

The Content of Salvation which God has Given to the New Testament Believer

Regeneration  
by the Spirit

Titus 3:5; John 3:3-6

Places God in the believer  
This is real. God truly indwells believers

Content & Benefits

**God the Father indwells**

Ephesians 4:6; 1 John 4:12; 3:24;  
2 Corinthians 6:16; John 14:24

**Benefits**

The believer is born from God. 1 John 5:1  
The believer has the God's seed [spiritual DNA] in him. 1 John 3:9  
The believer can share God's nature in common [fellowship]. 2 Peter 1:3-4

**God the Son indwells**

John 14:20; 1 John 5:11-12; Romans 8:10; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27

**Benefits**

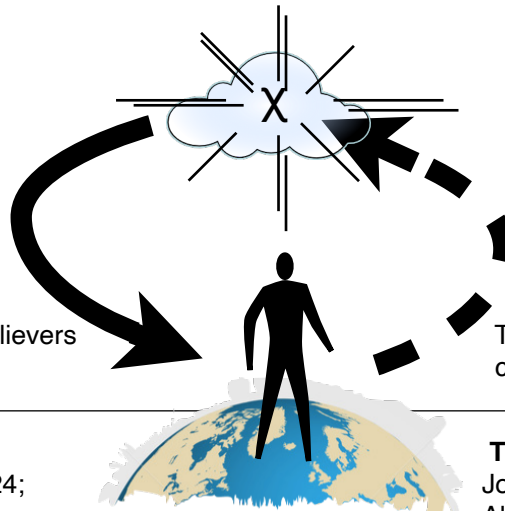
The believer has eternal life. 1 John 5:11-12; 2:24-25; 5:20; John 17:3  
The believer have Christ shine by means of him (i.e. he is an instrument by which Christ shines in this world). Ephesians 5:14  
The believer has the mind of Christ, so that he can think on and appreciate God's revealed truth. 1 Corinthians 2:16; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 2:22

**God the Spirit indwells**

John 14:16, 17; Romans 5:5; 8:9-11;  
2 Timothy 1:14; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

**Benefits**

The believer can have the fruit from the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23  
The believer can be filled by the Holy Spirit, so he may function like a member of the body of Christ. Ephesians 5:18-21; 1:22-23  
The believer can follow the Spirit's lead regarding truths with which to frame his thinking. Romans 8:4-6, 14  
The believer can be a competent servant regarding the New Covenant by the Spirit's work. 2 Corinthians 3:6  
The believer can reflect the glory of the Lord like a mirror. 2 Corinthians 3:17-18  
The believer can be empowered by the Spirit in the inner man. Ephesians 3:16-19



Baptism  
by the Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:13; Romans 6:2-4

Places the believer in Christ  
This is imputed. God counts or credits believers to be in Christ.

Content & Benefits

**The believer is in Christ**

John 14:20; 1 Corinthians 1:30

All these are "good things" [blessings]

which God says about the believer in Christ.

Ephesians 1:3. He does so by His grace. Ephesians 1:6

**Benefits**

The believer is crucified with Christ. Galatians 2:20-21  
The believer died with Christ. Romans 6:2-3, 6, 8, 11  
He died to the sinful nature. Romans 6:11  
He is cut off from his sinful nature. Colossians 2:11, 12  
He died to the law. Galatians 2:19; Romans 7:6  
He was crucified to the world. Galatians 6:14

The believer is made alive and raised with Christ.

Ephesians 2:5, 6; Colossians 2:12, 13; 3:1; Romans 6:11; 8:2

The believer is seated with Christ. Ephesians 2:6

The believer is part of one new man. Ephesians 2:15

The believer is part of the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Romans 12:3-5; Galatians 3:27-28

The believer is a son in Christ. Galatians 3:26

"Son" indicates position distinct from "child."

The believer is liberated: from the sinful nature, from the law, unto service. Romans 6:18-22; Galatians 5:1-4

The believer is free of condemnation. Romans 8:1

The believer is a saint (a set-apart one). Philippians 1:1; 4:21; 1 Corinthians 1:30.

The believer is declared righteous. 2 Corinthians 5:21

**The believer is in the Father**

1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1; John 17:21

**Benefit**

Believers are united in one thing (the body/new man) in "us" (the Father and Son). John 17:21-23

**The believer is in the Spirit**

Romans 8:9

**Benefit**

We are sealed into Christ by the Spirit. Ephesians 1:13; 4:30 Since this seals us into Christ, this is also an "in the Spirit" relationship.

The Work of Christ and its Application to the Believer

Jesus Christ accomplished three necessary works on the cross which when applied to the individual result in His salvation. These works are not saving of themselves, but are the basis of how God saves individuals. Christ died both spiritually for three hours while on the cross, and physically at about 3pm. 1 Peter 3:18

**Christ's Three Works**

**Christ's death provided a redemption.**

Redemption was accomplished by Christ's physical death, "through His blood" Ephesians 1:7  
His redemption is of a two-fold nature.

- He paid a price to secure the believer's release/freedom. 1 Timothy 2:6; Hebrews 9:15  
The Greek word *lutron* is a ransom paid.  
*Lutroo* is the act of paying the ransom.  
*Lutrosis* is a noun describing the act.  
*Apolutrosis* is the resulting freedom or release.  
The idea of a ransom price was necessary because the unbeliever willing chooses to subject himself to sin and unrighteousness.
- He also paid a price to secure the believer as God's own special possession. This is indicated by the Greek words *agoradzo* and *peripoieo*.  
He bought us, so we are God's special possession. 1 Corinthians 6:20; 7:20-23; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 1:14; 1 Peter 2:9

**Christ's death provided a satisfaction (propitiation).**

This word [*hilaskomai, hilasmos*] was used of satisfying God's righteous requirements. Romans 3:25  
Propitiation was accomplished by Christ's spiritual death.

– He is the place/location where God is satisfied, and displays God's righteousness.

God's righteousness required that the lawless acts [sin] be addressed. cf. Hebrews 8:12

He became human to satisfy God with regard to the people's sins Hebrews 2:17

He is the satisfaction. 1 John 2:2; 4:10

**Christ's death provided for reconciliation.**

Reconciliation means to cause a change resulting in peace between two parties.

Reconciliation was accomplished through Christ's physical death—"blood." Colossians 1:20, 22

He made peace between God and men.

He made peace between believers who have come from different backgrounds. Ephesians 2:14-16

He was the basis of God reconciling the world to Himself, so that though the world is hostile towards God, God does not reciprocate with hostility. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20.

**God's Application to the Believer**

**God applies Christ's redemption to the believer in Christ.**

He released us from our trespasses.

Ephesians 1:7

He released us from our sins. Colossians 1:14

He declares us righteous through a ransom price. Romans 3:24 By Christ's paying for our trespasses and sins, God can call us righteous.

He has made us a special possession, placing us as living stones in His temple/body/the Church. 1 Peter 2:5-10

**God applies propitiation by both the baptism of the Spirit and regeneration**

Positionally, the believer is located in the One (Christ) where God is satisfied. Romans 3:25

The believer is united in Christ's spiritual death, therefore God has addressed the problem of the sinful nature Romans 6:10-11.

Since God is satisfied, God reverses the believer's spiritual death by giving him eternal life—"we might live through Him" 1 John 4:9-10; 5:11

**God applies reconciliation by the Spirit baptizing the believer into the body of Christ.**

Believers are no longer enemies of God but at peace with God. Romans 5:1, 10

Believers are now one body in Christ.

Ephesians 2:15

God does not count the trespasses of men against them. 2 Corinthians 5:19

## The Normal Christian Life

God's normal intent for the Christian can be defined in various terms: love, glorifying God, and spirituality.

### Christ gave His disciples one command—to love our fellow believers.

The Christian has one chief command given by Jesus Christ, John 13:34-35 to love one another (i.e. other believers) in a manner similar to how Christ loved His disciples. He laid down His life by becoming a slave/servant though He was master, and in this way He washed the disciples feet (John 13:4-5). Believers are to do the same (John 13:12-17). He also laid down His life by dying upon the cross, yet He did not call for us to die for one another (normally), but to lay down our lives by meeting the needs of others (John 15:12-13; 1 John 3:16-18).

### The believer can and is to glorify God.

Glory=the expression of an opinion or reputation. God's opinion is always 100% accurate. You can glorify God by:

Asking in the name (character of Jesus) - John 14:13

Bearing fruit: love, joy - John 15:8-11

Using our bodies in keeping with God's plan - 1 Corinthians 6:20

Doing everything so we stress His reputation (to His glory) - 1 Corinthians 10:31 - Putting others first (by context), so we do not get in the way of God's potential work with others.

### God has established relationships with us by grace and each affects how we live.

To the Father	To the Spirit	To Christ
We are children Ephesians 5:1	We live by the Spirit Galatians 5:25	We are in Christ/in the body - Ephesians 4:1-3
We are to walk in <u>love</u> (v. 2)	We are to <u>walk</u> by the Spirit, the fruit being <u>love</u> . . . (v. 22)	We are to walk in agreement (worthy) ... in <u>love</u> (v. 2)

### God motivates the believer by His grace.

Grace is not based upon our works or merit.

Grace is God's attitude by which He acts for or provides a benefit without regard to our work/merit (Romans 11:6). It is grace or works, but it cannot be both.

Grace means God gives us time to grow.

Peter described Paul's message of grace as God's longsuffering (is not easily angered) with us, thus allowing us time to grow even in the midst of our sins and failures (2 Peter 3:15-16).

God has not only saved the believer by grace in the past, but continues to save him, and will finish that salvation by His grace (Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 1 Peter 1:13).

Ephesians 2:8 - saved in the past resulting in a present state of salvation **by grace** [emphasis of the Greek Perfect tense]. This verse is about our present state of salvation by God's grace.

Titus 2:11-13 - God's saving grace appeared and **by His grace**, God is now training us as children, to deny a lifestyle inconsistent with His grace: ungodliness and worldly cravings, and to live a life consistent with His grace: an attitude which involves salvation (soberly), righteously (primarily love), godly (honors God by properly using what He has provided us), and eagerly expecting the appearing of our Savior God Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:13 - When Jesus appears for us, He will bring grace, everything we receive is undeserved.

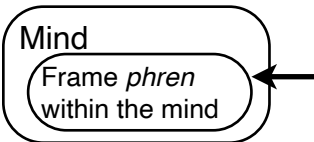
Therefore, the believer should grow by grace, rather than using grace as an excuse for living in a manner that does not honor God (2 Peter 3:18).



## The Christian use of the mind and its relationship to the Christian life

God has explained how Christians can intentionally live to the glory of God. It involves the truths of what God has done for the believer and the use of the believer's mind.

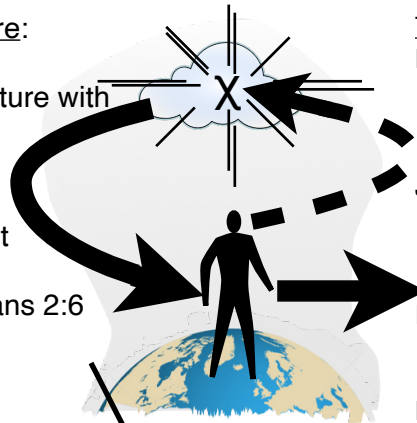
The New Testament (in the Greek in which it was written) has many terms for aspects of the mind or its activities. The Greek noun *phren* (pronounced *phrane*) and the verb *phroneō* involves a fence or the activity of fencing in something. It is translated "mind", "thinking", and "set...mind." It indicates the activity of restricting your mind to or fencing in your mind with a specific set of thoughts/truths which become a fence or corral. Within the fence the believer relates to the circumstances of life and others events, restricting other thoughts which are inconsistent. In Colossians 3:1-2, we find that if it is true that we are risen with Christ, then we should seek out the things above and then set our mind to those things. In Romans 6:11, since we were put into Christ's death and burial (vv. 2-4), we should logically count ourselves to be "dead ones to the sin *nature*, but living ones to God in Christ Jesus." In Romans 8:4-5 walking is identified or associated with "setting...minds on" [NASB]. It is akin to having an attitude.



Frame of mind is made up of a set of truths. One could use many different sets of truths. One could frame his mind regarding physical safety, educational goals, things of the flesh (Romans 8:6) or things which pertain to this earth (Philippians 3:19). The Christian is to frame his mind or set his mind on things above (Colossians 3:2).

In Christ, you (the believer) are:

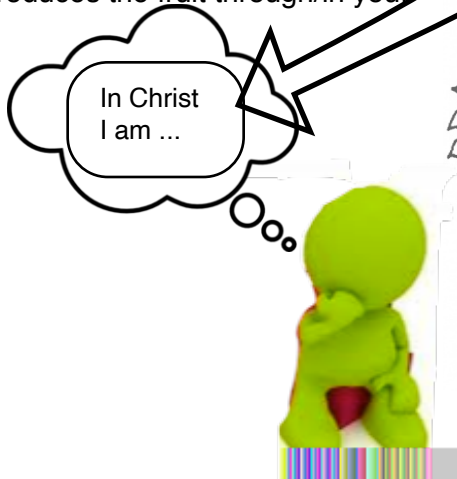
- One having died to the sin nature with Christ Romans 6:11
- One being alive to God Romans 6:11
- One be made alive with Christ Ephesians 2:5
- One being raised up Ephesians 2:6
- One being seated with Christ Ephesians 2:6
- One having redemption Ephesians 1:7
- One having forgiveness Ephesians 1:7
- One being made God's kind of righteousness 2 Corinthians 5:21
- One being part of the body of Christ 1 Corinthians 12:13



The Spirit in you produces fruit Galatians 5:22-23

- Love: to lay ones life down by doing what is best for another without regard to personal cost (e.g. 1 John 3:16-18; Galatians 6:1-3; Philippians 2:1; Romans 13:9-10)
- Joy: the appreciative acceptance of God's actions in our lives, even if they are not fun (e.g. James 1:2; Colossians 1:24; 1 Peter 4:13; Philippians 1:4, 5, 18).
- Peace: the calm state of mind regardless of circumstances (Romans 5:1; John 16:33; Colossians 3:15).
- Longsuffering: is the opposite of a short temper. It is the quality of mind that is not easily angered with people (1 Corinthians 13:4; Ephesians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:14). [Patience involves circumstances: weather, injuries, illness, while longsuffering-people].
- Kindness: is the easy-going attitude which puts others at ease, as opposed to being annoying and abrasive (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12; 2 Corinthians 6:3-6).
- Goodness: is the sense of well-being which is based upon God's work, which can be enjoyed despite circumstances (Romans 12:21; 1 Thessalonians 5:15; Ephesians 4:18-29). It can result in happiness.
- Faith: is a positive response to a promise from God, which makes the promise concrete so the individual can act upon it (Galatians 5:6; James 2:14-17; Titus 1:1-2).
- Meekness /gentleness: is the tame attitude which maintains its focus on God's objective despite circumstances (1 Corinthians 4:21; Galatians 6:1; 2 Timothy 2:25).
- Self control: is the attitude which controls one's bodily appetites and needs so they do not interfere with doing God's will (1 Corinthians 9:24-25; 7:7-8; 2 Peter 1:8-10, 18-19).

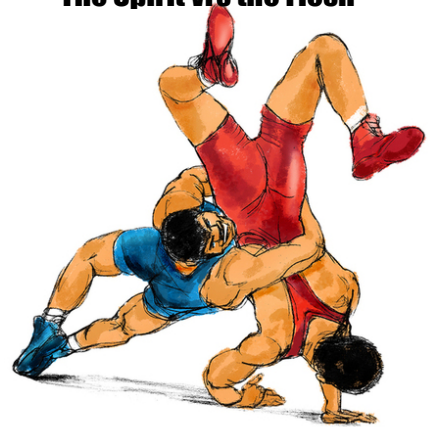
So you "frame your mind" with these truths, and the Spirit then freely produces the fruit through/in you.



### The Sin Nature Identified

The believer has a conflict within him/herself. Paul called it “the sin” (Romans 6:1). We often call it “the sin nature” to clarify the Scriptural statement for the modern mind. It is the sin that dwells in the believer (Romans 7:17, 20). God created Adam with natural, appropriate cravings (e.g. love, God, self-integrity, hunger). When Adam sinned those cravings became bent or perverted so that man craves inappropriate sexual gratification, idolatry, hostility, and drunkenness (as counterparts to the above examples). The sin nature is also called the flesh because it reside in our flesh (Romans 7:18), and involves the perversion of God-given cravings. Paul’s conflict with his sin nature began after his salvation; he was alive and the sin *nature revived* (Romans 7:9).

### The Spirit vrs the Flesh



### The Cravings/Lusts of the Flesh/Sin Nature

Galatians 5:19-21 provides a list of the kinds of cravings belonging to the flesh.

sexual immorality - Any form of sexual intercourse outside of marriage. It includes adultery which is omitted in some Greek texts.

impurity - Any form of sexual thinking outside of marriage, i.e. looking at others as objects of passion.

sensuality- or lewdness- Any form of sexual activity which is publicly displayed, and it may include the previous two cravings. It may also place proper actions in improper contexts: e.g. grossly public display between a husband and wife.

idolatry- The worship or devotion to anything other than God. It may include coveting things or persons as this becomes devotion to those things or persons and a form of religious service.

sorcery/superstition- The attitude which incorrectly endues things or persons with power God has not revealed, such as enticing people to follow a way of life thinking they will receive greater power to affect their lives and destinies.

enmity- Any overt hostility towards others unsanctioned by God. It is used of enemy combatants in war, which is not the attitude believers should have towards others, especially fellow believers.

strife- An argumentative attitude, or that which refuses to submit or act with moderation in a disagreement, it insists upon its accuracy, and often goes hand in hand with the next work.

jealousy- properly: zeal- An attitude which wishes to succeed at any cost, disregarding how one’s actions may affect others in the process.

fits of anger- The inner burning anger or fury, often resulting from another craving being unfulfilled or thwarted, e.g. one is zealous to win, and angry because he/she loses.

rivalries- properly: selfish ambition- The attitude which pursue’s one’s own goals and disregards others’ needs, e.g. a man who pursues his career or life objectives while neglecting his family. This work is a very common motivation for other works of the unsaved (cf. Romans 2:8)

dissensions- are cliques or splits within a group of people—a party spirit, such as people following individuals within a church rather than Christ.

divisions,- properly: heresies- The misuse of Scripture, choosing to apply to one’s self, what is not applicable

envy- An attitude of inner hurt at the good things which others receive or experience

murder- The senseless taking of life, often a response to other works of the flesh: crime of passion, fit of anger, rivalry

drunkenness- The over-consumption of anything so that it impedes one’s judgment, particularly alcohol.

orgies- Riotous partying, often tied with drunkenness as well as other works of the flesh.



**God's Provision for freedom regarding the Flesh/Sin Nature**

The believer died with Christ to the sin nature, for he has been placed into Christ: into Christ's death, burial and resurrection by the baptizing work of the Spirit (Romans 6:2-4; Colossians 2:12-13; Galatians 2:20). God the Father credits or logically counts this death and resurrection to the believer in Christ. If the believer were truly dead to the sin nature, the sin nature would not be a problem; no conflict would exist.

Therefore, you logically count yourselves to be dead ones to the sin nature but living ones to God in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:11). Paul also describes this reckoning as "putting off the old man" and "putting on the new man" (Ephesians 4:22, 23; Colossians 3:9-10).

Therefore, put to death the practices of the body and one's members (those members related to the works of the flesh) (Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5). This also involves logically counting one's self dead to those works and to the sin nature.

Therefore, do not present your members to the sin nature as instruments/tools it might use, but present your members to God as instruments/tools for accomplishing His righteous purposes (Romans 6:13). God gave us cravings. Rather than use our members to fulfill the perversions of those cravings, we can present ourselves and our members to God to fulfill the proper cravings and address proper needs.



All this constitutes "walking by the Spirit" (Galatians 5:16). If you walk by the Spirit, you will not fulfill the cravings [lusts] from the flesh. Note that it does not say we will not have lusts or cravings from the flesh, but that we will not perform them. Walking by the Spirit means we are led by the Spirit, or we are following His lead (Galatians 5:18). He leads us to think upon, and frame our minds with these above truths. Walking by the Spirit involves framing or fencing in our mind, that is using one set of truths to form a fence or framework which restricts our thinking from some things (e.g. the flesh) and to other things (e.g. things above; Colossians 3:1-3).

"If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body..." (Romans 8:13). This involves following the Spirit, and indicates that we cannot be free by our own mental thinking. We must follow His lead (cf. Romans 8:14), and He leads us to set our frame of mind to our position in Christ.

The proper motivation for logically counting this true, and the proper motivation for not presenting your members to the sin nature but presenting them to God is GOD'S GRACE (Romans 6:14).

**YOU DO NOT FIGHT THE FLESH/SIN NATURE! THE SPIRIT DEALS WITH THE SIN NATURE AS YOU FRAME YOUR MIND WITH YOUR POSITION IN CHRIST!**

**REST IN HIM- Hebrews 4:9-11, 16**

**Satan is a formidable foe. He is not to be taken lightly nor treated lightly.**

1. He goes about like a roaring lion does seeking whom to devour (1 Peter 5:8). He accuses the brothers before God's face day and night (Revelation 12:10). Take him seriously (Jude 9). He is a created being, not the Creator (Ezekiel 28:13-14). He wished to change his God-given position and deceived himself into thinking he could (Isaiah 14:12-14). He is Satan – the adversary (Revelation 12:9), the Devil – the slanderer (Revelation 12:9).

2. **He deceives completely**, so we see a situation from his twisted perspective (1 Timothy 2:14; 2 Corinthians 11:3). He knows how our minds work. By observing us he knows what attack is most fitting to our situation, takes advantage of it (2 Corinthians 2:11; Acts 5:3).

He manipulates circumstances as the basis for an attack (2 Corinthians 12:7; Job 1:14-19; 2:7).

3. He takes advantage of circumstances as the basis of attacks (1 Timothy 3:6; 1 Timothy 5:11-15).

**2. He tempts with specific schemes related primarily to deceit (the lie) and pride.**

Busybody - 1 Timothy 5:13-15 - He tempts us to involve ourselves in the affairs of others, that are not our business [prying and snooping].

Laziness in spiritual things - 1 Timothy 5:11-15 (v. 12). He tempts us to be lazy about doing God's will. We may be hard at other work, but neglect God's things

Pride - 1 Timothy 3:6 - Pride is an inflated opinion of ourselves involving arrogance at one extreme and self-pity - "I deserve better" - on the other.

Rotten speech - Ephesians 4:29 (Matthew 26:69-74) - He tempts us to malign the character of others, through words used with cruel intentions.

Disappointment & Discouragement - 2 Corinthians 12:7-8 [Job 3:1-3; 19:6-12] - He tempts us to be unhappy with a circumstance, an outcome, our physical condition. "Why did God let this happen to me?" - disheartened!

Cowardice - 2 Timothy 1:7 [Luke 22:31-34] - He tempts us to be timid about doing God's will: sharing the gospel, taking a stand, using our spiritual gift.

Gossiping - 1 Timothy 5:13-15 - He tempts us to share with others what they don't need to know.

Stealing - Ephesians 4:27-28 - He tempts us to take what does not belong to us. It is a sin based on pride or lying.

Doubt - Job 1, 2; Acts 18:9; Romans 14:22-23 - He tempts us to question God's goodness, what God wants us to do, has promised, or the Bible and God Himself. An act in doubt is sin.

Lying - Acts 5:4-6 (John 8:44) - He tempts us to speak what is distorted, inaccurate, wholly or partly not true. Leads to our own deception (2 Timothy 3:13).

Independence from God - James 4:13-17 (Isaiah 14:14) - He tempts us to make plans and act without regard for God's will.

Ungracious attitude [bitterness] - 2 Corinthians 2:10-11 - He tempts us to feel we are justified in not being gracious with another.



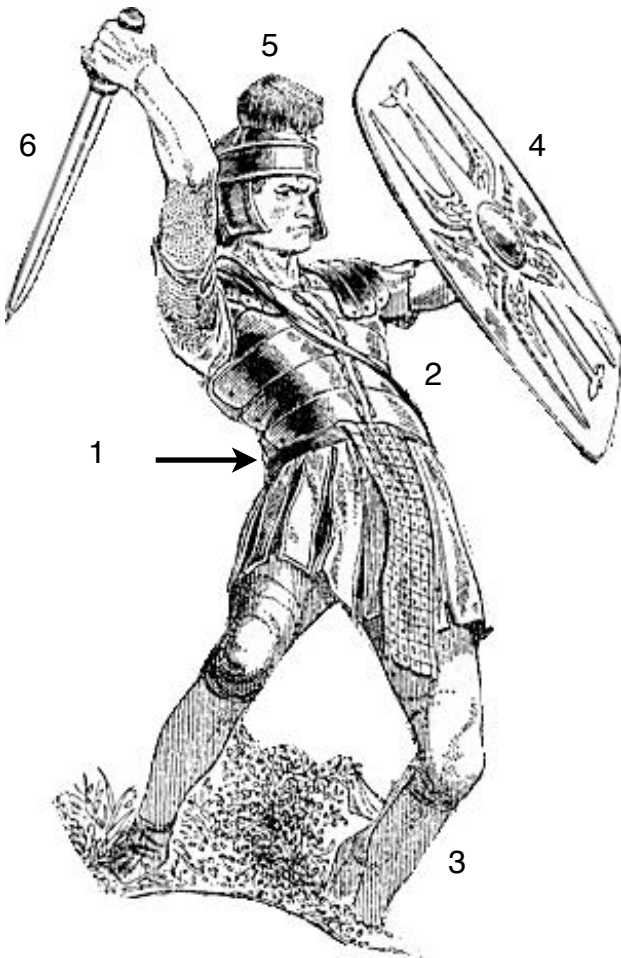
**The Fiery Darts of the Evil One**

1. **We resist Satan when he tempts us** (James 4:7). **We resist by the faith** (1 Peter 5:8). **We resist him in the evil day by putting on the whole Armor from God** (Ephesians 6:13).

2. **We are to be made strong in the Lord** (Ephesians 6:10). “Lord” emphasizes that He is our master as well as our position (Ephesians 1:6; 2:5-6). This is mental strength from the Spirit (cf. Ephesians 3:16).

3. **Once we are strong in the Lord, we resist Satan by putting on the whole Armor of God.**

1. The Armor is a picture to remind us of six specific areas of truth regarding Christ and ourselves which God provides to counter Satan’s attack. Satan’s temptations are mental (may be based on circumstances) and our defense against his temptations is also mental.



1. **Girdle consisting of truth 6:14** - We need to recognize Satan’s deception and know this is a temptation from him. Jesus always saw things accurately (Ephesians 4:21). *Deals with lying and gossiping*

2. **Breastplate consisting of the righteousness 6:14** - Satan wants us to focus on our own righteousness and plan our own activities. We need to recognize our only righteousness is in Christ (4:24; 1 Corinthians 1:30) and we can only act righteously through that position (Philippians 3:9). Acting any other way will be unrighteous. *Deals with independence and pride*

3. **Shoes consisting of preparedness for the Gospel of peace 6:15** - Satan wants us preoccupied with ourselves, our wants, or our “needs” and to focus on how others have “wronged us.” Christ is our peace (2:14-15), and is the basis of peace in the body of Christ (4:3). We remember He has created all of us believers together into one new man. *Deals with bitterness, laziness, stealing*

4. **The shield consisting of the faith 6:16** - Satan tempts us to doubt our access to God, or presume it is based on our conduct. Christ is our access (2:18). That access is promised through faith (3:12) and encouraged—ALWAYS GO TO GOD: WORSHIP AND ASK! *Deals with doubt and independence from God*

5. **The helmet consisting of the salvation 6:17** - Satan tempts us to think God has not sufficiently provided for us: discouragement and disappointment. He may tempt

us to focus on our works. However, our salvation is by grace (2:5, 8) and Christ is the Savior. *Deals with disappointment, discouragement, cowardice, unforgiving spirit, and pride*

6. **The sword from the Spirit consisting of an utterance from God** Satan does not want the believer to correctly use, understand or relate to God’s Word. He tempts us to doubt that we or others will become what God has planned. The sword is the individual utterances of God (Gk. *rhama*). Remember that Christ speaks an utterance to cleanse the Church (5:26) so that we will be what God says about us in Christ (1:3-4), He is interceding for us.

4. **We then communicate (pray) with God 6:18**

We worship – communicating Who God is. He is All-knowing, All-powerful, Good, Holy, Love, Righteous, and Truth.

*We make requests [supplication] to God regarding others. Supplication means we may not know the exact need or for whom we are communicating, “...all the saints”.*



The world system or *kosmos* refers to an organized system.<sup>1</sup>

The world system is organized and directed by Satan to unite humanity under his rule and against God.

He is the prince of the system (John 12:31).

He could offer the kingdoms of the world to Christ (Matthew 4:8-9).

Christ's kingdom is not from (originates) this world (John 18:36).

He organizes this system through his demons as world powers (Ephesians 6:12).

He holds or cradles the the world (the people; 1 John 5:19).



The world system began with the death of Cain (Luke 11:50-51).

Genesis 4:16-24 describe the development of human society (a key part of the world system). This system develops as Cain and his descendants operated away from God's presence (v. 16). The world involves cities or urbanization (v. 17). God planted a garden, man builds cities.

The world introduced polygamy (v. 19).

The world involves the commercial raising of livestock (v. 20).

This may have been for religious purposes.

The world involves the arts (music) (v. 21).

The world involves industry (v. 22a). This is an attempt to ease the curse of heavy labor.

The world involves emphasis on outer beauty (v. 22b).

The world involves senseless violence/ vengeance (vv. 23-24).



The world system is contrary to God's grace (Titus 2:11-12).

Grace focuses upon God's work and His provisions for/to us. Worldly lusts involve the misuse of God's provisions.



It appeals to cravings of our flesh (1 John 2:17).

It appeals to cravings or our eyes (1 John 2:17).

It appeals to desire to boisterously brag about this physical life (1 John 2:17).

It overwhelms us with cares and pleasures of life (Mark 4:19; Luke 8:14).

The result is that we don't bear fruit.

It focuses us on things of this world that are temporary so that we act as though they are eternal and are the be-all, end-all. These are not unrighteous,

but none are forever and we should always keep that in perspective (1 Corinthians 7:29-31). The time is short and the scenery which makes up the world system is already passing away.

Marriage

Things over which we weep.

Things over which we rejoice.

Purchasing things is OK, but don't hold it as though possessing is everything.

Making use of the world system is OK, but don't use it fully, or fully depend on it.



The believer is not to be fond of or a friend of the world system (James 4:1-4).

<sup>1</sup> Some occurrences of *kosmos* refer to the universe as God's organized creation (Hebrews 4:3), and sometimes to planet earth (John 1:10 the second occurrence in the verse).

## The Believer's Response to the World System

### God's grace trains us as children to say "no" to worldly lusts (Titus 2:11-12).

God's grace has freed us from the sin nature (Romans 6:18).

God's grace has made us slaves of righteousness (Romans 6:18).

God has declared us righteous by His grace (Titus 3:7).

God's righteousness for the believer is primarily worked out by love for other believers (1 John 2:27-28; 3:10- this last one by contrast).

God's house rule of grace and faith comes to its point in love (1 Timothy 1:4-5)

God's grace has joined the believer to Christ in His death.

The believer has been crucified with Christ to the world, and the world has been crucified to him (Galatians 6:14).

### Remember some facts

Christ chose for us to remain in this world (John 17:15).

Christ asked the Father to keep us safe in the world (John 17:11).

Christ did not ask the Father for the world (John 17:9).

Christ was hated by the world and the world hates us (John 17:14).

We are not from this world as our source (John 17:16).

We will not share the judgment of the world because we are not part of the world (1 John 4:17).

Therefore, we live in the world, and are not called to withdraw from the world but to live within the world as a testimony of what God has accomplished.

The world system is passing away (1 John 2:17).

The cravings or interests of this world system are passing away (1 John 2:17).

The one doing God's will (loving other believers) never goes out of style with God and such a believer

is at ease into the age. No matter how the world may change (it is always in flux) doing God's will is always suitable.

The World System operates by fad to fad to fad to fad.

God works by grace and love, and love does not fail (fall away, ends as a fad)

1 Corinthians 13:8

### Believers can use love righteously

The believer is to love God (1 John 4:20; 5:2). Note that we love God by loving His children.

The believer is to love the Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:23; Ephesians 6:24).

The believer is to love fellow believers (John 13:34-35).

The believing husband is to specially love his wife (Ephesians 5:25).

Believing women are to be fond of their husbands (Titus 2:4).

Believing women are to be fond of their children (Titus 2:4).

