

## ***Who Has Your Six O'clock Covered?***

September 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### ***Ephesians 6:10-12***

Paul used the metaphor of the battle dress of the Roman Army to tell the Ephesians that they are engaged in a real spiritual attack from Satan. He tells them who the enemy is – not flesh and blood, but the devil and his forces, which are considerable. And Paul tells them how to be victorious against this formidable enemy – by availing themselves of the strength of God and by putting on the battle dress made available to them by Jesus' resurrection power.

#### **Know the Enemy**

The great Chinese General Sun Tzu in his book *The Art of War* stated “If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor, yourself you will succumb in every battle.”<sup>1</sup>

- ❖ Today we are engaged in a Spiritual battle as we have been since the fall of Lucifer who is now called Satan.
- ❖ Satan's goal is to defeat God's plan of Redemption.
- ❖ In today's battle, we are expending massive amounts of money and manpower fighting the wrong enemy. We are fighting the physical war and virtually ignoring the Spiritual war.
- ❖ Paul told us 2000 years ago our enemy wasn't one of flesh and blood, but spiritual.

#### **Know The Church's Role in Spiritual Warfare**

- ❖ The Church is the institution that needs to recognize and act in this spiritual warfare.
- ❖ The Church is not a man-made institution. It is referred to as the Body of Christ in Romans. In Ephesians 5, the Church is Christ-directed, Christ-loved, and Christ-perfected. Revelation calls the Church the Bride of Christ.
- ❖ We need to pray that the Church body will recognize that it is under attack by the enemy and “*be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might*” (Ephesians 6:10), and that the Church will take the lead in this spiritual battle.

#### **Know Your Vulnerable Parts**

- ❖ We as individuals and as a church body place ourselves in vulnerable positions through indecision, indifference, or ignorance.  
*1 Peter 5:8-9 “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.” (NASB)*
- ❖ There should be an everyday awareness for all of us not only that Satan is prowling around but also that he can be resisted by being firm in our faith.
- ❖ Satan attacks where we are the most vulnerable, our six o'clock position – that is to say we are most vulnerable from behind.

- ❖ It is vital to be actively protecting every part of our lives and minds, knowing that the unguarded areas are vulnerable and could be wounded and become a point of Spiritual attack.
- ❖ We need to recognize the hazards and act accordingly.

### **Know How to Truly Protect Yourself**

On the international scene, Spiritual warfare can be manifested by physical warfare. Physical warfare can be seen and measured as governments take action. There are many things that can be sent to the battlefield; things we put our trust into instead of looking to God, such as ...

... Weapons ... *Psalm 44:6* “*For I will not trust in my bow, nor will my sword save me.*” (NASB)

Ä We have the latest in advanced weapons and battlefield integration but will these weapons protect our six o’clock?

... Wealth ... *Psalm 49:6-7* “*Even those who trust in their wealth and boast in the abundance of their riches? No man can by any means redeem his brother or give to God a ransom for him—*” (NASB)

Ä We are one of the wealthiest nation on earth and we tend to think that our wealth will buy security but there are times when our wealth acts against us.

... Government ... *Psalm 118:9* “*It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.*” (NASB)

Ä World governments and organizations like the U.N. and the E.U. see themselves as the savior of the World. The only government that will be able to protect our six o’clock is found in *Isaiah 9:6-7*.

... Self ... *2 Corinthians 1:9* “*indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;*” (NASB)

Ä We all have the tendency to want to be in control. We all have the tendency to take credit when good things are happening, *Deuteronomy 8:10-11*.

Ä The perfect solution is given in the scripture, *2 Chronicles 7:14*. We must put our trust in God knowing that by humbling ourselves and turning from our wicked ways that God will heal our land.

### **Know How to Recognize Dangerous Situations**

Beware of the three things that will mislead if we put our trust in something other than God...

... The Devil ... We are warned in I Peter 5:8 that the Devil is wandering around like a lion ready to pounce if we let our guard down.

... The World ... The world is ready to swallow us up if we put our trust in worldly things.

... The flesh ... The flesh is tempting us to do things we know scripture teaches against.

### **Know Who to Trust to Protect Your Six O’clock**

*Isaiah 52:12* “*But you will not go out in haste, nor will you go as fugitives; for the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.*” (NASB)

*Isaiah 58:8* “*Then your light will break out like the dawn, and your recovery will speedily spring forth; and your righteousness will go before you; the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.*” (NASB)

- ❖ Remember that our real battle is not the physical flesh and blood warfare, but we are dealing with spiritual warfare. We must be aware and able to discern by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit things far beyond what the human eye can see.

*2 Corinthians 10:3-4* “*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.*” (NASB)

<sup>1</sup> Tzu, Sun, and Ralph D. Sawyer (translator). *The Art of War*. New York: Metro, 2001. Print.

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