

Congratulations to those entering the waters of baptism today!

- Ben Bryant

Reilyn Dennis

Blake DeVore

Marcus Ford
- Cole James

Everett Langebartels

Silas Langebartels

Steve Piepenbrink

Suzanne Piepenbrink
- Colton Ray

Annaliese Simone

Sophia Simone
- Ben Shively

Jordan Valle

Collin Voss

"One of the things that surprised me when I first read the New Testament seriously was that it talked so much about a Dark Power in the universe—a mighty evil spirit who was held to be the Power behind death and disease and sin." – C.S. Lewis

We’re in a love story set in the context of war.

“Spiritual attack must be a category you think in or you will misunderstand more than half of what happens to you.” – John Eldredge

Ephesians 6:10-12
10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

➤ The battle for your home is more than physical.

“If you want to get through the world with the smallest trouble, you must reduce yourself to the smallest compass. Tiny souls can dodge through life; bigger souls are blocked on every side. As soon as a man begins to enlarge his life, his resistances are multiplied.” – John Henry Jowett

Ephesians 6:13-17
13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

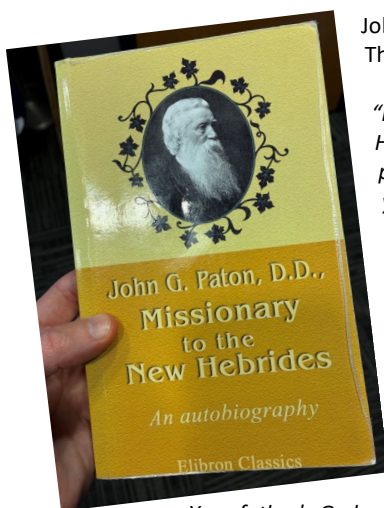
➤ The armor of God clarifies the schemes of the Enemy.

| Armor | Strategy of the Enemy |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| belt of truth | lies |
| breastplate of righteousness | guilt and shame |
| gospel of peace | anxiety |
| shield of faith | doubt |
| helmet of salvation | renewed thinking |
| sword of the Spirit | promises |



➤ **God grants His people what they need to overcome.**

"God demand whatever you wish, and provide for whatever you demand." – St. Augustine



John is in his 20's and leaving home to attend divinity school. The train station is a 40-mile walk from the house.

"My dear father walked with me the first six miles of the way. His counsels and tears and heavenly conversation on that parting journey are fresh in my heart as if it had been but yesterday [writing this 40 years later]; and tears are on my cheeks as freely now as then, whenever memory steals me away to the scene. For the last half mile or so we walked on together in almost unbroken silence ...

His lips kept moving in silent prayers for me; and his tears fell fast when our eyes met each other in looks for which all speech was vain! We halted on reaching the appointed parting place; he grasped my hand firmly for a minute in silence, and then solemnly and affectionately said: 'God bless you, my son!'

Your father's God prosper you, and keep you from all evil!

Unable to say more, his lips kept moving in silent prayer; in tears we embraced, and parted. I ran off as fast as I could; and, when about to turn a corner in the road where he would lose sight of me, I looked back and saw him still standing with head uncovered where I had left him – gazing after me. Waving my hat in adieu, I rounded the corner and out of sight in an instant. But my heart was too full and sore to carry me further, so I darted into the side of the road and wept for a time. Then, rising up cautiously, I climbed the dyke to see if he yet stood where I had left him; and just at that moment I caught a glimpse of him climbing the dyke and looking out for me! ...

I watched through blinding tears, till his form faded from my gaze; and then, hastening on my way, vowed deeply and oft, by the help of God, to live and act so as never to grieve or dishonor such a father and mother as he had given me." (pp. 25-26)

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