

THE WORLD, THE FLESH & THE DEVIL

The Enemies Of Our Soul

The World, The Flesh & The Devil - The Enemies of our Soul

Our Soul

Spirit Power vs. Soul Power

The World)	How they Operate &
The Flesh)	How they can be
The Devil)	Overcome

Our Soul

- **Our Soul**

In speaking about the World the Flesh and the Devil as 'The Enemies of our Soul' we are immediately focussed on what it is to be human, and what the various aspects of our humanity are - our body, our soul and our spirit - what is their origin and essence and what function do they have; and why do we find the World, the Flesh and the Devil such rampaging enemies!

- **A Living Soul**

- **We became a living soul when God breathed His Spirit into us**

*'And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and **man became a living being***.'* **Genesis 2: 7**
*** a living soul**

- The NKJV translates the Hebrew word '*nephesh*' as 'being', but it properly means 'soul' as the KJV translates it

- **So we see from the very beginning the nature of our humanity:**

- **Body - formed of the dust of the earth**
 - **Spirit - breath of God**
 - **Soul - a living being (soul)**

- **When the spirit and the body were joined man became a living soul**

- **Three Separate Entities**

- **The Bible speaks often about the three different parts of our humanity**

*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may **your whole spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Thessalonians 5: 23

- **Our Flesh** (our Body) - remains just that always - we are made physically of the dust of the earth...the elements and substances of earth - it will decay and die
 - **Our Spirit** - God's breath, the Holy Spirit within - He gives us eternal life
 - **Our Soul** is the seat of our Consciousness, Personality, Intellect and Emotion - it is the Essence of Who and What We Are
 - **Our Soul is Eternal** - it will survive death

- Either, in Heaven - present with the Lord

*'When He opened the fifth seal, **I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.** And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge*

and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.'

Revelation 6: 9-11

'This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.'

Hebrews 6: 19-20

"For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." **But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.**

Hebrews 10: 37-39

'So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be **absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.**'

2 Corinthians 5: 6-8

- ❖ The 'we' in 2 Cor. 5 indicates a sentient part of our being which is distinct from our body and from the Spirit within us, that is...it is our soul - the essence of who 'we' are

➤ Or, in Hell (the Lake of Fire)

'Then **the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet** who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. **These two were cast alive into the lake of fire** burning with brimstone.'

Revelation 19: 20

'The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.'

Revelation 20: 10

'Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.'

Revelation 20: 14-15

○ **The Insight from Yeshua's story of 'The Rich Man & Lazarus'**

'So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. **And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.'**

Luke 16: 22-23

- The picture that Yeshua gives in Luke 16: 19-31 of souls in Paradise and in Hades is not a parable
- It describes the blessings or torments of the Soul of man after death - a soul still alive, eternal - we are a living soul
 - ❖ Abraham's bosom, elsewhere spoken of as Paradise, is a real place where it seems souls will rest
 - ❖ Hades is a real place - a place of torment - it and the souls therein will ultimately be thrown, along with Death, into the Lake of Fire (that is, Hell)

'The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.'

Revelation 20: 10

*'The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and **Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them.** And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then **Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire.** This is the second death. And **anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**'*

Revelation 20: 13-15

- **Soul - Characteristic Mark of Man - The Soul**
 - Angels - are spirit (as is God)
 - Animals - are flesh (body)
 - Man - is a living soul - it is his characteristic which distinguishes him from the spirit world and from the animal kingdom
- **Relating - Each part of Us Relates...with the Physical World, with the Emotional or Intellectual World, and with the Spirit World**
 - Body - relates to the external world, it is the 'Flesh'...which has its own lusts and desires for things of the flesh and the world
 - Spirit - relates to the spiritual world...the Lord God or the demonic
 - Soul - the determining will...it dictates how we relate and how our spirit and body relate
 - God's intention is that our Soul should:
 - Bond Body and Spirit - to keep them in proper relation
 - Be subject to the Spirit within us
 - Keep Man's Body (Flesh) subject to Spirit - and to the Soul itself; the Flesh should no longer dominate
- **Our Current and Former State - these are described by Paul in his letter to the Ephesians - see *Ephesians 2: 1-3***

*'And you **He made alive**, who were **dead in trespasses and sins**, in which you **once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also **we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh**, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and **were by nature children of wrath**, just as the others.'*

Ephesians 2: 1-3

- **Our Current State as Believers - Made Alive**
 - God has Redeemed us (Yeshua's shed blood)
 - God has Justified us by His Grace and Mercy - no longer, by nature, children of wrath
 - God has Made Us Alive - He has put the Holy Spirit within us
 - The Holy Spirit is our 'Deposit of Guarantee'
- 'Now He who **establishes us** with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has **sealed us** and **given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.**'*

2 Corinthians 1: 21-22

- **Our Former State - Spiritually Dead**
 - We were Dead - no spiritual life in us at all
 - Dead in 'Trespasses and Sins' - slaves to sin
 - Walking according to the World
 - Walking under the Devil's influence (the prince of the power of the air)
 - Living to fulfil the lusts of the Flesh (fleshly desires)
 - Living to fulfil the desires of the Mind (human desires)
 - Children of Wrath - destined to suffer God's wrath on sin and the wicked

'For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.'

Romans 1: 18-19

- Three Enemies of our Soul - we see then, in *Ephesians 2: 1-3*, three Enemies of our Soul, working both individually and in collaboration - to keep us from the Lord God and from eternal life - these enemies are:
 - The World
 - The Flesh
 - The Devil

Spirit Power vs. Soul Power

- **Spirit, Soul & Body**

To help us in our battle against the enemies of our souls we need to understand the different aspects of our humanity - our spirit, soul and body.

It is helpful to depict pictorially the history of these different aspects of our humanity and to trace the changes that have occurred - from that which God created - to man's state after the fall - and to our regenerated 'born again' state



- **1. In The Beginning - The Lord God Created Man**

'And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.'*

Genesis 2: 7

** a living soul*

- **Body - formed of the dust of the earth**
- **Spirit - breath of God**
- **Soul - a living being (soul)**
 - When the spirit and the body were joined man became a living soul
- **Relating - How we were Designed to Be**
 - Body - relating to the external world
 - Spirit - relating to the spiritual world...the Lord God
 - Soul - the determining will
 - Bonding body and spirit - to keep them in proper relation
 - Soul in subjection to Spirit , keeping body subject to Spirit
 - Prior to the fall - there was no death or decay - Man's Body, Soul and Spirit were designed to be everlasting
- **The Power of Adam's Soul**

It is easy for us to underestimate the power which Adam had in his Soul, in the essence of who and what he was - his Consciousness, Personality, Intellect and Emotion - Adam possessed great 'soul power'

 - Authority and Physical Prowess
 - Ruling the Earth
 - Dominion over Every Living Thing
 - Strength
 - Brain Power and Memory
 - Naming the Animals
 - Managerial Power
 - Tending & Keeping the Garden

• 2. The Fall

- **Man becomes 'Flesh' - Genesis 6:3**

*'And the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for **he is indeed flesh**; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."* **Genesis 6: 3**

- The spiritual death man suffered at the fall left man trapped in the body with the power of his 'living soul' no longer ruled by God's spirit within him
- The fall left man with the knowledge of good and evil - but with only the power of his living soul to choose between them - man was now devoid of the power of God's Spirit) within to guide and rule over the soul

*'Then the Lord God said, "Behold, **the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever**" - therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and **a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.**'*

Genesis 3: 22-24

- Note - from Genesis 3: 22 - that though the soul is eternal (it is a living soul), man's body was no longer eternal, but could have been if man ate from the tree of life
- **Death came to man and to creation** - the blessing of life forever was lost and now man and creation were doomed to decay - in bondage to corruption - waiting for the day when a sinless son of Adam would redeem man and creation would be liberated

*'For **the creation was subjected to futility**, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because **the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**'*

Romans 8: 20-21

- The consequence was to be **sent out of the garden** - that perfect and pure place when man and God communed - and where man previously knew no evil, only good
- **No Spiritual Life** - dead in our trespasses and sins (*Ephesians 2: 1*) and unable to receive the things of the Spirit of God (*1 Cor.2: 14*)
- **The Flesh becomes Dominant**
 - Freed from the rule of the Spirit - the Soul becomes dominated by the Body - that part which relates to the physical world (the Flesh)
 - Man's Body - his Flesh now drives the Soul (the seat of his consciousness, personality, intellect and emotions) - and it produces out of the soul what scripture calls 'the works of the flesh'

*'Now **the works of the flesh are evident**, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that **those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**'*

Galatians 5: 19-21

- **The result is that fallen man is far from the Kingdom of God**
- **The Soul now is subject to the Dominion of the Flesh**
 - **The power in man's living soul becomes latent (hidden)**
 - This latent power of the soul is capable of being used - it is still there but has to be released to be used
 - **Satan seeks to stir up man's soul to release its latent power as a deception for true spiritual power**
 - Hence the various religious practices to release man's soul power - e.g. in Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, Christian Science
 - Hence the Humanistic Psychology techniques to release man's soul power - e.g. Mesmerism, Hypnotism, Telepathy, Clairvoyance, etc
 - Hence the 'False Fire' and Emotionalism seen in many churches today (such as the Bethel churches under Bill Johnson) and the 'revival meetings' of big name preachers (such as Benny Hinn, and many others)
 - What is displayed in all of these is not Spirit Power (the power of God's Spirit) but Soul Power - the latent power of the Soul of Man given free reign - Satan stirs it up
 - **Beware of 'Christians' or Churches who pray 'soulish' prayers or engage in 'soulish' worship or deliver 'soulish' messages or prophecies**
 - Notice how many modern worship songs, particularly those that come out of church groups like Bethel and Hillsongs, are 'soulish' in nature and focus on our human emotions and motives, and often contain false teaching or theology
- **The Soul - Allured by the World - dominated by the Body (man's flesh), the Soul is allured by the World around him**

- **The things of the World rather than the things of the Spirit become a strong attraction** - because his dominant Body is that part of man's humanity which relates with the physical and social world
 - Hence man's desire for wealth - his desire to be rich in the things of the world is the one of the biggest snares to spirituality
 - Hence man's desire for power - to be ruler of the world and to rule over other men

▪ **The Body & the Soul become a Commodities - Revelation 18: 11-13**

*"And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their 'merchandise anymore: merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, **and bodies and souls of men.**"*

Revelation 18: 11-13

- The merchants of the earth - 'the wheelers and dealers of this world' - trade not only in gold and silver, etc, but also in men's bodies and souls
 - Hence why ordinary men and women are treated as pawns by politicians and rulers
 - Hence why in many, if not all employments today, men and women feel abused by their bosses and the business system - feeling used, chewed up and spat out when no longer deemed useful
 - Hence why the person is no longer valued, only what they can be used for or are 'worth' matters...the money and the 'bottom line' are all the matter, not the people anymore
- Satan, and his puppet in the end-times (the Antichrist), wish to use the human body and soul as instruments for their activities

● **3. Born Again**

▪ **Man's need is for Spiritual Re-Birth - John 3: 6-7; Romans 8: 2-11**

*"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, '**You must be born again.**"'* **John 3: 6-7**

*'And if Christ is in you, **the body is dead** because of sin, but **the Spirit is life** because of righteousness.'* **Romans 8: 10**

- Spiritually Dead Man - needs to be re-born of the Spirit of God
- Only the Lord God, through Yeshua's shed blood, and by the Holy Spirit can do this - give new spiritual life (eternal life)
- **The Believer is 'Born of the Spirit' - a new God-given spirit - The Holy Spirit**
 - Believers receive the whole of the 3rd Person of the Godhead - Filled!
 - The Believer receives a new spiritual birth - by being born again of the Spirit of God - and receiving the Holy Spirit
 - The born again spirit in the believer cannot receive another spirit - a Christian cannot be demon-possessed
- **God's Spirit in man is to Rule the Soul**
 - Believers need no longer to be dominated by the flesh - they are set free and no longer slaves to sin or to the flesh
 - Believers are now Free - to produce the fruits of righteousness (fruits of the Spirit) rather than being slaves producing the fruits (works) of the Flesh

*'For **when you were slaves of sin**, you were free in regard to righteousness. **What fruit did you have then** in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now **having been set free from sin**, and having become slaves of God, **you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.'*

Romans 6: 20-23

- The Soul is, once again, to be ruled by God's Holy Spirit within the believer - this involves a choice...we are free to choose whether our soul is ruled by the Spirit or by the Flesh
 - Previously, in our fallen state, we had no choice...the Flesh was dominant
- Man's Soul is, in turn, to rule the Body - in fact, to put to death the desires of the flesh
- **Satan seeks to undermine the Spirit's work in the believer by attacking the Soul**
 - Satan cannot attack God's Holy Spirit in man - he has not the ability
 - Instead Satan encourages man's Soul to rule the Spirit
 - In a similar way to his attack on the unbeliever - where he blinds men's minds and warps their intellect
 - So Satan attacks the believer's soul - to tempt and deceive
 - Hence Satan's deceptions - and his Big Lie - as it was in the Garden so it is still today - 'you shall be like god'

*'Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**"'*

Genesis 3: 4-5

- Satan attacks our weaknesses
 - Those weaknesses that come through life experiences (e.g. rejections or abuse) - where prayer to release from their grip may be helpful
 - Those weaknesses which come through rebellion (wilful sin) - where repentance, forgiveness and renouncing are necessary
- **God only works through the Spirit in man, never through his Soul**
 - Hence - the importance of the Fruit of the Spirit...in the soul (the consciousness, personality, mind, intellect and emotions)
 - We are to allow the Holy Spirit within to produce, through our Living Soul, the 'works (fruit) of the Spirit'

*'But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.'*

Galatians 5: 23

- Such 'works' are contrary to the works produced through the Soul by the Body (the Flesh)

*'And **those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**'*

Galatians 5: 24

- **Satan attacks and works through man's Soul**
 - He cannot work through the believer's spirit (the Spirit of the Lord is in him/her)
 - He cannot work through the spirit of an unbeliever - their spirit is dead
 - He can only work through man's Soul
 - That is how he imprisons the unbeliever - read *Romans 1 & 2*
 - That is where he seeks to attack the believer

- Satan's aim is to have believers live in the soul - rather than live by the Spirit - and hence 'quench the Spirit'
 - He can cause their bodies to be filled with many kinds of strange feelings and their minds with many wandering thoughts...through these feelings and thoughts, he can confound the spiritual senses of the believer, so that in a state of confusion, the believer cannot distinguish what is really from the spirit and what is from the soul
 - If Satan can succeed in causing a believer to live in the outward man through feelings or thoughts, he then takes a further step to disguise himself as the spirit within the believer - this is accomplished through first obtaining a position within the believer, and then by fabricating many 'spiritual' feelings - it is this deception which afflicts so many in the 'false fire' churches
- **The Allure of the World is still present - it does not go away just because one becomes a believer**
 - Scripture speaks of the World both as a temptress and something to be enjoyed and blessed by
 - The Allure of the World is to be resisted by the believer because we belong to the Lord now - we must learn to focus on Him rather than the World

*'If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.** For you died, and **your life is hidden with Christ in God.**'*

Colossians 3: 1-3

- Believers are 'In the World, but not of it' - a familiar verse
'They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.' **John 17: 16**
- But, we now have a Mission in this World...to be witnesses - so
Yeshua does not pray that we be taken out of the world, but preserved (in holiness) in it

*'I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **I do not pray that You should take them out of the world**, but that You should **keep them from the evil one**. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **Sanctify them by Your truth.** Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, **I also have sent them into the world.**'*

John 17: 14-18

- **Soul Power vs. Spirit Power**
 - **Soul Power - man's soul is Satan's working instrument through which he seeks to achieve his aims - he cannot attack God's spirit in the believer**
 - **Satan makes use of man's soul power to manifest his strength and his deceptions**
 - Satan's lies, deceptions and counterfeit signs are at work in today's 'revivals', false teachings and false prophecies to deceive Christians into his power - they give him the ability control the soul and its latent power
 - Hence the psychic soul-force behind the false spiritual manifestations and 'soakings' and 'slayings in the spirit' so common in many churches today
 - It is soul power (psychic soul-force) which is at work in many of the so-called 'revivals'; with their false 'signs and wonders', their deceptive manifestations, and their power to 'impart anointings'

- Those who have been deceived may need prayer for release from the grip they have allowed the enemy to have over their soul
- **Spirit Power**
 - **The Spirit alone gives Life - see *John 6: 63, Romans 8: 2-4, 1 Peter 3: 18***
 - **The Flesh (Body) profits nothing**
'It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.' **John 6: 63**
 - The life in the flesh will decay and pass away
 - The Believer will receive a New Body - a Glorified Resurrection Body - just like Yeshua
 - The Believer's Soul and Spirit are eternal...everlasting
 - **Believers are Free to 'Walk by the Spirit'**
'For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.'
Romans 8: 2-4
 - **Our Real Life is now Spiritual...it is eternal - our physical life is only temporary - we died and our life is now 'in Christ' - there is no 'life' without Him!**
'For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,' **1 Peter 3: 18**

'And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.' **1 John 5: 11-12**
 - **Walk in the Spirit - because we live in the Spirit**
'If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.' **Galatians 5: 25**
 - So let the Holy Spirit with you Rule over your Soul...that is what it is to 'Walk by the Spirit'
 - It is a matter of will - submitting to God and the Holy Spirit within - let Him be your teacher and guide
 - It is learning how to live again...in a new way...it is learned - it is the process of sanctification - being made holy, changed into the likeness of Yeshua

There are notes available on the section 'Spirit Power vs. Soul Power, today
 Recommendations: Watchman Nee's books "The Latent Power of the Soul" and
 "The Spiritual Man"

The World - How it Operates and How it can be Overcome

- **The Nature of the World**
 - **The World is Thorny Soil - it can Choke Spiritual Life**
'Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.' **Matthew 13: 22**

- Yeshua's Parable of the Soils (the Sower) - a clue to the Nature of the World
 - The Thorns of the World - they pierce the Heart and Soul of Man
 - The World promises much - it looks attractive, it is alluring - but in the end it delivers thorns
- The World's Thorns can Choke the power of the Word of God in the Soul of Man
- **The World's Obsessions - can become our Obsessions**
 - The Christian author Richard Foster observed that the world today is obsessed - notably with three things; **Money, Sex and Power** - and a look at the media of today (newspapers, radio, television, social media and the internet) tell us of the truth of this observation
 - The Monastics of old countered these obsessions with vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience
 - Richard Foster suggests three 'vows', or attitudes, for Christian living today - to counter the obsessions of the world - they are Simplicity (for Money), Fidelity (for Sex) and Service (for Power)
 - **Counter Cultural** - it is clear that to live a life Honouring the Lord and Walking in the Spirit is wholly contrary to the way of the world
 - It may seem today that is worse than ever - but it has always been this way
 - ❖ It was for the Israelites
 - ❖ It was for the early church
 - ❖ It still is today
 - **No One Can Serve Two Masters**
 - The Obsessions of the World and the Love of the Lord are Mutually Exclusive

*"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon.**"* **Matthew 6: 24**

- **The Pressure of the World**
 - **This World exerts Tremendous Pressure on the Soul**
 - The Soul is the seat of our consciousness, our personality, our intellect and our emotions - and the World pressures each of these
 - **The Pressure Just to Live**
 - The demands of work which can dominate and harm family life
 - The difficulty of affording housing which can harm married life
 - **The Pressure to be a Winner**
 - The World values Success - which is judged by position, wealth and personality - but the Lord looks on the Heart

*'But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but **the Lord looks at the heart.**"* **1 Samuel 16: 7**

- **The Pressure to Conform**
 - The norms of today which are contrary to God's design and laws
 - Lack of conformity can mean exclusion from the benefits of the world, from advancements in careers, or from friendships

- There is great pressure today on the church to be 'Inclusive' - which actually is a pressure to compromise on God's truth and to conform to the world
- **The Pressure to Be Silent about The Lord**
 - Speaking out God's truth can get you called a bigot, a racist or a homophobe
 - Standing up for The Lord can get you into Trouble with the Authorities - sacked from a job or charged with an offence
- **Overcoming the World**
 - **Yeshua has Already Overcome the World**

*"These things I have spoken to you, that **in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**"*
John 16: 33
 - **Tribulation - Recognise and Accept that, in the World, Disciples of Yeshua will have Tribulation**
 - It is inevitable because:
 - ❖ The ways of the world are contrary to the ways of God
 - ❖ We are 'not of this world'
 - So do not fear this world - not its thorns, nor its obsessions, nor its pressures (oppressions)
 - Look to Yeshua, all the time - receive His peace in your heart and soul...it will steady you and strengthen you through the storms of the world
 - ❖ His peace (Hebrew: eirēnē [pronounced *i-rah'-nay*]) meaning peace (literally or figuratively); and by implication prosperity (of soul), quietness and rest
 - ❖ It is the knowledge that our times are in the Father's hands (*Psalms 31: 15*) and that His grace is sufficient (*2 Cor. 12: 19*) that will give us peace in tribulation
 - **Yeshua has Overcome the World - so we too can Overcome the World because:**
 - In Him we can have Peace - only in Him is there peace for our heart and soul which keeps us resting and not striving
 - He is our Example of how to Overcome
 - ❖ His Depth in the Word and the ability it gave Him to resist the temptations of this world
 - ❖ His Focus on Serving His Father - and hence His ability to resist the obsessions of the world
 - ❖ His Reliance on the Father & Concern to do His Will - gave Him the ability to withstand the pressure of the world
 - ❖ His Ability to Resist the pressure to conform to the world's ways
 - **Love The Father**

*'Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but **he who does the will of God abides forever.**'*
1 John 2: 15-17

- **Yeshua Is Our Example**

- **Yeshua was Focussed on the Father**

- ❖ Yeshua loves the Father - *John 14: 31*
 - ❖ One with the Father - *John 10: 30*
 - ❖ Doing the Father's Will - *John 10: 37-38*
 - ❖ Wholly reliant on the Father - *John 5: 19*
 - ❖ He Prays for Us - that we might be kept from the evil one and sanctified by His truth - *John 17: 15-17*

'I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.' **John 17: 15-17**

- ❖ Yeshua continues to pray for us - *Hebrews 7: 25*

'Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.' **Hebrews 7: 25**

- **Yeshua's Love was First and Foremost for His Father**

- ❖ Devoted Love - oneness, constant communion
 - ❖ Completely committed to doing the Father's will
 - ❖ Sacrificial Service
 - ❖ Yeshua Overcame the World (*John 16: 33*) by Loving the Father

- **Mutually Exclusive - 1 John 2: 15-17**

- **A Hard Saying** - it may seem a harsh thing for John to say that if you love the World you do not love the Father, but he is reflecting what Yeshua said about trying to serve two masters

- ❖ We tend to think we can love the world a little bit - But:

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." **Matthew 6: 24**

- ❖ We say it is not 'love' but we call it regard or respect
 - ❖ We deceive ourselves - and we get drawn in

- **A True Saying** - if you try to serve - and this involves devotion (love) - two masters you end up loving one and hating the other

- ❖ If you love the World you effectively hate the Father - because the World's ways are so contrary to God's ways

- **The World's Ways are not of the Father**

- **The Lust of the Eyes** - the allure of what the world offers
 - **The Pride of Life** - the allure of being admired or prominent

- **Do Not Love The World - 1 John 2: 15**

- **Indifference** - John writes "Do not love the world or the things in the world" - he means it!

- Because we were fallen human beings - being born again we have to learn to have a different attitude to the world
 - ❖ Indifference - lack of interest or concern
 - ❖ Disregard - pay no attention to or leave out of consideration
 - ❖ Scorn - look upon with contempt or absence of desire

- **Non-Conformist** - Paul tells us not to be Conformed to the World

'And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.' **Romans 12: 2**

- **The Battle is in the Mind**

- ❖ The Mind is that intellectual part of our Soul
- ❖ Our Minds - our Thinking - needs to be Renewed
- **Renewal** - allowing the Holy Spirit within us to re-wire our thought patterns - which will enable us to change our behaviour (that is, to be Transformed)
 - ❖ Like an addicted criminal - we former sinners need to become Reformed Characters
 - ❖ For Example - our attitude towards Money:

'Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Hebrews 13: 5
 - ❖ Notice that our attitude and conduct is transformed because we know and trust that God will never forsake us - our minds have been renewed
- **Transformed not Conformed** - because of the Father's love
 - ❖ Do you know how much the Father loves you?
 - ❖ He sent His only Son to be your Saviour
 - ❖ He will meet your needs because He cares for you as a loving Father - so you don't have to worry about things

"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them."

Matthew 6: 25-26
- **Our God is El Shaddai - The Almighty God**
 - He is Jehovah Yireh - The Lord will Provide
 - He is El Elyon - The Lord Most High
 - He is El Roi - The God who Sees Me
 - He is El Gibbor - The Mighty God
 - He is Yahweh Rapha - The Lord who Heals
 - He is Jehovah Shalom - The Lord is Peace
 - He is Jehovah Rohi - The Lord Your Shepherd

The Flesh - How it Operates and How it can be Overcome

- **The Nature of the Flesh**
 - **Flesh - the Body and Nature of Man**
 - **Flesh in the OT** - Hebrew: *bâsâr*, [pronounced *baw-sawr*], meaning flesh and, by extension, it means body or person
 - The word appears 270 times and is usually translated as 'flesh'
 - The Lord says that man, after the fall, is Flesh...and is mortal

'And the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." **Genesis 6: 3**
 - **Flesh in the NT** - Greek: *σάρξ* (*sarx*), [pronounced *sarx*], meaning flesh (as stripped of the skin), that is the meat of an animal (as food), or, by extension, it means the body (as opposed to the soul or spirit), and by implication it means human nature (with its frailties and passions)
 - The word appears 150 times and in almost all cases is translated as flesh - 3 times as carnal or carnally

- Man's flesh is different than that of the animals - 1 Cor. 15: 39
- Believers should regard no one by their flesh, but look on them spiritually - 2 Cor. 5: 16

▪ **Flesh - our old Fallen Nature & Desires**

- **Dominant Flesh** - at the fall the Flesh became dominant over man's soul - that is, over his consciousness, personality, intellect and emotions
- **The Works of the Flesh - Flesh dominating Soul**

*'Now **the works of the flesh are evident**, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that **those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**'*

Galatians 5: 19-21

- The Works of the Flesh are Evident - plain for all to see
 - ❖ It is obvious that these fleshly desires and acts are contrary to God's law and His nature
- The Works of the Flesh are spiritual death - they lead to exclusion from the Kingdom of God
- **The Sinful Nature** - the Bible teaches that we have a sin nature - not only do we commit sin, but it is our nature to do so - the flesh is that part of human beings that impels us to commit sin

➤ **It is our Earthly Nature**

*'Put to death, therefore, **whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.**'*

Colossians 3: 5 (NIV)

➤ **It prevents us doing and being good** - as Paul says in Romans 7: 18
*'For I know that **in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells**; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.'* **Romans 7: 18**

- **The Sinful Nature Defiles Man** - it mars the image of God in which man was created and makes him a prisoner of base passions

*"**For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.**"*

Matthew 15: 19-20

➤ **We are all infected**

*'Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus **death spread to all men, because all sinned**—'* **Romans 5: 12**

- **We deceive ourselves if we deny our sinful nature**

*'**If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**'*

1 John 1: 8

• **Overcoming the Flesh**

▪ **A New Birth and a New Nature**

- **The old sinful nature cannot be redeemed - but our souls can be redeemed through Yeshua's shed blood**
- **What is needed is a New Birth**
 - Not a Fleshly Birth but a Spiritual One
 - Being sinners by nature, we cannot help but sin and these sins separate us from the perfect, sinless God - we need to be saved from ourselves (our fallen sinful nature)

- God has provided a way to receive forgiveness and cleansing through Yeshua who spoke of this salvation as being "born again"

*'Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.** Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"* **John 3: 5-7**

- What is needed is a New Nature

*'Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**'* **2 Corinthians 5: 17**

- A New Creation -

- ❖ We receive the Holy Spirit - and suddenly our nature is no longer 'Flesh' but 'Spirit'
- ❖ The Old has Gone - yes we still have our earthly bodies, but our Flesh is, or should be, no longer dominant of our Soul
- ❖ We are Set Free - now we are free to choose to do good, whereas before we were trapped in our sinful nature

- We are Now 'In the Spirit' not 'In the Flesh'

*'But **you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.** Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And **if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin,** but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.'* **Romans 8: 9-11**

- ❖ The Spirit of God Dwells in Us - changing our nature
- ❖ The Body is Dead but the Spirit is Life - yes our physical bodies still live (for a time) but our nature has completely changed

- Put to Death the Desires of the Flesh

- The Body is Dead says Paul - that is the Flesh has lost its power and need no longer dominate our Soul

*'For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but **if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."* **Romans 8: 13-15**

- The Deeds of the Body (or Works of the Flesh) are still with us if we allow our old sinful nature to dominate our Soul
- The Flesh is Dead, but it rises up if we let it

- **Kill Them!** Paul tells us the Romans 'put to death the deeds of the body' - literally he says kill them...kill the desires and passions which the flesh seeks to promote
- **Crucify the Flesh!** Paul tells the Galatians, quite graphically, to crucify the Flesh - in a sense we should nail these desires and passions to the Cross of Yeshua, for He has paid the price for sin and set us free

*'And **those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**'* **Galatians 5: 24-25**

- Crucify the Passions (Affections in KJV) of the Flesh - its influences and agendas - they are contrary to God's ways
- Crucify the Desires (Lusts in KJV) of the Flesh - its unhealthy desires - they are forbidden fruit (just like in the Garden)!

- **Walk in the Spirit**
 - **We have Life (Eternal Life) because the Holy Spirit lives in us**
 - **Therefore we should Walk in The Spirit**

'If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.'

Galatians 5: 25

- **He - the Spirit of God - is our Life...**it is an eternal spiritual life and our Soul will be united with a new glorified body one day...and we shall be ever with the Lord
- **Our Life is no longer in the Flesh**
 - ❖ Our physical body will die and we will receive a new glorified body at the rapture
 - ❖ Our fleshly sinful nature is dead - we died and our life is hid with Christ in God

'For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.' ***Colossians 3: 3-4***

- **Because our Life is now Spiritual not Fleshly - we should Walk in the Spirit...**led by the Holy Spirit...then we will not be ruled by the Flesh

'I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.'

Galatians 5: 16

- ❖ Walk - Go Forward...don't go back to old ways...but go on and press on in the Lord...we're going up!
- ❖ The Holy Spirit is our Teacher and Guide - this is the process of Sanctification...being made into the likeness of Yeshua...the bride being made ready for her bridegroom
- **The Holy Spirit within us is to Rule the Soul** - to determine our consciousness, our personality, our intellect, our emotions

'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.'

Galatians 5: 22-23

The Devil - How he Operates and How he can be Overcome

• The Devil's War on the Believer

It Is War! - The Bible speaks of Satan and his demonic legions as real, supernatural beings who oppose God and his people

- **Satan's Attacks on Believers - his principal roles towards the believer are as Deceiver, Accuser and Tempter**

- **As Deceiver** he seeks to lead believers by lies and deceptive teachings into false spirituality and erroneous beliefs and practices - see *John 8: 44; 2 Corinthians 11: 3-4, 13-14; Revelation 12: 9, 20: 2-10*
- **As Accuser** he seeks to accuse and condemn believers for their sins and failings to discourage and handicap them in their faith - he also accuses them before God - see *Job 1: 6-12; Zechariah 3: 1-2; Revelation 12: 10*
 - We can distinguish between Satan's voice which only accuses and condemns and the voice of the Holy Spirit which convicts of sin and leads us into restoration of relationship

- As Tempter he seeks lead the believer into sin by playing on their fleshly weaknesses so as to lead them into backsliding and wilful sin - see *Matthew 4: 1-11; Acts 5: 3; 1 Corinthians 7: 5*

- **Know Your Enemy**

- **The Devil is a Roaring Lion seeking to devour**

*'Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary **the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.**'* **1 Peter 5: 8**

- **Satan is called the ruler (or prince [KJV]) of this world (John 12: 31, 14: 30) and the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2: 2)**

➤ Hence his domain is in the first and second heavens and that is when he and his legions operate

- **His Legions - Principalities, Powers, Rulers of the Darkness of this Age, Spiritual Hosts of Wickedness in the heavenly places**

*'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.'* **Ephesians 6: 12**

- **The fight is never against flesh and blood** - though the enemy often makes it seem that it is - he is a master of subterfuge

There is much that can be said about the Enemy Realm - but that is not the theme of this message - for more information see Separate Notes on 'The Enemy Realm'

- **A Defeated Foe**

- **Satan & His Legions are a Defeated but not Powerless Enemy**

- **Defeated** - in the spiritual battle between Yeshua and Satan and his legions there is no contest - Yeshua is superior and victorious

➤ **Disarmed by Christ**

*'Having **disarmed principalities and powers**, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.'* **Colossians 2: 15**

➤ **Through Christ we too are Triumphant**

*'Now thanks be to **God who always leads us in triumph in Christ**, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.'* **2 Corinthians 2: 14**

➤ **Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love in Christ**

*'For I am persuaded that **neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers**, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**'* **Romans 8: 38-39**

- **Not Powerless** - Although a defeated foe, Satan and his legions are not powerless

➤ **At Work in the Sons of Disobedience**

*'And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which **you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience**, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.'* **Ephesians 2: 1-3**

➤ **Blinding the Eyes of Unbelievers**

*'But even if our gospel is veiled, **it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded**, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.'*

2 Corinthians 4: 3-4

➤ Seeking To Devour Believers

*'Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.**'* **1 Peter 5: 8**

- ❖ Peter warns us not to be complacent - though we are the Lord's people, and Yeshua has won the victory - our Adversary still seeks to eat us alive (in a similar way he continues his war against the Jewish people) - so Be Sober and Be Vigilant

• Overcoming the Devil

▪ Resist Him

○ Take a Firm Stance and Resist the Enemy

*'Therefore **submit to God. Resist the devil** and he will flee from you.'*

James 4 : 7

➤ Notice that there are two requirements to overcoming the devil

- ❖ **Submit to God** - it is no use trying to resist the enemy in our own strength or in our own way - Be Submitted to God - That is our Firm Stance
- ❖ **Resist the Devil - we have to stand against and withstand - be immovable - Stand on The Rock, the Chief Corner Stone!**
- ❖ **The Devil will Flee** - as we Submit to God and Resist the enemy's attack, then Satan knows he cannot win

○ Resist with Steadfast Faith

'Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.' **1 Peter 5: 9**

➤ This verse follows that which describes the Devil as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour

➤ The message of Peter is the same as that of James - Resist!

- ❖ Be Steadfast in the Faith - immovable
- ❖ It helps enormously to know your Bible well - the Truth of God and a powerful weapon - the Sword of the Spirit...recall that Yeshua met each temptation of the Devil with truth from God's Word (see *Matthew 4: 1-11*)
- ❖ Do not fear if sufferings come as a result of the battle - the Lord will sustain you...His grace is sufficient

▪ Stand - The Battle is Won by Standing - see **Ephesians 6: 10-18 ***

*'Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour 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 armour 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—'

Ephesians 6: 10-18

- **Strong in the Lord**
 - Not in your own strength - it will not do!
 - The Power of His Might
 - ❖ He is El Shaddei...the Almighty God
 - ❖ He is Adonai Tzevaot - the Lord of Hosts
- **The Whole Armour**
 - 'Leave no Unguarded Place no Weakness of the Soul' - part of a verse from the hymn 'Soldiers of Christ, Arise'
 - We need every part of the armour - so don't neglect any aspect
 - 'Put on' conveys the idea of permanence, indicating that armour should be the Christian's sustained, life-long attire
 - Putting on Christ - putting on the armour is to be clothed in Christ

*'The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and **let us put on the armour of light**. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh**, to fulfil its lusts.*

Romans 13: 12-14

- **Stand - Against the Wiles of the Devil**
 - Wiles - Greek: μεθοδεία...methodeia [pronounced meth-od-i'-ah] meaning schemes and trickery
 - It carries the idea of cleverness, crafty methods, cunning, and deception
 - Satan's schemes are propagated through the evil world system over which he rules, and are carried out by his demon hosts
 - Wiles is all-inclusive, encompassing every sin, immoral practice, false theology, false religion, and worldly enticement.
- **Wrestling - a close contact 'sport' - sometimes the battle with the enemy is 'up close and personal'... it can be like hand to hand combat**
 - Still the fighting methodology is to stand
 - It's not a fight against flesh and blood
- **Stand - Withstand - Stand**
 - Stand (v.11) - the armour enables you to stand
 - Withstand (v.13) - in the evil day
 - Stand (v.13) - at the end of the day...still standing
- **The Armour of God - see Ephesians 6: 14-18**

There is much one could say about the Armour of God - so this is only a very brief look at what will have to be a whole future sermon

 - **Defensive Armour - complete protection from enemy attack**
 - **Truth** - both truthfulness and God's Word which is Truth
 - **Righteousness** - the righteousness of Christ protecting the heart
 - **The Gospel of Peace** - ready to witness to the good news of peace with God through Yeshua...which enables us to stand
 - **Faith** - sure and certain trust in the Lord (His word and His promises)...which defeats the lies of the enemy
 - **Salvation** - the assurance that we are saved and loved by God which protects our minds and thing from the doubts and discouragements the enemy tries to plant in us

- **Offensive Weapons - not for you to 'take on the enemy' but to repel and disarm and defeat him**

- **The Word of God - it is living and active**

*'For **the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword**, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.'* **Hebrews 4: 12**

- **Prayer - always and at all times - it is both an assurance and a resource**

*'Be anxious for nothing, but **in everything by prayer and supplication**, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and **the peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, **will guard your hearts and minds** through Christ Jesus.'* **Philippians 4: 6-7**

- **Watchfulness & Perseverance - keeping alert and keeping going... never give up!**

- **The World, the Flesh and The Devil**

- **These are the Enemies of our Soul**
- **The all seek to Attack our Soul - our consciousness, personality, intellect and emotions - to get us to compromise and give up - by getting our flesh to rule us rather than God's Spirit within**
- **So be Strong in the Lord and the Power of His Might**
- **Remember Always - We Live By The Spirit...so We Must Walk In The Spirit**
 - **Allowing the Holy Spirit to rule our Soul**
 - **So that our consciousness, our personality, or intellect and emotions are governed by the Lord**

*** Background Information on Ephesians 6: 10-18**

It is often said that Paul's inspiration to speak about the Armour of God was his knowledge of the Roman soldier's armour and weaponry. This may well have been so, since the letter to the Philippian church was written from a Roman prison, probably during his first imprisonment in Rome (circa 60-62 AD).

However Paul, being a trained scholar in the scriptures, would have been aware of the allusions that the prophet Isaiah makes to putting on spiritual armour in Isaiah chapters 59 and 11 where he speaks about the armour in which the Lord will clothe himself.

'He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor; therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; and His own righteousness, it sustained Him. For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.'

Isaiah 59: 16-17

'There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. His delight is in the fear of the Lord, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist.'

Isaiah 11: 1-5