



# **INVISIBLE POWERS AND PLACES**

**Lesson 9**

**JoLynn Gower  
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217-493-6151**

**[jgower@guardingthetruth.org](mailto:jgower@guardingthetruth.org)**

# WORD FOR THE JOURNEY

- **Ephesians 6:10-12** 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*.
- Today we will be considering the importance of developing our faith and working out our salvation
- **Ephesians 6:16-17...** 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...
- **Isaiah 59:17** He put on righteousness like a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head; and He put on garments of vengeance for clothing and wrapped Himself with zeal as a mantle.

# SATAN STARTS FIRES

- **PUTTING OUT FIRES**

- Roman shields were leather covered and soaked in water to put out flaming arrows that were shot at them
- One of the tactics of the enemy in warfare was to start various fires to occupy people with fighting fires and leave fewer people and resources for defense
- The fires cause anxiety; The fire fighting takes up time
- The fires do damage that has to be repaired
- **2 Corinthians 11:13** For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.
- **2 Corinthians 5:7**...for we walk by faith, not by sight—
- **Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
- Assurance: *hupostasis*: confidence
- Conviction: *elegchos*: proof, evidence

# ABOUT FAITH

- Faith is only useful when placed in someone who can deliver
- Faith can't provide protection if its object is faulty
- **Genesis 15:1** After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great."
- **Genesis 15:6** Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.
- **2 Samuel 22:31** "As for God, His way is blameless; The word of the LORD is tested; He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him."
- **Psalms 91:4b-5** ...under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark. You will not be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flies by day;

**WHEN WE PLACE OUR FAITH IN GOD,  
HE IS A FAITHFUL SHIELD TO US**

# GOD SUPPLIES, WE USE

- We have the shield because we are in covenant relationship with Christ; but we must take up the shield and extinguish the arrows
- **Psalm 144:1** Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war, *and* my fingers for battle;
- God trains people who sign up to serve! When the enemy begins lobbing flaming arrows, faith must be exercised
- **1 Corinthians 16:13-14** Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all you do be done in love.
- **Hebrews 12:1b-2** ...let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the **author** and **perfector** of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



# FAITH IN WHAT IS TRUE

- **2 Thessalonians 2:13** But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and **faith in the truth.**
- Spiritual attack begins in the mind—sin doesn't originate in our actions
- The mind processes information based on what you acknowledge as true and right: God's way or not
- **Hebrews 13:18** Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things.
- Conscience: *suneidesis*: moral co-perception/consciousness
- The brain, part of the unredeemed body, takes in information
- The mind, part of the soul, processes information
- The spirit, guided by the Holy Spirit in believers, influences the mind in godliness

# HELMET OF SALVATION

- **Ephesians 6:17** And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION...
- Helmet: *perikephalaia*: covering and protection for the head
- The confidence and assurance brought to us because we are saved; this enables us to control our thoughts
- THREE ASPECTS OF SALVATION:
  - 1. I have been saved (justification)**

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
  - 2. I am being saved (sanctification)**

Philippians 2:12b...work out your salvation with fear and trembling;
  - 3. I will be saved (glorification)**

Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

# THE MIND OF CHRIST

- **1 Corinthians 2:14-16** But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.
- Mind: *nous*: understanding, reasoning
- **DO THOUGHTS CLAMOR FOR ATTENTION?**
- **DOES VENGEANCE/GETTING ASSAIL YOUR MIND?**
- **DO YOU WONDER IF GOD REALLY CARES ABOUT YOU?**
- **DO YOU FEEL LIKE A FAILURE IN SOME PARTICULAR AREA?**
- **HAVE YOU BEEN HURT AND ARE NOT ABLE TO REBOUND?**
- **Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.



# CHOOSE YOUR DWELLING

- Dwell: *logizomai*: to consider; to think about
- **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**..For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our war-fare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ...
- Speculations: *logismos*: thoughts, considerations
- Captive: *aichmalotizo*: to take as a prisoner
- **1 Thessalonians 5:8-11** ... be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

# WHEN FAITH WAIVERS

- **2 Chronicles 20:1-3** Now it came about after this that the sons of Moab and the sons of Ammon, together with some of the Meunites, came to make war against Jehoshaphat. Then some came and reported to Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, out of Aram and behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar (that is Engedi)." Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the LORD, and **proclaimed a fast** throughout all Judah.
- Gathered together people to **pray** to the Lord
- He, the King, stood in front of the people and **praised God and acknowledged His sovereignty**
- **2 Chronicles 20:12-13** "O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You." All Judah was standing before the LORD, with their infants, their wives and their children.

# WHOSE BATTLE IS IT?

- **2 Chronicles 20:14-15** Then in the midst of the assembly the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, the Levite of the sons of Asaph; and he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's.
- **2 Chronicles 20:17** 'You *need* not fight in this *battle*; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not fear or be dismayed tomorrow go out to face them, for the LORD is with you."
- **2 Chronicles 20:21-22** When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who sang to the LORD and those who praised *Him* in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, "Give thanks to the LORD, for His lovingkindness is everlasting." When they began singing and praising, the LORD set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; they were routed.