

## DEVOTION for PENTECOST 14

### PSALM 119:129-136

**Your statutes are wonderful; therefore, I obey them.**

The entrance of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

**I open my mouth and pant, longing for your commands.**

Turn to me and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love your name.

**Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me.**

Redeem me from the oppression of men, that I may obey your precepts.

**Make your face shine upon your servant and teach me your decrees.**

Streams of tears flow from my eyes, for your law is not obeyed.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;*

*As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen*

### Ephesians 6:1-24

***Stand in the Strength of Christ***

Why does Paul remind parents not to provoke their children, but to discipline them in the Lord?

Why does Paul call the Word, “The sword of the Spirit?”

Why is it important to pray “at all times?”

### Mark 7:14-23

***Things that make a person unclean***

What was the purpose of the Old Testament dietary laws?

What does Jesus say really makes a person unclean?

How does Jesus make us clean?

### “THE ARMOUR of GOD”

***“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armour of God...”***

Armour is an external covering used to protect the body from objects when attacked in battle. The greatest military tactician and most successful general was Alexander the Great. He built an empire that extended farther than any other before him. And he did it in part, thanks to body armour. Interestingly, the type of armour he used was made from paper. Yes, paper! Metal is an all or nothing barrier. It either deflects a blow or fails. Alexander’s genius was to form armor out of layered papyrus, which was much more effective at absorbing energy from projectiles fired by hostile armies. With the protection afforded by his armour, Alexander conquered the world!

Christians are on a mission to conquer the world for Christ. Jesus said to make disciples of all nations. It is not an easy battle. The world does not want to be conquered for Christ. The devil, our ancient foe, claims the world and the human heart as his own. He fights hard for his domain. In order to wage this spiritual war, we must “*be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.*” We stand in the Lord’s mighty power, by clothing ourselves with the armour of God! We fight with weapons of the Spirit. The helmet of salvation and the shield of faith. The word of God is our most important offensive weapon. The word is the sword of the Spirit, and its sharp edge is the gospel of salvation.

Paul says that in order to stand our ground against the spiritual enemy that assails us, we need a specific kind of armour; the armour of the Lord, fashioned and forged in the blood of Jesus’ righteousness. The only spiritual armour that will protect us against the arrows, slings and spears of the evil one, is the armour of the Lord. It is made of the finest and strongest of materials, the righteousness of God that is in Jesus Christ. We stand in Christ! In Christ we withstand every fiery dart of the evil foe. All we need to do is stand in the Lord, because through His cross, Christ has already won the victory.

## **“JESUS, THY BLOOD & RIGHTEOUSNESS”**

**(Public Domain)**

**Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness. My beauty are my glorious dress.  
Midst flaming worlds in these arrayed, with joy shall I lift up my head.**

**Bold shall I stand in that great day. Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay.  
Fully absolved through these I am, from sin and fear, from guilt and shame.**

**Lord, I believe were sinners more, than sands upon the ocean shore;  
Thou hast for all a ransom paid, for all a full atonement made.**

**When from the dust of death I rise, to claim my mansion in the skies;  
This then shall be my only plea; Jesus hath lived and died for me.**

**Jesus, be endless praise to Thee, whose boundless mercy hath for me,  
For me and all thy hands have made, an everlasting ransom paid.**

### **PRAYER**

**Holy God, we thank you for the power of your love for the sake of Christ Jesus. Every day you wash away our sins in the living water of our baptism. Daily you clothe us with robes of Christ’s righteousness. You continually fill us with your Spirit to empower us to walk in newness of life. You protect us against the assaults of the world, the devil and our own sinful nature with armour of Christ, the breastplate of His righteousness and the helmet of salvation. Bless us through these to withstand all things and bring us to stand in your presence in the resurrection of Jesus. Amen**

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen**

### **THE CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

### **BENEDICTION**

**Ephesians 6:10**

***“Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.”***

### **Bible Knowledge Quiz**

According to Hebrews, how sharp is the sword of the Spirit?

What is the shield by which the flaming darts of the devil are extinguished?

What kind of footwear does the Holy Spirit provide for spiritual warriors?

### **Answers to Last Week’s Quiz**

For attempting to make an offering allowed only to priests (2 Chronicles 26:16-21).

One man returned to give thanks (Luke 17:11-19).

That they were unclean (Leviticus 13:45).