart take courage. Wait for the Lord" (Psalm 27:14).*

*While I do that, keep praying for all the saints, my brothers and sisters in Christ... Hold each other up in prayer because we NEED it. So often I treat prayer as "the least I can do" when it is the MOST I can do. To truly pray for them IN THE SPIRIT, I need to understand that God is doing the supernatural through my genuine, God honoring prayers. "The prayers of a righteous man are powerful and effective" (James 5:16). Paul believed so much that he continued to ask believers to pray for HIM! He knew he needed the power, effective prayer of saints who would pray for him IN THE SPIRIT, so that he could continue to preach the gospel boldly even as a prisoner in chains. This blows me away... Paul wrote this letter while being imprisoned and eventually executed for his faith. Paul wore the armor of God consistently. Paul stood firm in faith and closed his letter with, "Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible." I pray, Lord, that I will love You with love incorruptible as You have loved me with love incorruptible... that I will wear the WHOLE armor of God and stand firm with You... that I will pray at all time in the Spirit, being alert with all perseverance... understanding that I temporarily live on a battlefield... but someday You will take me home to eternal glory.*