

Why Revival Tarries (The Armor)

by Bob Russell

The church must put on the whole armor of God, through prayer and repentance, to regain its ability to stand against the wiles of the devil and to bring about revival.

Duration: 8:00

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, Ephesians 6:10-17

Topics: "Revival"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the need for revival and the importance of putting on the whole armor of God. He expresses concern about the current state of Christianity, stating that many have lost track of the true gospel. While there may be some positive actions and conversions, the preacher believes there is still much ground to gain. He urges individuals and the church as a whole to seek the Lord, supplicate for revival, and diligently put on each piece of God's armor.

Transcript

One more thought, and if you'll turn in the Ephesians chapter 6, I'll just leave you with this thought, but I have to read a few scriptures first. Chapter 6 of Ephesians, and verse 10. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore, take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness, and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God.

Praying always with all prayer, and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. Now, thinking about this aspect, as I mentioned the last time we were together, why does revival carry? Let me give you one more point. As I was reading these scriptures, it came to me again.

Well, because the devil, having launched his attack against every vital piece of God's armor, has stripped the church of her ability to stand, of course, in the evil day. And, of course, in order to have a genuine revival, we must seek again this matter of putting on the whole armor of God. You say, well, I've got it on.

Well, if you've got it on, you should be living at a high rate of pace here, and following the Lord in purity of heart and in every way. It's a matter of putting each piece on by prayer, individually, collectively as a church. Because you've got it here, of course, in the scriptures, where the foundation belt of truth.

Where is it today? Well, we could say it's fallen in the streets, as you have it in the book of Isaiah. Does the church have on the breastplate of righteousness? Or are we just looking at this aspect of righteousness as some symbolic one? Instead of her feet being shot and protected and being mobile, because the whole aspect is mobility here, preparedness in the standpoint of the Christian soldier, she moves very slow, very laboriously, very gingerly along, trying to keep up with the world. And, of course, the church is quite crippled in every way.

And when it comes to taking up the other pieces of armor, the defensive armor here spoken of, where is she in abergard? Thinking of the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation. So, what you've got, the church being very vulnerable. And, of course, you see how, in that state, she falls.

How can she go on the offensive or defend herself? When, of course, in many cases, she doesn't believe the authority of the scriptures. Talking about the sword of the spirit. We have a paraffin sword, of course, dulled by so many versions and so on.

And, of course, we all know about that. But the point is, when you look at it, when you look at the armor of God, and the situation here of all prayer, in Luke 1, Christ said very clearly, if we don't pray, we'll faint. Well, the church is fainting, so what's the problem? Really, all prayer is not an operation.

So, when you look at the armor of God, and look at the situation of the day, you can see why Revival tarries. And what's interesting here to our minds is, in verse 10, it tells you here, Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might, put on. In other words, no doubt the Christian church will not regain her armor until she becomes strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.

In other words, until there's a real spirit of repentance and submission to God, getting back onto the highway, resisting the devil, you cannot see too much happening in regards to getting the armor back on. And that's why we pray. That's why we pray for Revival.

That's why we pray clearly, earnestly in supplication. That's what these meetings have been designed for. And I'm trying to stir your heart up, and stir my own heart up, and in the whole matter of realizing the need of all of us, but not only that, not being crippled completely by it all, but by turning to the Lord and deftly seeking the Lord, supplicating to the Lord that he might indeed turn things around and bring people back to their senses.

And we're thankful for what we do see in regards of some actions. But as I said to you before, I keep checking with Gerard. I said, Gerard, how does it look? And I mentioned it last time to you.

Is it getting any better? I asked him two weeks ago, two or three weeks ago. And he said, no, it's just as bad. In fact, it's worse.

So though he might go to Peru, and though he might be able to minister a thousand people, and though he might go to another place of thousands of people, we don't have revival. We don't have people moving in the direction of what I'm talking about. People have lost track of the real true gospel.

People have lost track of the truth of what Christianity is all about. And though these hearts can be stirred up a little, and some people get converted, thank God for that, still there is much ground to gain. So when you read that scripture, think about this portion here, this armor of God that God provides.

He provides it. You must put it on. I must put it on.

And if you look at the situation and we say, well, the devil's got his hold within the church and without the church, then you can see why. They do not have on the whole armor of God. And, of course, you have to put it all on.

You can't just put one piece on. You have to put the whole armor of God given to us to protect us against the evil day. And it is an evil day.

So we must make sure we've got it on, let alone pray about others to get it on. We must have it on and put each piece on with prayer. Just a thought as we are considering revival.

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