

**We can't get to heaven in these bodies. These bodies won't work in heaven. We have to get a different body, a resurrection body.**

**Therefore, this body has to die, the corruption has to get out. We've to get out of this corrupted body before we can get into the body of incorruption.**

**God is the expert, and He decides when the perfect time is for each of us to depart from the earth. God's time is the best time.**

**Then there's “surpassing grace” which is in heaven where “the eye has never seen; the ear has never heard the phenomenal things God has for us.” In heaven there are colors you've never seen, there are sounds you've never heard, there are things in heaven you cannot even imagine in your wildest dreams. So, whenever you're in doubt. Always follow grace.**

**Revelation 2:10: “Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”**

**Matthew 25:23: “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”**

**What is the next weapon we have in our arsenal? Before we can go into battle, we need to dress appropriately so we need to be in the correct uniform!**

**So, as we watch things go crazy in this country we need to dress for battle. Ephesians 6:12-18:**

**<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm therefore, having belted your waist with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and**

**having strapped on your feet the preparation of the gospel of peace;<sup>16</sup> in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.<sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be alert with all perseverance and every request for all the saints,”**

**Put on:** You do this mentally through the use of God’s problem-solving devices and the application of bible doctrine in your soul. You can’t put it on if you haven’t learned it. You live the Christian life in your soul. This is where you will win the battles of life, in your mind.

**So that you will be able to resist:** You resist the attacks of Satan’s cosmic system and the temptations of the world using divine wisdom. you use spiritual insight, discernment and understanding.

**Having done everything:** you are consistent in learning the Word of God. You are thinking with the mind of Christ. You are doing your part to be prepared.

**Stand firm:** You stand firm, you hold your ground, you don’t become a Christian casualty.

**Having belted your waist with truth:** You have the Word of God in your soul. This is truth. Using an analogy, everything the Roman soldier wore was connected to the belt. Likewise, everything in life is connected to the Word of God in your soul, the truth.

**Having put on the breastplate of righteousness:** You have God’s imputed righteousness (+R) given to you at salvation. You are developing capacity righteousness from growing to spiritual maturity.

**Having shod your feet with the gospel of peace:** you understand the gospel and your responsibility to witness and re-present Jesus Christ to the world. You have a personal sense of destiny. Your peace with God comes through Jesus Christ.

**Taking up the shield of faith:** You use the faith-rest drill, and it allows you to keep standing in spite of the attacks the enemy will throw at

you. You stand on the promises of God. You link shields with other Christians.

**Take the helmet of salvation:** Your eternal security protects your head, your thoughts, because Satan will seek to cause you to doubt your salvation.

**Take the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God:** You use doctrinal orientation and a divine viewpoint to stand firm and repel the attacks of Satan's cosmic system and the lures of the world.

**With all prayer and petition:** You are patient and persistent in prayer knowing God answers in His timing, not yours.

We also need to train. Training is the academic environment of Bible Class.

You have the uniform; you have your weapons but if you don't train God cannot use you. You must train in Bible class if you are to be used in combat.

Bible class is the training grounds and discipline of learning God's word and His plan for your life so you can be a good soldier for Him.

**2 Peter 3:18:** "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."

God has decreed every circumstance, or battlefield, the believer will face in time, and He expects that person to apply doctrine to the challenges presented.

The unseen battle is far more devastating and carries much more impact historically than the visible clash of arms on history's various battlefields.

Where does our courage come from? Another one the weapons found in our "Operations Manual". It's the Faith Rest Drill and the 7,000 plus promises found in the Word of God.

**Isaiah 54:17: "No weapon that is formed against you will prosper; and every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their vindication is from Me," declares the Lord."**

**2 Thessalonians 3:3: "But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one."**

**2 Corinthians 10:13: "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."**

**Isaiah 40:31: "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."**

**Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."**

**Physical courage is the ability and willingness to face uncertainty without intimidation. To be able to think under pressure!**

**Matthew 10:28-31: "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. <sup>30</sup> And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."**

**This is the Greek word "φόβος" – "phobos" with the negative "μή - me" and it's in the imperative mood. "Do not fear".**

**Confidence in God motivates courage towards man.**

**Matthew 16:24:** “Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

Spiritual courage requires the daily decision to fulfill these mandates, but we have been given the unique invisible assets to fulfill these orders. It is simply the filling of the Holy Spirit...the invisible power in every believer.

**2 Corinthians 5:6-8:** “Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— <sup>7</sup> for we walk by faith, not by sight— <sup>8</sup> but we are of good courage and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.”

We have courage because of our confidence in eternal security and sure-footed confidence in God’s plan as well as the Holy Scriptures which are our daily rations for energy in the conflict...metabolized doctrine.

“The protocol plan of God is designed to remove all the cobwebs of fear in your soul and replace them with confidence in doctrine, which leads to confidence in the Lord. That is the only true basis for spiritual self-esteem, which is confidence in yourself through Bible Doctrine. This inevitable results in the greatest courage in life. It’s more than moral courage; it is a mental attitude of courage in all relationships and in all circumstances of life.” (RBT)

“Courage is thinking doctrine and functioning under pressure as if there were no abnormal circumstances, no crisis, or no pressure. Courage is claiming promises in adversity; using the ten problem-solving devices; and functioning under the privacy of your royal priesthood to think, to apply, and to metabolize doctrine with your own intellect. However, fear makes you a loser.” (RBT)

When your combat tour is nearly over, have you been faithful to what you learned? Will you complete the mission? Will you finish strong?

**Psalm 90:12:** “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

**If you are going to finish your mission you must do this.**

**Hebrews 12:1: “Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let’s rid ourselves of every obstacle and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let’s run with endurance the race that is set before us,”**

**And you must stay away from this.**

**Galatians 5:7: “You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?”**

**What is your hindrance? What is your distraction? Don’t leave your first love!**

**Revelation 2:4: “But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”**

**Only personal love for the Father gives you the motivation to live one day at a time and all for His glory. Losing that Occupation with Christ is akin to losing your first love.**

**Paul speaks of those who turn away from the truth as deserters of the gospel in Galatians 1:6:**

**“I am amazed that you are so soon removed from Him [God the Father] Who called (καλέω -kaléō): election] you into the grace of Christ unto another of a different kind of gospel which is not another of the same kind of gospel except there will be some legalist that trouble you and would pervert the gospel of Christ.” (EXT)**

**Lay aside all distractions and set priorities, get victory over sinful habits, that cause you to stumble in the conflict. Endure the pain, embrace the sacrifice, reap the reward.**

**In spite of the injustice or chaos we see in our lives or our nation we cannot afford to be sidetracked by outside circumstances or those who drive them.**

Your thoughts can be hijacked or redirected through the never-ending call to worry and be afraid of pandemics, grocery shortages, social tensions, political intrigue, children, etc..

Paul's emphasis was to stay on point and complete the mission and you must do the same. Don't let what's going on around you become a stumbling block or a snare that gets you sidetracked.

**PRINCIPLE:** The greater the impact, the more time needed in preparation.

God honors those that honor Him, and honor means that God has blessings beyond your wildest dreams. If you'll put doctrine first and be faithful to the Word of God, the life that God has for you is unbelievable. You cannot imagine it; you couldn't dream in a million years what God has for you and He's waiting for you to be faithful. Not only are there escrow blessings in time, but also escrow blessings in eternity, blessings that are held in reserve for you. Reaching spiritual maturity is a process, it doesn't happen overnight. You have to grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This may take time, but I can assure you that if you're faithful, if you're consistent, if you stick with it, God will give you something you never imagined in a million years.

The believer who finishes his mission will receive a crown:

**James 1:12:** "Happy is the advanced believer who continues to endure testing for the purpose of approval, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised in eternity past for those who have personal love for Him. (EXT)

**2 Timothy 4:7:** "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

**vs.8:** Now there is in store for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. (NIV)

These crowns constitute the prize won for the believer who reaches spiritual maturity. These crowns are a part of the believer's escrow blessings in time and eternity.

Then in Revelation, chapters 2 and 3, John evaluates the rewards for the believer who advances to spiritual maturity “To the Winner” and “The one winning.” The “Nike awards”.

The winner believer is God’s trophy of grace and as such is recognized once Christ returns for His church.

This is your prize to collect as a reward for your fidelity and maximum glorification of God.

**PRINCIPLE: Two things break the back of Satan. The strategic victory of our Lord on the Cross. The tactical victory of those who advance to spiritual maturity.**

But I know the hardest thing in the world is to be consistent in Bible class. I know, and it amazes me how consistent some of you are and it’s encouraging.

You have to learn that this is priority number one in your life and there is going to come a time when you’re going to need everything that’s ever been taught by our pastor.

Remember this spiritual combat is no place for children or babies. God needs trained (advancing mature believers) believers in His army. Hebrews 5:12-14.

If you ever hope to glorify God in your life, it’s not because of what you do, or what you give up, or how moral you are, or even how great people claim you are, it’s because you have maximum amount of God’s Word in your soul and that reflects the life of Christ.

**PRINCIPLE: The Christian carries out the will of God for his life no matter what. That’s the priority. The state may kill you, but your priority is to fulfill the plan of God for your life.**

So, will you become a Christian casualty, or will you stand firm, and hold your ground? Will you be a good soldier for Christ? How will you complete your mission? Will you finish strong? Are you teaching your children, your family, when you’re called home will they continue to fight the good fight of the faith, or will they become a Christian casualty? This is the challenge if America is going to survive.

**Be on the alert!!**

**1 Peter 5:8: “Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion seeking whom he can devour.”**

**Remember we are soldiers for Christ who is the Commander in Chief. We are to fight the battle without distractions in order to serve Him.**

**It is my prayer that this class has been encouraging, and that we will raise the flag high until we plant it where the “colors never flew” on the high ground of spiritual maturity “Mount Pleroma”.**