

The Armour of God (The Shield of Faith)

Ephesians 6:16

Jeremy Cagle, June 6, 2021

With that said, to begin our sermon time, I want to invite you to open your Bibles to the book of Ephesians. That's the book we're in this morning. So if you would, open your Bibles with me to the book of Ephesians. And while you're turning there, I mean, speaking of our church, we do believe in expository preaching here, we go through the Bible verse by verse. And as we've done that, in the book of Ephesians, we've come to the end of it. We're now in the final chapter of the book, which I just want to read to you before we get started. So if you would read in Ephesians 6, starting in verse 10, Paul says this, he says,

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 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. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything to stand firm.

Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH**, and **HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and having shod **YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE**; 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. And take **THE HELMET OF SALVATION**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

We'll end our reading there. Just to say a few words about this, it was very common for the apostle Paul to make closing remarks at the end of his letters. If you've read some of his epistles before, you'll know that he often said his farewells and goodbyes at the end. But if you notice, as you read this, he doesn't do that here, he has a very different conclusion to this book, because apparently, he had something else on his mind. And that's a subject of armour. He closes the book of Ephesians on the topic of spiritual warfare. He does it for a reason, because he was in prison as he wrote this, he was in jail. And as such, he would have been chained to a Roman soldier, he would have been chained to a Roman guard, and it reminded him of what the Christian life is like. It's a battle. It's a war. So that's how he closes the book. If you've ever written something before, you know your mind often wonders when you're writing, you kind of look at things all around you. And Paul looked at the person sitting next to him, and he started writing this, because that's what he was looking at.

For example, if you look in verse 12, he says, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood.” And he said that because that's what the Christian life is like. That's what the spiritual life is like, it's a struggle. It's a wrestling match as the word implies, because there's something in you that doesn't do what it should. There's something in you that doesn't do what it's supposed to, and that's your heart. That's your flesh. He also goes on in the verse and he says, “For our struggle, is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness.” So now Paul says that you're going to have to struggle in something else as well. And that's the rulers and the powers, which is another way of saying the demons. It's another way of saying the ones that Satan sends, because that's the ones that will attack your heart. That's the ones that will come after you. And that's the devil and his demons. But the good news in the end here is that God has not left you alone in that, the good news is that the Lord has not abandoned you, because He has given you His armor to wear. That's what this passage is about. Yes, the Christian life is hard. Yes, it's a battle. But the hope that you have is that God is with you. And He's given you all this.

Now, I was talking to someone about this from our care group last week. And they said, when you think of the armor of God, you often think of something bright and shiny. You know, you often think of the sparkly armor that the knights would have worn in the Middle Ages, some of you've seen pictures of that. But this would have looked very differently for Paul, it would have been a different type of armour, because again, he's in jail. He's sitting next to a prison guard. And so this would have been grimy armour. This would have been dirty armor covered in scars, which is a wonderful metaphor for the Christian life, because the Christian life is covered in scars as well. It too can be dirty and grimy at times. And that's why the Lord has given you all of these wonderful resources to help you, and as he describes this, he mentioned six pieces of armor in the list. The next one is found in verse 16. So if you want to look down on verses 14 to 16, Paul writes and he says in verse 14, “Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness and having shod your feet with the prep of the gospel of peace, in addition to all taking up the shield of faith.”

This is the next piece of armor in the list. It's the next item that Paul mentions here, the fourth one, and that is the shield of faith. And just to explain this one to you, you know, this time in history, Roman soldiers would have carried two shields with them into battle, or two types of shields anyway. One was called ‘the parma’. It was a small shield, a small block of wood, two feet across, that was used by the cavalry, it was used by those on horseback, so it wasn't very big, they had to carry it with them on a horse. And the other one was called ‘the thureos’, which was a larger one, it was a very big block of wood, four feet tall and very wide, that was used by the infantry, it was used by those in the front lines for a larger attack. And that's what this word is referring to here. That's what Paul is talking about in verse 16, he referred to a shield that was so large that a soldier could hide behind it and disappear. The shield was so big, it was so tall that he could stand behind it and vanish, because it would cover his entire body. Again, we think of Middle Ages. And we think of those shields that they would carry that were kind of round, this was not like that, it was a tall, big box. In fact, the word ‘thureos’, the same word could be translated door. He referred to a door in the Greek language, because that's how big it

was, it was like standing behind the door. So that when it was placed next to another shield on the battlefield, it would create a wall against the enemy. When the enemy came up against it, he was just stopped. He met resistance. And Paul says in a similar way, a Christian has a similar weapon as well, we have a similar tool in our battle with the enemy, because we have a shield of faith, not a shield of wood, but a shield of faith. And that word faith, it's a little ambiguous here, it could refer to a lot of things. But it basically refers to anything that our word faith implies, such as our salvation and redemption and our forgiveness. It refers to the hope and the joy and the comfort that comes with believing in Christ's name. Because the idea is that when the devil attacks you, you can hold all that up against him. And he will leave you. The idea in the passage is that when the devil tempts you, and when he tries to get you to sin, you can hold that up to him like a shield, and he will go away. Because this is your door of protection. You need to trust in the Lord, you need to trust in the promises of God.

I've told you before that scholars have estimated that there are as many as 5000 promises in the Bible. 5000 of them, which comes to more than one promise per page. It's more than one promise per chapter. And Paul says that one of the ways you resist the devil is by remembering them. One of the ways you fight the devil is by calling those promises to mind. And this is so important to remember because if we were honest about it, we don't often do this, do we? We don't often remember the promises of God, because we're so busy. We're so distracted with other things that we don't think about the Lord like we should, we don't think about all He has done for us. But Paul says that's a mistake. You need to remember God's promises. This is also important to mention. It's also important to remember, because we get so comfortable in this world, we get so lazy, that when the devil comes, we're shocked, aren't we? You might relate to that. We are blown away by the fact he would ever bother us. Paul says you can't do that either. You need to have your shield up. You need to be ready at all times for his attacks. And let me tell you why. Because the devil will attack you, I promise you. Let me tell you why this is important, because the devil will strike. It's inevitable. You can't avoid it. It's been said that you can be free from pain in this life to some degree, but you can't be free from the devil. He will come after you, so you're going to need something to help it.

And that's what we're going to talk about this morning. So if you're taking notes this morning, in Ephesians 6, we're going to look at three incentives for taking up the shield of faith. That's our outline for today. That's what it's about. If you're taking notes this morning and Ephesians 6, verse 16, we're going to look at three incentives for taking up the shield of faith. And we're gonna do that because, let's face it, we need this from time to time, we need a little incentive. We need a little kick in the pants, because we do get so late. We do get so distracted with other things. In fact, after pastoring in British Columbia for a couple years now, I would say this is one of our greatest struggles here. It's one of our greatest weaknesses. We're all so busy. We have so many things on our mind that we don't take time for the Lord, we don't take time for Him. Which is why we're tempted the way we are sometimes, that's why things are so hard. But we're going to talk about that this morning and help you with that by giving you three incentives for taking up the shield of faith.

The first one is this, you need to take up the shield of faith, **because the devil is shooting at you.** The first incentive for taking up the shield of faith, is that you should take up the shield of faith, because the devil is shooting at you, which means you're not facing a passive enemy. You're not facing a peaceful one, he wants to kill, steal and destroy you. He is out to get you and you need to be ready for that. If you look back in our passage again, and just read with me in verse 10. Gonna get the setting here. Starting in verse 10, Paul writes and says:

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 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. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;** 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.”

We'll stop there. I read that passage to you again, I wanted to go back through it. Because if you notice, verse 16 starts off with the phrase ‘in addition to all’, that means in addition to all that's been said before, in addition to all these pieces of armour, Paul says you need to take up the shield of faith. In other words, this is in its own separate category from the other ones. This is in its own separate place. Because of what it does, it blocks the advances of the enemy. It stops him dead in his tracks. So far, all these other pieces of armour didn't do that. So far, all the other ones didn't stop the enemy in his tracks, they kind of slowed him down a little bit and protected you. But this one goes further than that. It actually stops him. The word ‘extinguish’ is in the passage there. We'll talk about that in a moment. The first time that's mentioned in reference to the armour.

And just to explain this, you know the word for ‘arrow’ here, it's the Greek word ‘belos’, which means arrow or dart. It just means any sharp object that is sent to kill you, sent by air. Today we shoot bullets. Back then they didn't have bullets, they had arrows. And in a Roman battle, the enemy would often shoot these at you by the hundreds, he was shooting by the 1000s. And he would dip them in tar and set them on fire. So that they would cause as much trouble as possible. That's why Paul calls them flaming arrows here, they're not just arrows there, they're on fire as they go. They would do that for a couple reasons. One is so he would set fire to anything landed on. If you were in a wooden hut or wooden fortress, it could burn you out. And also because of how much discomfort it would cause. One ancient historian named Sceva said that after one battle, he counted 200 of these arrows on his shield. He may have been bragging, I don't know if that was actually possible. But he said he counted 200 of them there. And he said, the biggest problem was this, they were just so uncomfortable. They caused so much trouble. Because they got underneath your armour, they got underneath your skin. The size of the arrows made them where they almost, it wasn't very common they would kill you. They were too small, but

they would drive you nuts. They would drive you crazy in a battle. And in a similar way, Paul says the devil does the same thing with us. He does the same thing in the battle with sin because he likes to drive us crazy, too. He likes to drive us nuts by shooting arrows at us. If you notice the word arrows here, is in the plural here. It's pluralized to say that he sends lots of these, he sends them over and over and over again. He doesn't shoot them once and that's it. He doesn't shoot one arrow and he's satisfied. It's just an ongoing thing for him. And he also lights them up so that they sting when they hit. He sets them on fire so they can cause as much pain as possible and get under our skin.

So Paul says that in order to stop him, you need to hold up the shield of faith, you hold up the promises of God, you hold up His Word. And as you do that, it makes the devil stop. It absorbs all the blows of the enemy. That's what a shield does, right? That's what this particular weapon does. It absorbs the blows on your behalf. That's what the Word of God does for you. It blocks his advances. You know, you guys understand this, I think you you know what this is like. But we've all had the experience of going about our day, just minding our own business, when wham! we got attacked by something from the devil, right? Or we got attacked by some evil thought, some evil impulse. You might relate to that. You guys know what I'm talking about. You're just working hard in the home, you're going about your daily routine of watching the kids, changing the diapers, picking them up at school, and all of a sudden, boom, something terrible comes into your mind. Something horrible that you did 30 years ago, you did before you were even saved. Now, let me ask you, where did that come from? Why did that happen? It came from the devil. It came from Satan himself or his demons. I don't want to sound too mystical in saying that, I don't want to sound you know, charismatic or something like that. But it only makes sense to say that if God didn't do it, the devil did. It didn't come from one place, it came from the other. Because this is what he does. And this is how he operates. He's the deceiver. He's the tempter. And he loves to tempt us into sin. He loves to deceive us in that. And this is how he does it, by shooting arrows at you. By shooting quick little jabs that surprise you and they just seem to come out of nowhere. I'm blown away by how the older you get as a Christian, it doesn't stop your mind from thinking bad things, does it? It's incredible. That's because this is a battle. And this is what the battle is like.

You know, I've never been in a battle or fight before like this. But I've been told that they often start like this, they start with a surprise attack, where the enemy sneaks up on you and comes at you out of nowhere. The devil does the same thing. He likes to come at you by surprise, which means that you have to have your Bible with you at all times if you want to defeat him. You have to have the word of God in your mind all day long, because you don't know when he's going to attack. You don't know when he's going to come. This also means that you can't have any secret sins, you can't have any secret, evil things that you're doing, because that'll give fuel to the devil's fire, that will make things all the worse. You have to keep short accounts with God. But the point is that you have to be ready for his attack, you have to be prepared, because the devil is shooting at you.

You know, I don't know if some of you are familiar with the book 'Pilgrim's Progress' by John Bunyan. Many of us have probably read that book before. But you may not have read another book that he wrote

around the same time called 'Holy War'. It was a story of a city called Mansoul that was attacked by the devil. You can see the analogy there and see the comparison. But one interesting thing about the book is the way in which the devil did that, because Bunyan says he attacked it at the gates, the devil attacked the city at the Eye gate, Ear gate and Mouth gate. In other words, the devil tried to get in through those places. He tried to get in through the eyes, the ears and the mouth. And Bunyan said the only way to stop him was to do this. The only way to stop the devil was the city had to have faith. They had to call in the name of the Lord and ask Him to deliver them. And He did. The Lord came to the rescue. But friends, here it's the same way with the battle with sin. In order to stop the devil you have to have faith. You have to call in the name of the Lord and He will rescue you.

Which brings us to another point to consider this morning. It brings us to another incentive for taking up the shield of faith. The first one is because the devil is shooting at you. Which means that you're not dealing with a passive enemy. You're not dealing with a peaceful one. There are a lot of passive enemies in the world today among countries, a lot of nations that can't stand each other but they're not shooting. They're at peace in a sense. This enemy is not like that. He is shooting at you. And it brings us to another point to consider, another incentive for taking up the shield of faith. **And that is because the devil is really good at it.** A second reason for taking up the shield of faith is because the devil is really good at shooting at you. Which means that he's an excellent marchman. He knows what he's doing, because he's been doing it a long time. So you need to keep that in mind as well. I won't read all this for the sake of time, I won't go back over the passage. But as you read this text, you can tell the devil plays a major role in this. He plays a major part in the struggle with sin, because his name is only mentioned twice. It's only mentioned once in verse 11. And then again down in verse 16. But everything else in the passage talks about him. Everything else in the passage refers back to him, because he's the reason why you have to do this. And he's the reason why you have to fight your sin. And wear this armour, because he is coming against you.

In fact, it's interesting that if you read the Bible, and you go all the way through it, one thing you notice is that there's only four chapters where this doesn't happen. There's only four chapters where they don't mention the devil or any of his works. And that's the first two chapters and the last two. That's it. The first two and the last two, the only parts of the Bible that don't have the devil in them. And the reason, the significance to that is that everything else in between is his fault. All the rest of the misery and mayhem and death that you read about in the Bible, they're all part of his handiwork, because he took God's creation and ruined it. He took the beautiful thing God did in Genesis 1 and 2 and he turned it upside down. And it's not until the book of Revelation where the Lord throws him in the pit of hell. And then everything is right again. And verse 16 says that he does it this way, this is how the devil ruined the world. He did it by shooting arrows at us. That's how he destroyed what God had made. He did it by making little jabs here and there. In fact, when you read how Satan tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden, that's what it reads like. It reads like a series of little jabs, "has God really said?", "did God really mean?" And he hasn't changed since then, he's still doing the same thing with you and me.

You know, I looked it up this week, and found that the typical Roman arrow is pretty small, it was pretty tiny, it was a few feet long, it was actually pretty long. But it didn't weigh that much. They were very lightweight, because the archers would carry dozens of them on their back. And if you get out, if you get to march 100 miles with a bunch of arrows, they're going to be really light, they won't weigh that much, which means the damage was not caused by the size of them, but by the volume. The damage wasn't caused by the weight of them and the heaviness, it was caused by the amount of arrows an archer could send in a battle. There are stories that have come down to us, of the Romans firing hundreds or thousands of arrows at their enemy, so many that the sky became dark with them, the sky became black with arrows, blocked out the sun. Because the idea was that if one couldn't hurt you, than all of those could, if one arrow couldn't do the trick, you know, a thousand of them might. And Paul says it's the same way with his enemy. This is how he operates, by firing thousands of arrows at us. Whereas the Romans did it indiscriminately and didn't take careful aim, the devil does, he takes very careful aim. Because he knows our weakness.

You know, just to show you how this one works here, application here. Out of curiosity, how many of you have struggled, ever struggled with the same sin for years and years and years? Anybody? All of us, right? I mean, how many of you have been tempted with the same weakness over and over and over again? You wonder why? Ever wonder why? The reason is because the devil is shooting at you. And he knows what he's doing. He knows how to hit his target. He knows that if it tempted you, once it'll tempt you again. He knows that if it was a problem for you once, it'll be a problem for you again, so he keeps shooting in the same area over and over again. In a similar way. I mean, how many of you find yourself being tempted at the worst possible times? How many of you find yourself being tempted at the most inconvenient moments, right? We've all done that. All seen that, it's for the same reason, the devil knows when you're weak. He knows when you're vulnerable. And so he takes a shot at that time as well. The puritan John Owens said the devil is a coward. And he'll only fight you when you're weak. And what Paul is saying here is that the Lord knows that, He knows what the devil is up to and He's given you something to deal with it. Something that can extinguish all his arrows.

The word extinguish here. It's a helpful word, because it's the Greek word 'sbennumi', which means to extinguish or quench something, or put it out. Because the idea is, that this is what your faith does to the devil. This is what your trust in God does to him, it puts out his temptations, it takes away the power of them. The Roman shields were made out of wood, but they were covered in leather. And before they would go into a battle, they would often soak them in water, they would dump just gallons of water on them, so that when the arrows came, they would latch into the leather, that fiery arrows, flaming arrows, they would latch into the leather and fizzle out. It would put them out. Your faith does that with the devil. Your trust in the Word of God does that to him. In fact, as I was thinking about that this week, I was reminded of the fact that several of our people in our church have been trained up in biblical counseling. They have been studying how to counsel someone according to the principles of the Bible. And when you do that, one of the first things they teach you is how to give hope to people. One of the first things they teach you is how to give them some encouragement, because when they come to see

you, they're so down. They're so discouraged that you have to pick them up off the ground. And you always do it with the Bible. You do it with the promises in the Word of God. That's how you give them hope. The Bible says you can get past your sin, the Bible says God will make a way The Bible says God is good, and He is true, and He's faithful. And you tell them that so that they can carry on in the battle. So they can put out the temptations the next time the devil comes. Charles Spurgeon put it this way, he said, "Faith is the surest of all sin killers. It's the surest way to put your sin to death." And he is right.

And it leads to one more point to consider this morning. One more incentive for taking out the shield of faith. Just to review these other ones. The first one is because the devil is shooting at you. First reason to take up the shield of faith is because he is on the prowl, you're not dealing with a passive enemy. And second, because he's really good at it. He's an excellent marksman. He's been doing this for a long time, thousands of years. So he knows how to hit his target. And you have to be ready for that as well. It brings us to one more point to consider this morning, just one more incentive for taking up the shield of faith. **And that is because the devil won't let up in the battle.** The third incentive for taking up the shield of faith is because the devil won't let up in the battle, which means he won't stop until the end. He won't stop until the Lord destroys him. I mean, not only are you facing a very skilled enemy, you're also facing a very determined one. And if you look at our passage again, just want to read one part of it to you, if you look, in verse 10, Paul writes and says, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His mind, put on the full armour of God so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." And then down in verse 16, "in addition to all taking up the shield of faith." I just read that to you, because I want you to notice in verse 10, Paul starts off with the word 'finally', because this is the conclusion of all he said so far in the book, this is a summary of it. And that is that you're going to have to fight like we said before, you're going to have to stand up for all these things the Lord is giving you in the book of Ephesians. Because there's someone who wants to take them away from you, there's someone who wants to steal away these blessings. And that is the devil. So you're going to have to resist him.

As you come to the end of the book of Ephesians, you would think Paul would have something more positive to say here. You think he might end on a higher note, but he's saying this to get your attention, to shake you out of your apathy. And remind you that no matter what you do in the Christian life, no matter where you go, there's always going to be someone after you. Which is why God has given you His armour. In fact, if you notice in verse 16, when Paul says 'take up the shield of faith', that's in the continuous tense in English, an ongoing tense to say taking up the shield of faith or keep taking it up. Because the devil will keep shooting at you. So you have to keep your armour on. You can't ever take it off. Satan doesn't come at you one time and that's it, and then he's done, and he takes a holiday. He doesn't come after you one time when you're weak or down, and then he leaves you alone the rest of the time. He comes at you all the time, so you have to keep your armour on at all times.

You know, at this time in history, you didn't really have to do that in a battle. You didn't have to keep your armour on at all times, because you could usually see the enemy coming. You usually knew when

they were going to strike, the arrows can only travel so far, the people could only run at you so fast. Today, you have guns, and they can shoot forever, and people keep their armour on all the time. It wasn't that way then, you could take it off and take a break. But Paul says, it's not that way with this. It's not that way with the devil, because he really can sneak up on you. So you need to keep your armour on. No matter what he does, no matter when he comes at you. You need to make it a priority every day. You know, you don't do it one day a week on Sunday, when you're at church and that's it. Because the devil doesn't attack you that way. He doesn't attack you just one day a week on Sunday. And you don't do it one week a year at camp or one week a year when you're on a retreat or something like that. You don't do it at Christmas and Easter. We often joke about the CEO Christians, Christmas and Easter only. That's not the mentality here. Because the devil doesn't stop. So you need your armour with you at all times.

You know, we often say the devil is a busy devil, you guys have heard that phrase before. He's very active. And that's true, but he's also persistent as well. He's tenacious. And in order to defeat him, you're gonna have to be the same way as well. You have to be tenacious too. You know, when I talk to people who are struggling with sin. And when they come into my office and see me, one of the first things I asked them is to tell me about your faith. You know, tell me about how often you practice it. How often do you read your Bible? How often do you pray, how often do you go to church and meet with other Christians, and fellowship with them, and let iron sharpen iron and that sort of thing. And I do that, because failure in one area always leads to failure in the other. Negligence in one place always leads to negligence in the other, because one reason they sin so much is because they aren't doing those things, they're not doing the things God wants them to do on a regular basis. Which is why the devil is beating them.

Friends, you don't want to do that today, you don't want to make that mistake. In order to defeat the devil, you're going to have to be just as serious as he is in the fight. You're going to have to be just as earnest. You know, when you read Ephesians six, one of the things that jumps out at you is how earnest it is, right? How serious it is. Because battles are like that, spiritual warfare is like that. It's a serious thing, because you have a serious enemy. It's an earnest thing, because you have an earnest one. You have to keep that in mind. You know, I remember that time I taught a class several years ago on lust in the States, on sexual sin. And afterwards, an old man came up to me, he must have been in his 70's. And he said, "Jeremy, I'm so glad you taught on that. Because I've been struggling with that sin for years, and I have never been able to defeat it." And I gotta admit to you, I was blown away by that, I couldn't believe he said that. Because of all the people in the class I thought that would have been a problem for, he was the last one. Of all the people I thought we'd be tempted by that, he wasn't it. But it reminded me of the fact that this battle is never over. It's never done. We have to keep fighting. You have to keep wrestling. But the good news is that God has provided a way to help us, he has provided a way to give us strength in the battle. And that is with the shield of faith. We have to hold it up, keep it up and use it to block the enemy. Will you do that today, friends? Will you hold up this shield and let it stop the devil for you. Let me pray that you would.

Heavenly Father, we thank you Lord, for all the things that you've given us in Ephesians chapter 6. And particularly this one this morning, as we've just talked about the shield of faith. Lord, we all wrestle with these things. We all struggle with them. But this may be one that's particularly important for us. Because our faith is so weak at times. It's so small and pathetic. And yet, you've given us so much to put our faith in. You've given us so much to hope in, so there's no reason for us to be that way. Lord, would you give us encouragement as a result of what we've read this morning? Would you give us hope as a result of what we studied. I don't know where everyone's at today in a struggle with sin. And I don't know if there are those this morning who are experiencing the things we talked about, the evil thoughts in the mind and temptation coming out of nowhere. But if they are Lord, would this passage give them strength for the battle. Would you remind them, Lord, that you are a big God and you're bigger than all our problems and sins, and we can turn to you and trust in Christ and you will carry us through it, Lord. Would you give us strength to do that today and go with us now we pray in Jesus name. Amen.