

GOD'S FIX-IT TOOL

By Keith Greer

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." {Ephesians 6:11-13} In any battle, soldiers need a good offense as well as defense. The "armor" that we are to wear as Christians, as described by the apostle Paul, can protect us against our adversary, the devil. We cannot have "chinks" in the armor and still stand strong against the powers and wiles of the devil. While Paul certainly does not make a distinction between the various "parts" of the whole armor of God, we do want to take a look at the importance of the "sword of the Spirit" in the life of a Christian.

There was a time, not many years ago, when Christians were known as a group of people who knew the Bible. While others may have criticized us for various reasons, they could not deny the fact that we knew the scriptures. Can the same be said about you, as a Christian, today? How do you handle problems in your life? Do you make excuses, or, do you turn to the scriptures?

"I have trouble controlling my tongue." God's solution is to put different data into the computer! "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man." {Matthew 15:18-20}

"My problem is in returning evil for evil. I want to "get even". Vengeance is not for us to repay but the Lord. "Therefore if your enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:19-21) It is in God's wisdom that we do not let ourselves be consumed by another. One cannot control how another person may act, speak or treat us. Can we control how we react to the actions of another? Christian must take the "high road" and act in a godly manner using God's instructions in our lives.

"I just let things "close in" on me. It seems like my burdens are more than I can bear." Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you. So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" {Hebrews 13:5-6} God cares about each one of us, and with the temptations we face " ... will also make the way to escape, that you may be able to bear it." (1 Corinthians 10:13) When Jesus was tempted by the devil, He responded each time "It is written". (Matthew 4: 1-11) If we would only look to His example, we could overcome many problems in our lives by simply turning to the scriptures for our guidance. God has given us the "blueprint" for our lives. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." (1 Peter 5:8)

No situation the Christian finds himself in in this life can make him sin unless he forgets to use God's "fix-it tool" – His word. God created us with free will and a mind to use it. Yet, so many times in this life we fail in our duties to Him because we don't use the things He left to help us. God's word is a wealth of information in living a godly life – use it! ***