

Sustaining Revival: A Study on Ephesians
Lesson 23 “The Full Armor of God”

I. Introduction - We are studying the book of the *Ephesians* focusing on how to sustain revival.

A. The revival in Ephesus was the largest new testament revival recorded in Acts. Over 100,000 people were saved in a city the size of Greensboro within two years. Ephesus became a revival center in the first century. Multiple churches were planted out of this church including all 7 churches in the book of Revelation.

B. Paul wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus in A.D. 60 about five years later to establish them in truth after the goosebumps had worn off so they could have a sustained experience with God and continue to increase in person revival.

C. The key to sustaining any move of God is establishing in truth.

1. I say this about establishing in truth because I believe part of what God wants to do during this time of prayer and fasting is give people dreams and visions. This makes me nervous to say in an election year because of what happened 4 years ago (People got weird and divisive because of alleged prophetic words and we got away from the truths of the New Covenant and walking in unity.)

2. As nervous as it makes me about emphasizing dreams, visions, and prophecy because of what happened, I’m still going to because Jesus told us He would show things to come and He the Holy Spirit would give us dreams and visions.

3. As we pray together tonight, I believe the Lord will give people dreams and visions. I want to encourage you to believe for that. With that said, I do really want to take a few minutes to emphasize the importance of truth.

a. How many of you know *Revelation* talks quite a bit about the antichrist? Actually that is not true. The word antichrist is not used in *Revelation*. It does talk about a beast and false prophet, but the word antichrist is not used.

b. Where antichrist (**antichristos**) is used in New Testament: **1 John 2:18, 1 John 2:22, 1 John 4:3, 2 John 1:7**. I bring all this up not to be contentious or to tell you I know everything about end times, I bring this up to show you I just countered a commonly held belief in the modern church that is not in scripture. We must dig into the word to find what it says and not what we think it says especially if we want to give accurate biblical prophecies.

II. The Full Armor of God - Tonight we are going to talk about the full armor of God. This is a key to discipleship as it helps us establish a sure foundation so we can wage war against Satan. We are also going to find out the way he fights us isn’t with great power, but with deceptions.

A. Ephesians 6:10-13 The Lies of the Enemy

1. **Verse 10** Be strong in His might, not our ability or our good works.
2. **Verse 11** What's the major way Satan fights us? Wiles, lies, deceit. **Luke 4 Temptation of Jesus. The temptation was, "if you be the son of God.....do something to prove it."**
3. We don't fight people including ourself, people are the treasure. We don't wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the spirits they are yielded to.
 - a. **Matthew 16:-21-23 "Get thee behind me Satan"** - right after Peter tells Jesus he isn't going to the cross. Jesus wasn't calling Peter Satan. He was dealing with the principality that influenced him.
 - b. **1 Thessalonians 2:17-18** Satan hindered Paul - **Acts 17** *It was the Jews that hindered Paul and tried to stone him*
4. **Verse 13** We put on the armor of God so we can stand not strive to defeat the devil. The fight we fight is a fight of faith. We labor to rest in the finished work of Christ against the allusions of the devil. Ex: Charis healing testimony

B. Ephesians 6:14-18 Spiritual Armor (Discipleship)

1. Belt of truth holds everything together.
2. Breastplate of righteousness - When we mess up, Satan loves to condemn us. We must keep our righteous position in Christ close to our heart to walk in faith. It's vital to protect our heart because faith is of the heart.
3. Feet shod with the the gospel of peace - Roman soldiers wore spikes that gave them sure footing. We walk in peace. We have peace with God, gives us sure footing and we carry that message to others.
4. Shield of faith - The Roman shield was the size of a door and would protect a soldier's entire body. They soaked it in water (symbolic of staying full of the Holy Spirit) to put out the flaming darts of the enemy. Just because attacks happen doesn't mean you aren't in faith. That's why God gave you a shield. It goes out front of everything.
5. Helmet of salvation - need our mind saved - **soteria** - saved, healed, delivered, righteous. Ex: Robert Half 2008 testimony when I thought my prosperity was during up. Jesus spoke **John 15:16** to me and it changed everything.
6. The sword of the spirit (word of God) is our only offensive weapon. It's what we use to defeat the enemy. Ex: Healing testimony from Saturday.
7. Goes on to pray and supplicate in the spirit with patience. ex: Father Daniel Nash would go in and pray over a community weeks before Finney would do a meeting. Set the atmosphere for revival. Over a half a million people converted to Christ in his meetings.

III. Conclusion - Tonight we saw the way Satan likes to fight us is with tricks/wiles/lies. When we know who we are and whose we are, we are able to pray from a sure foundation. This positions us to swing the sword of the spirit with confidence.

A. Prayer Time - Taylor come up and play and ask the Lord to give you dreams and visions/show you things to come.

B. Offering Verse. **Luke 6:38**

C. Call Up Prayer Team