

## **Battle Ready**

### **Week 2 Devotional**

*“One of the longest distances is the distance between a person’s head and his heart.” - David Walters, Founding Pastor of The Vine Church*

It’s been almost 15 years since I heard David use that line, so the fact that I can still remember it tells you that it had a special meaning for me. And it did. But the main reason I can still remember it today is because I’m reminded of it often.

So, what was David trying to say? Well, for me, it was simply that our salvation is not only a one-time event. Most often it is a long journey along a winding, and sometimes, difficult path. A path that begins in our head, but at some point, a path that must end, or maybe better said, pass through our heart. It’s not enough to read The Bible and books, it not enough to pray and meditate, it not enough to fill our head with spiritual facts and formulas. No, while all of that is good, it must go from being countless facts stored in our head, to a singular relationship that resides in our heart. And when it does...

This is the second week of our message series, “Battle Ready.” I’m sure I don’t need to say this, but our teaching team has been looking deeper at the scriptures known as “The Full Armor of God” in Ephesians 6. It was during the reading of this scripture that I was reminded once again of David’s line.

*For we 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. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be*

*able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on ...breastplate of righteousness,... and take the helmet of salvation... (excerpt from "The Full Armor of God-Ephesians 6:10-19)*

So, do you think it was coincidental that Paul, the writer of Ephesians, specifically mentioned protection for our head and our heart in Ephesians 6. No, I think it was that Paul knew all too well how vulnerable our head and heart are along the path of our salvation. And how vulnerable we become once that path encounters our heart...once we begin a deep, a meaningful, a genuine relationship with our Lord and Savior. Paul knew that Satan would do anything in his power to prevent that relationship, and to tear it apart once established. Paul understood his own words very well, *"For we 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."* And I think it was Paul's deepest desire to protect us *"from the darkness and those spiritual forces of evil."*

Years ago, I met with a men's accountability group. There was one guy in the group that, if you listened to him, you would have without a doubt thought he was a believer. He seemed to know the scripture better than most and asked the right questions. The problem is he couldn't convince himself to believe the answers. He overthought it. He couldn't get that path to go through his heart. I'm convinced that was Satan at his best, at his most devious and hideous self. He knew the value that man could become in the Kingdom and he fought hard

to prevent. The man fell out of touch with the group so I don't know where along that path he is today. But I do still pray for him.

I say all that for one reason: to show that "spiritual warfare" is real and it happens around us and to us every day. It is our battle and we are called to be "Battle Ready." Are you? Then put on the Full Armor that God provides...daily.