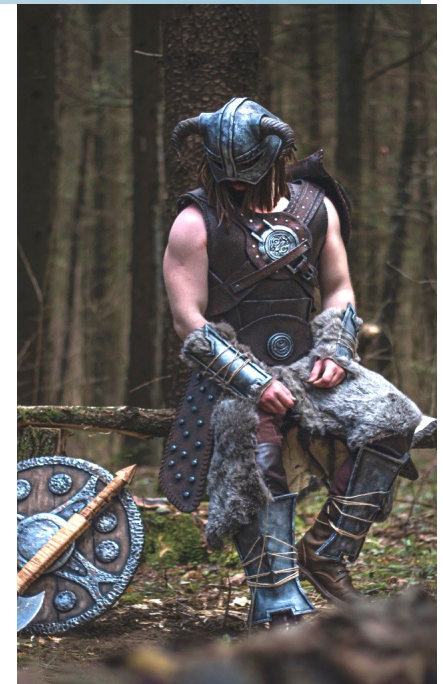




II Corinthians 10:4: "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds."



Just A Minute with Scripture

Mighty Spiritual Weapons

As we walk through this life, we are bombarded with so many issues and difficulties. Many are the result of Satan’s tactics, who designed a course for this world to derail and shipwreck us. (Eph. 2:1-2) Nevertheless, we can trust God and stay focused above so we will not fall into his devices. This is not an easy task, given our fleshly tendencies. The only effective way is to ‘mind’ the sound doctrine we have been taught and live by this: *“I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”* (Rom. 7:25)

God’s provision is truly sufficient! Generally, it is the power of His grace, clearly laid out in Romans through Philemon. To overcome Satan’s tactics we are given spiritual armor and weapons, in the form of specific Pauline doctrines. The **spiritual armor** is listed in *Ephesians 6*, which correlates with specific teachings: 1) loins girt with Truth, 2) breastplate is of righteousness, 3) feet are shod with the preparation of the gospel, 4) shield is of faith, 5) helmet is of salvation, 6) sword of the Spirit is the Word of God, and 7) prayer which works boldness to hold forth the gospel.

Spiritual weapons are what we need to confront the adversary as we live in the world and do ministry: *“We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain...Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed.”* (II Cor. 6:1,3) As we read *II Corinthians 6*, Paul relays helpful insights: The circumstances in which we can function as co-laborers are in *verses 4-5*. How we are to do our ministry are in *verses 6-8* and seems to be a listing of our spiritual weaponry: *“By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report...”* Think on this!

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Feel free to call if you have questions with any articles.

What Has God Done for You?

God freely gave you all spiritual things. Everything you see, feel, hear, and touch came from God!

He also gave His only Son, the Lord Jesus to die and shed His blood on the cross, taking all sin onto Himself to pay **your sin debt**. *“...God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* (Rom. 5:8) Just believe!



Study Devotional of the Book of Galatians

The Galatian saints learned about grace, but were bewitched to live back under the law. This book was written to help them, and Churches today also deal with this issue.

Verses this Month: *Galatians 4:9-11*

“But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.”

1. Read and explain what it means to know God? How is it that the Galatians were “*known of God?*”
2. “*Weak and beggarly elements*” refers to being under the law. What specifically did the Galatians do to put themselves under the law?
3. Why was Paul “*afraid*” of the Galatians? What caused him to say this?
4. Paul wonders if he “*bestowed... labour in vain.*” What were the Galatians doing? (Note context) Describe his labor.
5. Read *Galatians 4:12-19* to determine how the saints had changed.

“But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.” II Corinthians 10:17

Questions & Answers With Deborah

Question 1: I’m a grace believer, yet I am still functioning under the law. Why?

The book of Galatians is an example of a Pauline Church that went back under the law, though they had understood and previously lived by the grace doctrines. (*Gal. 3:1,3*) Grace believers can function under the law at times. We need to be alert!

As saints, we are under construction and maturing in understanding and living sound doctrine. We can live contrary to who we are and what we know, because we live in a sin-cursed world and have an imperfect body and patterns of sin, with lusts in the flesh. So the teaching in Galatians is very applicable to us, the Body of Christ.

Once we realize we can be lured into living under the law again, we can be vigilant and choose to be self-aware to make wise choices, using the wisdom deposited in our inner man. As we dwell on verses (*Rom.8:11*), the Spirit mortifies the deeds of the body to produce resurrection life in us.

Walking According to the Flesh

When studying *II Corinthians 10*, notice the accusation made against Paul, that he is walking “*according to the flesh.*” (*Vs. 10:2*) This describes someone led by, exalting, or lusting after emotions, carnal issues, or physical things of this world. Paul responds: “*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh.*”

As believers, we will “*walk in the flesh*” as long as we live in this earthly body. However, we don’t ‘have to’ walk according to, or “*after the flesh,*” allowing the flesh to rule. “*For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit...So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*” (*Romans 8:5,8*)

We can instead choose to dwell on Scripture and walk ‘after spiritual things’ to serve Christ. This enables us to ‘mind’ or focus on things above, dwelling and meditating on sound doctrine within us. This is to be our spiritual weapons and total provision to deal with life’s challenges. We’re to mind and live by these things, that is, what is written to us in *Romans-Philemon*. This exalts God and His Word, “*Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*” (*II Cor. 10:5*)

For more information on how to walk by faith, check out these two 15 min. videos: How to Walk By Faith: <https://youtu.be/qqI4xS1Ow3c> and Walking By Faith in Life’s Laboratory: <https://youtu.be/XsQ8jhun3dg>



Looking on the Outward Appearance

“Do ye look on things after the outward appearance?” (II Cor. 10:7a) Reflection on this verse can help us to be more self-aware to grow. Some Corinthians were side-tracked, exalting worldly things and making false claims against Paul. These men were making foolish judgments based upon how ‘good’ or ‘bad’ things looked to them. Paul seemed weak: *“For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.” (II Cor.10:10)* This assessment of the God-appointed Apostle revealed their carnal hearts & lack of wisdom.

Basically, they were fleshly, focusing on worldly, physical things. *II Corinthians 4:18* had already taught them how to ‘walk after the Spirit:’ *“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”*

Two helpful suggestions were offered by Paul: 1) *“But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord; 2) For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.” (II Cor. 10:17-18)* Avoid basing perceptions and responses on the outward appearance: what is felt, seen, or heard in the physical realm. Instead, learn from these issues: be humble, prefer others, and evaluate your thinking using sound doctrine as the standard.

Questions & Answers With Deborah

Question 2: I may be placing my husband under the law. Do you have some insights?

Our natural fleshly default is to put others under the law. A few possible examples: “I’ll be mad if you don’t give it to me,” or “Don’t say that again, or...,” and “If you do that, I’ll leave.” Taking revenge, even in small matters, can also be legalism, i.e. the silent treatment or making sarcastic comments when mad.

Trusting Christ to form sound doctrine in us can change this tendency and cause us to have a new way of functioning, manifesting Christ and grace. *“Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.” (Romans 5:20)*

Realize what you are minding and doing. This shows you where you are on the “Y” in the road, enabling you to think differently. *“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.” (Rom. 6:14)* Walk by faith in grace.

Question 3: How can we apply sound doctrine to change a bad attitude or behavior?

This issue is also linked to what are we minding. Sound doctrine from Romans-Philemon can teach us what to do. Use the replacement principle: put off ungodly deeds by putting on what God teaches in the Word. A couple of examples are found in *Romans 12:1-2* and *Ephesians 4:20-32*. Meditate upon these.

The process is simple: 1) Be aware of what you are minding and where you are on the Y in the road: Are you serving self, the flesh, the world/Satan, or serving God? 2) Recall relevant sound doctrine deposited in your inner man. 3) Put off the ungodly thinking by dwelling on the Word. Changing what you are minding, changes your behavior.

Ephesians 4:22a, 24: “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man...And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

For more on this topic, join us on our Truth to Go Playlist: How to Change a Depressed or Bad Attitude: <https://youtu.be/teyW637Brus>



An Outline of Romans

The goal of this outline is to make it easier for you as a student to study this key foundational book. *Romans* can be broken into four main sections. Each chapter progressively helps saints to mature.

I. **Chapters 1-5: Justification: How We Are Just Before God**

Chapter 1: Salvation Going to the Gentiles

Chapter 2: The Righteous Judgment of God is Sure

Chapter 3: Good News of Salvation: 'Just' Before God—No Works

Chapter 4: God Freely Gives Us His Imputed Righteousness

Chapter 5: Our New, Fixed Position: Eternal Life and Much More

II. **Chapters 6-8: Sanctification: Our Holy Walk and New Identity**

Chapter 6: Our New Identity in Christ Enables Us to Walk Godly

Chapter 7: The Flesh Tries to Please God Under the Law

Chapter 8: Living as Adult Believers (Dwell on Word/Led by Spirit)

III. **Chapters 9-11: What About Israel and How the Body Fits?**

Chapter 9: Questions Answered Regarding Israel Being Set Aside

Chapter 10: The Unbelieving Nation Ignorantly Rejected the Truth

Chapter 11: The Mystery of This Gentile Time Period is Temporary

IV. **Chapters 12-16: Godly Service Under Grace**

Chapter 12: God's New Form of Worship and Service to the Body

Chapter 13: Godly Authority, Love, and Godly Judgments

Chapter 14: Dealing With Weaker Brethren in Grace

Chapter 15: Laboring in the Local Assembly

Chapter 16: What Grace Looks like: Godly Service Examples

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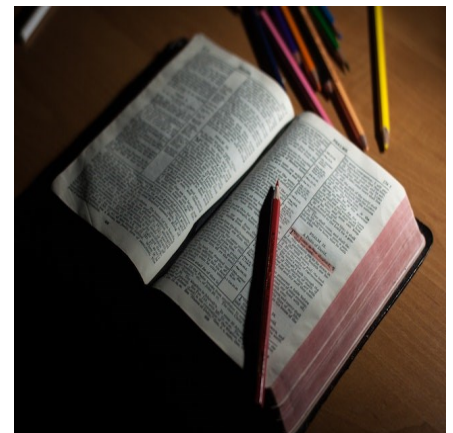
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