



5 MINUTE LESSONS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The Divine Warrior

The Bible tells us that,

“the sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.” (Galatians 5:17 NLT)

But,

“...live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”
(Galatians 5:16 NIV)

The Apostle Paul further states,

“...clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.” (Romans 13:14 NIV)

One of our main problems we must deal with is what the Bible calls the flesh, the old man, the old nature or whatever terms you choose to use. The flesh will not change, it must be exchanged for the Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 2:20).

(See Ephesians 6:10-18 — the armor of God). The second problem we have is,

“...against persons without bodies—the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world.

*¹³So use every piece of **God’s armor** to resist the enemy whenever he attacks, and when it is all over, you will still be standing up.”*
(Ephesians 6:12-13 The Living Bible)

The Apostle Paul alludes to **the armor of God** that the Divine Warrior, Jesus Christ, will be wearing when He returns to establish His eternal Kingdom (Isaiah 59:17-18). It is this armor (as believers) that we are to put on in order that we may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil (Ephesians 6:10-11).

*“Stand firm then, with the **belt of truth** buckled around your waist...”*
(Ephesians 6:14 NIV)

Before a Roman soldier put on his armor, he put a belt around his waist. This held his garments together and served as a place on which to hang his armor. The **belt of truth** refers not to the facts of the gospel, but to a believer’s integrity and faithfulness.

*“...and having on the **breastplate of righteousness**;”* (Ephesians 6:14)

The **breastplate of righteousness** refers not to justification (Romans 3:24; 4:5), but to the outworked righteousness of Christ practiced in a believer’s life (Romans 8:12-13). As a soldier’s breastplate protected his chest from an enemy’s attacks, so sanctifying, righteous living (Romans 6:13; 14:17), guards a believer’s heart against the assaults of the devil (James 4:7).

*“And **your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace**;”*
(Ephesians 6:15)

This verse does not speak of the spreading of the gospel, instead this refers to a believer’s stability or surefootedness from the gospel which gives him peace so he can stand in the battle.

*“In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”* (Ephesians 6:16 NIV)

The **shield** in a Roman soldier’s attire, made of wood, was about 2½’ wide and 4’ long. It was overlaid with linen and leather to absorb fiery arrows. Thus it also protected the other pieces of the armor; hence Paul used the phrase, “in addition to all this.” The shield consists of faith. The idea then, is that a Christian’s resolute faith in the Lord can stop and extinguish all the **flaming arrows** of the evil one (John 17:15).

*“And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God:”* (Ephesians 6:17)

The **helmet** and **sword** are the last two pieces a soldier takes up. A helmet, being hot and uncomfortable, would be put on by a soldier only when he faced impending danger. Having one’s head guarded by a helmet gives a sense of safety, so the helmet of salvation refers either to present safety from the devil’s attacks or to a future deliverance,

“...the hope of salvation as a helmet.” (1 Thessalonians 5:8 NIV)

Finally, a Roman soldier would take in hand **his sword, his only offensive weapon**. “Of the Spirit” refers to the source or origin of the sword; hence it is “the sword given by the Spirit.” “The sword of the Spirit” is specified as the Word of God. “Word” is the Greek word “rhema.” It refers to an utterance of God occasioned by the Holy Spirit. See how Jesus used the Word three times when tempted by the devil (see Matthew 4:1-11).

*“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, **be alert** and always keep on **praying** for all the Lord’s people.”* (Ephesians 6:18 NIV)

The manner in which a soldier takes up these last two pieces of armor is suggested by “**praying**” and “**being alert**.” When the enemy attacks, and on all occasions, Christians are to pray continually in the Spirit (Jude 20; 1 Corinthians 14:14-15) with all kinds of prayers. Their requests are to be for all the saints because of Satan’s spiritual warfare against them.

"²⁷Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him." (Hebrews 9:27-28 NIV)

Do you have on the armor of God? Are you waiting on Him to bring you His full salvation?

(Bibliography — The Bible Knowledge Commentary, page 644)

Questions

- 1** When the Divine Warrior, Jesus Christ, returns to set up His Kingdom what will He be wearing?
- 2** What two forces are we constantly fighting?
- 3** You clothe yourselves with the armor of God when you put on the Lord Jesus Christ.
True or False
- 4** The flesh will not change, it must be exchanged for the Lord Jesus Christ.
True or False
- 5** When Satan tempted Jesus with turning stones into bread, how did Jesus respond?
- 6** When the devil tempted Jesus with casting himself down from the pinnacle of the temple, how did Jesus respond?
- 7** When the devil tempted Jesus with the glories of this world, how did Jesus respond?
- 8** When you have on the armor of God you will be sanctified, holy and honorable.
True or False

Answer Key

1 When the Divine Warrior, Jesus Christ, returns to set up His Kingdom what will He be wearing?

The Armor of God.

“¹⁷He put on righteousness as his body armor and placed the helmet of salvation on his head.

He clothed himself with a robe of vengeance and wrapped himself in a cloak of divine passion.

¹⁸He will repay his enemies for their evil deeds.

His fury will fall on his foes.

He will pay them back even to the ends of the earth.”

(Isaiah 59:17-18 NLT)

(See also 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10)

“⁷And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

⁸In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

⁹Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

¹⁰When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.” - 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

2 What two forces are we constantly fighting?

The flesh and the devil.

“For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.” (Galatians 5:17 NASV)

“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” (Ephesians 6:11 KJV)

- 3** You clothe yourselves with the armor of God when you put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

True

“...clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.” (Romans 13:14 NIV)

- 4** The flesh will not change, it must be exchanged for the Lord Jesus Christ.

True

“...clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.” (Romans 13:14 NIV)

- 5** When Satan tempted Jesus with turning stones into bread, how did Jesus respond?

“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)

Jesus used the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17).

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:” - Ephesians 6:17

Jesus quoted to the devil Deuteronomy 8:3.

“And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.” - Deuteronomy 8:3

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- 6** When the devil tempted Jesus with casting himself down from the pinnacle of the temple, how did Jesus respond?

“Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.” (Matthew 4:7)

Again, Jesus used the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17).

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:” - Ephesians 6:17

Jesus quoted to the devil Deuteronomy 6:16.

“Ye shall not tempt the Lord your God, as ye tempted him in Massah.” - Deuteronomy 6:16

- 7** When the devil tempted Jesus with the glories of this world, how did Jesus respond?

“Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” (Matthew 4:10)

Again, Jesus used the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17).

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:” - Ephesians 6:17

Jesus quoted to the devil Deuteronomy 6:13.

“Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.” - Deuteronomy 6:13

- 8** When you have on the armor of God you will be sanctified, holy and honorable.

True

“²For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

³It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable.” (1 Thessalonians 4:2-4 NIV)