

## A Pastor's Heart

### Encouragement from Pastor McGill

#### Dressing for Success!

**Ephesians 6:10-11** *Finally, my brethren be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

If I were a soldier in the military on the battlefield with an enemy trying to kill me, I would look rather ridiculous if I were dressed in a tuxedo or a 3- piece suit. Not only would I look ridiculous, I would almost certainly guarantee my demise. What's wrong with this picture is quite obvious. No one who's sane would walk on a battlefield without dressing for success. Surprisingly, I know many sane believers who do this on a regular basis. We tend to forget that we are soldiers in God's army, under His command. Too often we enter the battlefield not dressed for success. We also have a tendency to be more concerned about our natural wardrobe than we are about our spiritual wardrobe. We can spend hours at the malls looking for just the right outfit, and spend very little if any time, dressing for success with the spiritual battle that we will certainly encounter. Our battle is not against a flesh and blood enemy; therefore it can seem that we are safe when entering the battlefield without the appropriate uniform. The scripture clearly identifies our enemy. **Ephesians 12** *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.* Since we are aware of this particular enemy, we must always dress for success in this battle. We cannot be negligent with our attire.

When we examine the text, it is worth noting that the Apostle Paul wrote this epistle while he was imprisoned in Rome. This was an epistle that was to be read by several congregations. This message was to be a universal message for the entire body of believers. Paul also spoke in a language that the readers of that day would fully understand. He used the uniform that a Roman soldier would wear in battle. He made sure that we would understand that we needed to put on the whole armour of God. This is a battle where we can ill afford to leave any part of our uniform off. The piece of the uniform that we fail to put on and leave exposed will be the exact spot the enemy will attack.

Each day we are to awake and dress for success. Our loins should be girded with truth. We must flee fornication and illicit sexual activity. Righteousness should cover our body. When people see us they should see our righteousness. Jesus has made us right, now we must act right. We must walk in peace with our feet shod in the gospel. The gospel is good news. We should be good news wherever we go. We have a shield of faith, which is able to quench all the fiery darts of the enemy. A Roman shield was covered in leather and had oil on the shield in case a fiery arrow was shot at the soldier. The shield would protect the soldier from the arrow, and the oil would extinguish the fire.

We use our faith as a shield and the Holy Spirit extinguishes the fires the enemy shoots our way. Glory! We have a helmet to shield us from the lies the enemy speaks to us. We are able to have perfect peace despite what is being said about us. Our offensive weapon is our sword, the word of God. This sword is sharper than any two edged sword. This sword does whatever job needs to be done. This is the same sword that David used to slay his giant. How many Giants has your sword slain? Each day we should dress for success. Our weapons have been sharpened and laid out for us; we are to only remember to put them on. Make it a great day.

### **Blessings and Peace**

*Pastor McGill*