

## GETTING CONNECTED

### 1 Why is it important to be connected to Christ?

**JOHN 15:4-5** "Abide \_\_\_\_ Me, and I in you. As the branch \_\_\_\_\_ bear fruit of \_\_\_\_\_, unless it \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_, neither can you, unless you abide \_\_\_\_ Me. (5) 'I am the vine, you are the branches. He who \_\_\_\_\_ in Me, and I in him, bears \_\_\_\_\_ fruit; for \_\_\_\_\_ Me you can do \_\_\_\_\_."

As the branches need sap to nourish and grow fruit, we need sap flowing from Christ, the living Vine for nourishment and growth. Any attempt to grow without connection to Christ, will only last for a short time, and will be met with disappointment.

### 2 What did Jesus tell His disciples about their absolute need for connection to divinity?

**MATTHEW 19:26** "But Jesus looked at them and said to them, 'With \_\_\_\_\_ this is \_\_\_\_\_, but with \_\_\_\_\_ all things are \_\_\_\_\_'"

There is a limit to human ability. We may exert the greatest effort to keep ourselves pure and holy, but apart from God there is no lasting success. He is our sufficiency. He alone replaces human frailty with divine vitality. Never rely on willpower or inner resolve, rely totally on Christ.

### 3 How does the apostle Paul reveal the possibilities available only through connection with Christ?

**PHILIPPIANS 4:13** "I can do \_\_\_\_\_ things through \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ me."

The apostle Paul's secret was simple; he could accomplish everything through Christ, the One giving him strength. Paul knew he could face anything because he knew the Lord would carry him through. In all of his challenges, Paul accepted the grace of Christ as sufficient for him.

### 4 As the apostle Paul grew in his Christian journey, what did he rely on as assurance in times of weakness?

**2 CORINTHIANS 12:9** "And He said to me, 'My grace is \_\_\_\_\_ for you, for My \_\_\_\_\_ is made perfect in \_\_\_\_\_.' Therefore most gladly I will rather \_\_\_\_\_ in my \_\_\_\_\_, that the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ may \_\_\_\_\_ upon me."

When we fail to acknowledge our human weaknesses, we meet with failure and disappointment. When we accept salvation from the condemnation of sins, we are delivered from the penalty of sin. This daily deliverance from the penalty of sin is the power of sanctification, available when we remain connected to Christ.

### 5 How does the Bible explain why we need to remain reliant on Christ, even after we are forgiven and born again?

**ROMANS 6:12** "Therefore do not \_\_\_\_\_ sin reign in your \_\_\_\_\_ body, that you should \_\_\_\_\_ it in its \_\_\_\_\_."

We are still living in a world of sin even after we are forgiven and delivered from the penalty of sin. Being born again is just the start of our battle against sin and our consciousness of sin's power and need of divine strength.

### 6 What kind of language did the apostle Paul use to symbolize the battle against the power of sin?

**EPHESIANS 6:12** "For we do not \_\_\_\_\_ against \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, but against \_\_\_\_\_, against \_\_\_\_\_, against the rulers of the \_\_\_\_\_ of this age, against \_\_\_\_\_ hosts of \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ places."

Without commitment to Christ and rebirth there is no desire to wrestle against sin; sinful practices are the way of life. When we are born again, our eyes are opened to the battle, not against the existence of sin, but against sin's desire to become the controlling factor, once again, after our new birth. We are made spiritually by the righteousness of Christ, but because we are still mortal, we are susceptible to the intrusion of sin wrestling us away from Christ.

### 7 What does the Bible describe as our defense system against the intrusion of sin?

**EPHESIANS 6:10-11** "Finally, my brethren, be \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord and in the \_\_\_\_\_ of His might. (11) Put on the \_\_\_\_\_ armor of \_\_\_\_\_, that you may be able to \_\_\_\_\_ against the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_."

Only the Lord's armor ensures victory against the devil. Therefore Satan goads us to fight him in our own strength, where we are easily defeated without the strength of the Lord. After Jesus rose from the dead and demonstrated His power over Satan, He proclaimed, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth." (Matthew 28:18). The only authority the devil fears is the authority of Jesus.

### 8 What else besides His armor does a connection to Christ give His disciples?

**LUKE 10:19** "Behold, I give \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and over \_\_\_\_\_ the power of the \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ shall by any means \_\_\_\_\_ you."

Although some believe that from this passage God intends for us to literally handle serpents and scorpions, God is giving us the authority to be victorious over Satan's symbolic serpents and scorpions. For this breaking of sin's hold over His disciples, we rejoice.

### 9 What did Jesus do to break the power of the enemy?

**HEBREWS 2:14** "Inasmuch then as the \_\_\_\_\_ have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise \_\_\_\_\_ in the same, that through \_\_\_\_\_ He might \_\_\_\_\_ him who had the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, that is, the \_\_\_\_\_."

Jesus fought the battle against the devil on the same field on which we face him, the field of human flesh and blood. Because of our fallen nature, Jesus became like us, to face the satanic artillery that we are helpless against. And He won! His win is recorded in Hebrews 4:15, "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."

### 10 Following Jesus' victory what is now available to us?

**EPHESIANS 6:13** "Therefore take up the \_\_\_\_\_ armor of \_\_\_\_\_, that \_\_\_\_\_ may be \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ day, and having done \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_."

Without the "Whole armor of God" we are vulnerable. We need the armor as long as we remain in human flesh and are mortal. Christ' righteousness, however, is sufficient to empower and enable Christians to live a spiritual life in a natural body.

## THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

1. Belt of Truth - God's truth will sustain us in times of testing.
2. Breastplate of Righteousness - The law of God in our heart.
3. Feet covered with the Gospel of Peace - We walk in peace.
4. Shield of Faith - The darts of the enemy cannot penetrate our faith.
5. Helmet of Salvation - Represents Christ our Head that covers us.
6. Sword of the Spirit - It cuts away error and false teachings.
7. Praying Always - Unceasing prayer keeps us open to commune with God.
8. Being Watchful - Keeps us alert to the wiles of the enemy.

### 11 Through what means do we maintain the Christian victory?

**1 CORINTHIANS 15:57** "But thanks be to God, who \_\_\_\_\_ us the \_\_\_\_\_ through our \_\_\_\_\_."

Joshua also wrote about God's protecting care. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 (NKJV).

