Before I get into the message for today, I'd like to comment on the elections of last Tuesday.
None of it turned out as we'd hoped it would to prevent the abortion amendment up to birth, or the marriage amendment or any of the people we hoped to have gone into offices.
As I reviewed the Hampton Roads area, it showed this region predominantly voted YES on all the amendments except for a few outlying areas.
This reveals we have a lot of praying and influencing with truth left to do in Hampton Roads.

Dutch Sheets – excerpt from GiveHim15 – 11-4-26
"[Our] faith must be in God and His plans for America, not a political party. …God's plan will move forward. Whether that be with renewed momentum, or through God's pre-planned audible, He will move us forward. The overriding factor in the saving of America is a Third Great Awakening. Having the right people in power doesn't change this; it simply makes things easier for us. But either way, America shall be saved."

It's not politics, government, the stock market, military or any blue or red wave or person that can affect the change needed in America.
Nothing will bring the changes that America needs except a transformational moving of Holy Spirit bringing souls into the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- We must not give up on our hope that the Lord hears the prayers of the righteous crying out to Him for transformational revival.
- He cares more for the lost souls than we do, so we must have His heart towards reaching the lost and discipling them to become followers of Jesus.
- There are two legal challenges in Virginia to the abortion and marriage amendments to be brought to court by Founding Freedoms Law Center of Family Foundations Nov. 13 – PRAY!

<u>Working Together</u>

Prophetic word received Sunday, November 1, 2026
I am strengthening your knees. I am lifting your hands. I have called the people who are around you to **link arms** with you, not for your vision but for My dream and destiny for you and your house. There is a heavy call on this place. There is a heavy assignment that must be fulfilled, not just for the people here, but it's for My Kingdom and My glory. There are people that are looking around at you, looking at

you because they haven't seen an example of what godliness and holiness looks like. But God has called you to this place and He has put specific people aligned with you to fulfill My purposes. **Link your shields** because we are getting ready to push forward. We are getting ready to step into that place and it's going to take the strength of each one of us pulling together to push forward and make the movements that we must push aside the levels of darkness and the spirits of the enemy that have come against us, but with the strength and the willpower of those working alongside you with My Spirit and My grace, you will pursue.
You will be empowered to do the things that I've called you to do. Do not be afraid. Be courageous for I will never leave you. I will not forsake you because I have called you to this place for this purpose.

1 Corinthians 3:9 *For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field; you are God's building.*

1 Corinthians 1:10 *I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say, that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.*

Psalm 133:1,3b *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! … For there, the Lord commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.*

Philippians 1:27 *Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.*

Hebrews 10:24-25 *And let us consider how we may **spur** [a wheel with sharp points worn on a horseman's boot heel to prick the horses for hastening their pace] one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but **encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.***

Roman Formations: Legionaries used curved rectangular shields (*scuta*) to form tight shoulder-to-shoulder walls or the famous *testudo* (tortoise) formation. **Physical shields did not snap together like Lego pieces; instead, stability relied on the strict discipline of working together.**





The Hidden Meanings in Greek Battle Formations

Why Ancient Greek Soldiers Locked Shields Together—How Their Formations Changed Warfare:

Video of Testudo:

The image of Greek hoplites advancing with shields overlapping is one of the most recognizable scenes in ancient warfare.

The famous **phalanx** was not simply a tightly packed wall of men.

Phalanx: a square battalion or body of soldiers formed in ranks close and deep, with their shields joined and pikes crossing each other, to render it almost impossible to break it. Could consist of 8,000 men but smaller bodies of soldiers were called the same name.

It was a complex military system based on **equipment**, **discipline**, **social organization**, **terrain**, and **collective movement**.

The phalanx reveals how successful warfare depended on cooperation!

The Hoplite: A **hoplite** was a heavily equipped infantryman.
His equipment could include:

- A large round shield
- Spear
- Sword
- Helmet
- Body armor or protective clothing

The large shield, called an **aspis**, was especially important.
It protected much of the soldier's body.

Why the Shield Was So Important
The shield was carried on the left arm.
This created a tactical relationship between neighboring soldiers.
A soldier could partly protect the man beside him while protecting himself.
This encouraged close formation.
The unit became stronger through cooperation.

Unify is defined as to make into a unit or a coherent whole; to put together, to form a single unit; to bond (Merriam-Webster dictionary).

- Jesus warned, *"Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand"* Matthew 12:25.
- But in the positive, 1 Corinthians 1:10 *Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*
- Ephesians 4:3 *Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*
- Unifying is essential for a region and a major method of breaking strongholds the spiritual enemies have used to divide for years. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ*

- Christians, pastors, churches need to unify within each region to overcome the attacks of the enemy of the Christian faith.
- We need to stop building our own empires in our family, marriage, churches & focus on building the Kingdom of God.

The Phalanx

The phalanx was a formation in which infantry stood in organized ranks.
Its effectiveness depended on:

- Discipline
- Cohesion
- Training
- Terrain
- Command

A formation that broke apart could become vulnerable.

Was the Phalanx an Unbreakable Wall?

No. It had weaknesses.
It could struggle when:

- Terrain was uneven
- Formations became disorganized
- Flanks were attacked
- Soldiers lost cohesion
- Command failed

The Psychological Meaning

- The formation of unity communicated courage.
- A soldier could not easily retreat without affecting others.

John 17:11 *"Holy Father, protect them by the power of Your name, the name You gave Me, so that they may be one as We are one."*

- The system encouraged collective responsibility.

Galatians 6:1-2 *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ.*
Romans 15:5-6 *May the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Unity among believers is expressed in various ways, including communal worship, shared mission, and mutual edification. Acts 2:42-47 provides a vivid picture of

the early church's unity, as they devoted themselves to the apostles' **teaching**, **fellowship**, **breaking of bread**, and **prayer**. This passage illustrates how unity is lived out in community life, characterized by generosity, hospitality, and a common purpose.

The metaphor of the body of Christ, as described in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, further illustrates the interconnectedness of believers.
For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many are one body, so also is Christ.
This imagery underscores the diversity of gifts and roles within the church, all contributing to the unity and functioning of the whole.

The Hidden Meaning
The soldier was not simply an individual warrior.
He was part of a collective.

Philippians 2:2-4 *Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty pride, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves.*

Your survival depends on the soldier beside you!

Your Equipment
For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds. 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age. Ephesians 6:12

Ephesians 6:10-18 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness 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. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which*

you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

2 Peter 1:3-8 *His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

Your Discipline

There are three Rs to spiritual victory:

RECOGNIZING, **RESISTING**, **REJOICING**.

1. We must **recognize** that we are under attack by the enemy. Be aware of the source of the attack—it is spiritual.
2. Then we can **resist** the devil in the Name of Jesus. ***Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*** (James 4:7)
3. Finally, **rejoice** in the victory of the Lord over the powers and the forces of darkness. As you rejoice, you find the depression goes, the irritation leaves, and you begin to experience victory in Christ.

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up… 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4