

**APPLYING  
GOD'S  
GRACE**

**EPHESIANS  
6:16-17**



**Amazing  
Grace**

**Luke 10:1 NIV**, After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

- These were sent as ambassadors of peace, bringing healing to the sick, deliverance from the possessed, and the good news of salvation to the lost and weary
- **Matthew 10:8 NIV**, 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

**Luke 10:17 NIV**, The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

- Were they able to do this on their own?
  - No, Jesus graced them with authority
  - Even though they were as weak as mud, Jesus declared they had the authority and ability to heal, raise, cleanse, drive out, and declare the Kingdom of God

**Luke 10:17 NIV**, The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

- These 72 had to see themselves as Jesus saw them: graced, enabled, changed
- They could not in/of themselves do any of this, but Jesus graced them with the ability to serve Him this way
- They saw themselves different solely because Jesus saw them differently

## **We began looking at our Spiritual Armor last week**

- We never earned it or deserved it, but we were graced
- God the Father has graced us by looking at us through the work of Jesus Christ flowing through our faith in His work in our lives
- He has given us the ability to see and comprehend the truth of His Word
- He has declared us righteous as we stand before Him
- He has declared us at peace with Himself

## **We began looking at our Spiritual Armor last week**

- How? Just like those 72 sent out, through the authority of Jesus Christ
- Because of our acceptance and faith in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, God the Father is now justified to forgive our personal sin debt and is gracing us with His authority to stand for Him
- Just like those 72, we must see ourselves through the eyes of Jesus and begin letting this grace loose in our daily lives

## Scriptures

- **Ephesians 6:16-17 NIV**, 16 In addition to all this *(to what?)* , 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.

**Ephesians 2:10 NLT, “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”**

- We as well will be weak as mud if we do not see ourselves as God’s masterpiece, created anew in Christ Jesus
- We are not the same as before salvation, we are a brand-new creation with some old characteristics still hanging on

**Ephesians 2:10 NLT, “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”**

- So often we look at salvation as really starting when we get to heaven
- But we have been graced here and now and must begin seeing ourselves, not as weak, fleshly creatures, but new creations in Christ Jesus able to stand
- Paul tells us this morning how to apply our new creation

## Keep your shields up

- What is the purpose of shields in Star Trek or Star Wars?
  - To deflect the fiery attacks of the enemy from penetrating their ships and doing damage
- God has given us a deflector shield of faith
- **Vs. 16** take up *(something you must do)* the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

## **Keep your shields up**

- The Roman shield was used to deflect the fiery arrows from their enemy
- They would connect with the warriors around them making a wall in front and on top
- Paul tells us our deflector shield is faith

## Keep your shields up

- Faith in what?
  - Ourselves, our strength, courage, determination...?
  - **Psalms 103:14 NIV**, “for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.”
  - And when dust gets wet it turns into?
  - Mud - Which is very unstable causing us to get struck, slip and fall, become filthy

## **Keep your shields up**

- Faith in what?
  - Faith in our righteousness before God
  - Faith in our peace with God
  - Faith in God's trustworthiness of His Scripture

## Keep your shields up

- The “belt of truth”, “breastplate of righteousness”, “boots of peace”
  - These are precious when you remember who you were before God touched your life with salvation
  - These now define who you really are and how God looks at you
  - Don’t let them become rusty in your heart and mind

## Keep your shields up

- Faith (*supreme trust*) that all God has revealed about Himself and us is 100% true
- Faith that when His Scripture tell me I am set free from the law of sin, and death-I'm set free
- Faith He is justified to forgive me and cleanse me from all unrighteousness, making me righteous before Him
- Faith I really am at peace with God eternally and can be at peace with myself and others

## Keep your shields up

- So, it should not surprise us when Satan throws flaming arrows of doubt at our position in God's family
- The list of his flaming arrows is virtually innumerable
  - Temptation, doubt, anger, frustration, pride, guilt, fear, shame, discouragement, suspicion, conflict, suspicion....
  - All of these will come at you to cause you to doubt the goodness of God

## Keep your shields up

- Eve in the Garden
  - **Genesis 3:1b NIV**, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”
  - **Genesis 3:4-5 NIV**, “4 You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

## Keep your shields up

- **Hebrews 11:6 NIV**, “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”
  - Without faith it is impossible to consistently stand when pressure is placed upon us – Why?

## Keep your shields up

- If we question God's Word, we will not "*take up*" our shield with confidence
- You will not lock your shield with other believers creating a wall of faith protected on all sides

## **Keep your shields up**

- Through faith we see our circumstances through God's perspective
- We trust Him to carry us through all trials and temptation
- We stand firm and resolute, confident that our almighty Commander in Chief will see us through

## Keep your shields up

- Chuck Swindoll, “In the midst of Satan’s rain of fire, we can take up the shield of faith as we pray, “Lord, I trust You today in spite of these attacks. You see what’s coming my way. I am afraid, but I choose to trust you in the dark. I trust you to guard my tongue, my eyes, my hands, my feet, my mind, my heart, and my soul.”

## Keep your thinking true and focused on Christ

- We cannot have consistent faith unless we are sure and confident in our salvation, and this involves our mind and our thoughts
- Paul tells us to put on our “*helmet of salvation*” protecting our thoughts and desires

## **Keep your thinking true and focused on Christ**

- He tells us to take the helmet of salvation into battle with us every time
- Don't leave it in your Bible
- Take it with you and wear it every minute of every day
- We must constantly remind ourselves of our salvation
- We need to have assurance of our position with Christ
- We have been placed in the finished work of Jesus

## Keep your thinking true and focused on Christ

- **John 1:12-13 NIV**, “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”
- **Galatians 2:20 NIV**, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

## Keep your thinking true and focused on Christ

- **Romans 6:4 NIV**, “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”
- **Romans 8:1 NIV**, “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. *(and going forward throughout eternity)*”
- It is all Christ

## **Keep your thinking true and focused on Christ**

- Too many believers wonder if they believe the right things, in the right way, with the right amount of conviction
- Or they wonder if they prayed to right words
- We struggle with certain sins in our lives and can't seem to break free from certain temptation

## Keep your thinking true and focused on Christ

- Listen carefully—we are saved by God’s sovereign grace alone, through our simple faith alone
- **Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV**, “8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.”

## **Keep your thinking true and focused on Christ**

- Look to Scripture's promise of eternal, irrevocable salvation
- You will never be unsaved again
- Take up your helmet, put it on, and live free and confident

## **Allow the Scriptures to penetrate the lies of the enemy**

- All of God's spiritual armor so far has been defensive
- The final piece is offensive – The truth of Scripture
- It has not been given to us to defeat Satan, but to cut through his lies and see truth thus defeating Satan
- The sword Paul was referencing was the short two-sided sword Roman Soldiers use in close fighting and this is what it feels like when the pressure builds

## **Allow the Scriptures to penetrate the lies of the enemy**

- The Greek word Paul uses for Word here means *“the Word verbalized or used”*
- Not just reading the Word but knowing the concepts of Scripture
  - Who God is
  - What He has provided
  - Who we are in Christ Jesus
  - His awesome promises

## **Allow the Scriptures to penetrate the lies of the enemy**

- You always look through Scripture before addressing his lies when they come at us
- When he tries to pull us into darkness
- When he encourages us to give in to the pressure or give way to the temptation we are to use (*speak*) God's Word to it
- The first question we must answer is, "What does Scripture say about this? How am I to see myself? What would God desire me to do, if anything?"

## Allow the Scriptures to penetrate the lies of the enemy

- This is what Jesus did when He was tempted in the wilderness by Satan
  - **Deuteronomy 6:3b NIV**, “Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”
  - **Deuteronomy 6:16 NIV**, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test as you did at Massah.”
  - **Deuteronomy 6:13 NIV**, “Fear the Lord your God, serve him only.”

## **Allow the Scriptures to penetrate the lies of the enemy**

- Notice how this brought clarity to the pressure as the truth exposed the lie
- It's not just quoting Scripture
- It is believing the Scripture is true and to be used to live a life that pleases our Heavenly Father
- It is reminding you the truth as opposed to the lie so you can stand

## Allow the Scriptures to penetrate the lies of the enemy

- This does not happen overnight
  - We must develop our personal relationship with Jesus
  - To truly know who He is and what He has done
  - To know and experience the character and promises of God
  - To go through defining events in your life to develop these skills (*called practice*)

## Allow the Scriptures to penetrate the lies of the enemy

- Never forget we are being transformed into the image of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3:18 NIV**, “And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
- We are still in our cocoons being developed with ever increasing similarity

## **It is so important we tell our stories**

- There are those coming after us that need to hear how God has been transforming you and what He has brought you through
- Satan's greatest lie is, "Your story is boring, you don't want anyone knowing that, no one really cares, you will be rejected and talked about"
- I saw a man try and tell his story once and all he could do was cry, it spoke volumes that evening

## **It is so important we tell our stories**

- This is what Exodus and Deuteronomy is – Moses telling his story
- Most of Psalms is David telling his
- Samuel told his as well as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and others
- Your story is grace spoken
- Unless it is spoken, it cannot be received

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