

Through the Bible

EPHESIANS-II

Zac Poonen



Illustrations by Vinay Kuruville

COPYRIGHT ZAC POONEN AND VINAY KURUVILLA

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

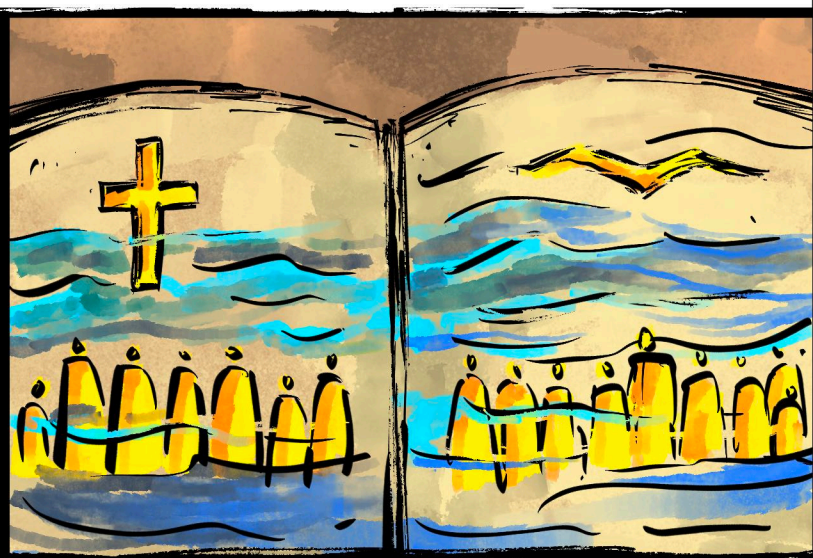
69, PARADISE ENCLAVE, BELAHALLI
KANNUR POST, BANGALORE - 562 149
INDIA



IF THE BODY IS INJURED, CERTAIN PROCESSES START WITHIN IT IMMEDIATELY TO **CLOSE UP THE SKIN**. IT IS THE SAME WHEN A **BONE BREAKS**. THE BODY **IMMEDIATELY STARTS WORKING TO UNITE IT**. A **DOCTOR** CAN ONLY PLACE THE BROKEN PARTS OF THE BONE **NEXT TO EACH OTHER**. IT IS THE **BODY ITSELF** THAT JOINS THOSE TWO PARTS TOGETHER. THE HUMAN BODY **ALWAYS WORKS TOWARDS UNITY**. THAT'S HOW THE **BODY OF CHRIST** ALSO SHOULD FUNCTION.



IF YOU ARE EVEN **SLIGHTLY AGITATED** WHEN YOU **THINK OF A PERSON**, THEN YOU CAN BE **SURE** THAT YOU ARE **NOT UNITED** WITH THAT PERSON. YOU **MAY** GREET HIM WITH AN **EXUBERANT, "PRAISE THE LORD"**, BUT IT IS **HYPOCRITICAL**. **PEACE IS THE TEST**.

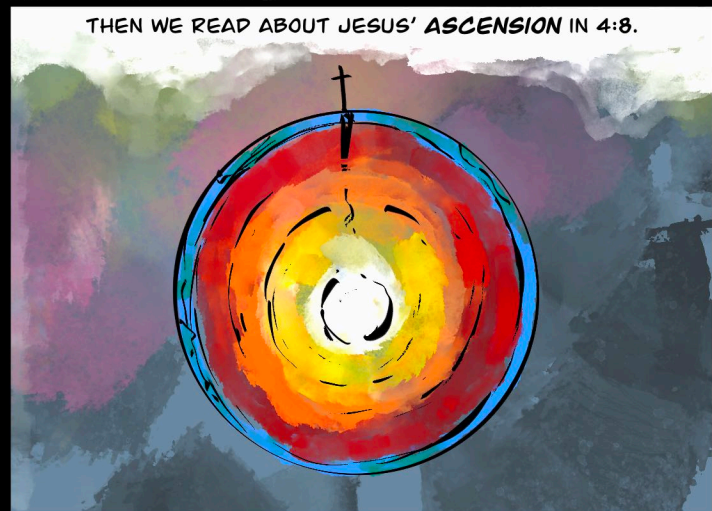


IN 4:5, WHEN IT SPEAKS OF "**ONE BAPTISM**", IT MEANS **ONE SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM**. SO IF YOU WERE **CHRISTENED AS A CHILD**, YOU HAVE NOT BEEN **BAPTISED AT ALL**.

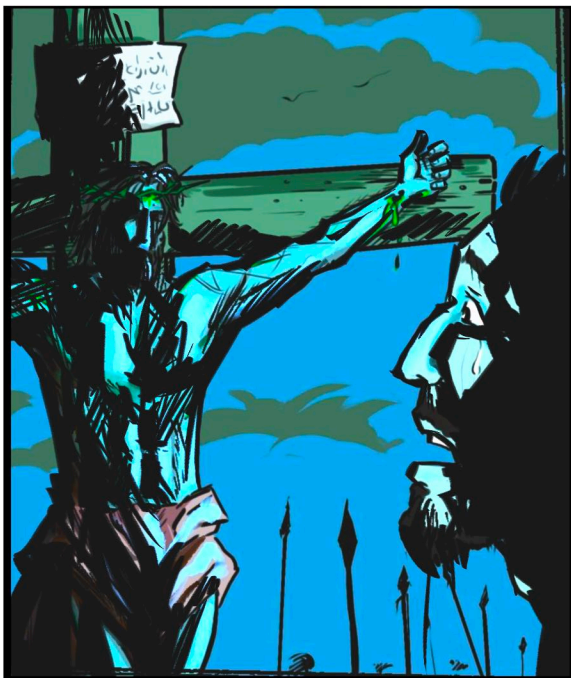
THEN PAUL SPEAKS ABOUT THE **GIFTS** NEEDED TO BUILD UP **CHRIST'S BODY**. IT IS **IMPOSSIBLE** TO BUILD THE CHURCH **WITHOUT THE SUPERNATURAL GIFTS** GIVEN BY THE LORD -- AND GOD HAS A **GIFT FOR EVERYONE** IN **CHRIST'S BODY**: "TO EACH ONE OF US **GRACE** WAS GIVEN ACCORDING TO THE **MEASURE OF CHRIST'S GIFT**" (4:7).



THEN WE READ ABOUT JESUS' **ASCENSION** IN 4:8.



WHEN **JESUS DIED** HE WENT TO THE **HEART OF THE EARTH** FOR THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS AS HE SAID HE WOULD (MATTHEW 12:40).



WE KNOW THAT **PARADISE** WAS, AT THAT TIME, IN THE **HEART** OF THE EARTH, BECAUSE **JESUS** TOLD THE **REPENTANT THIEF** THAT HE WOULD BE **WITH HIM** IN **PARADISE** THAT DAY.

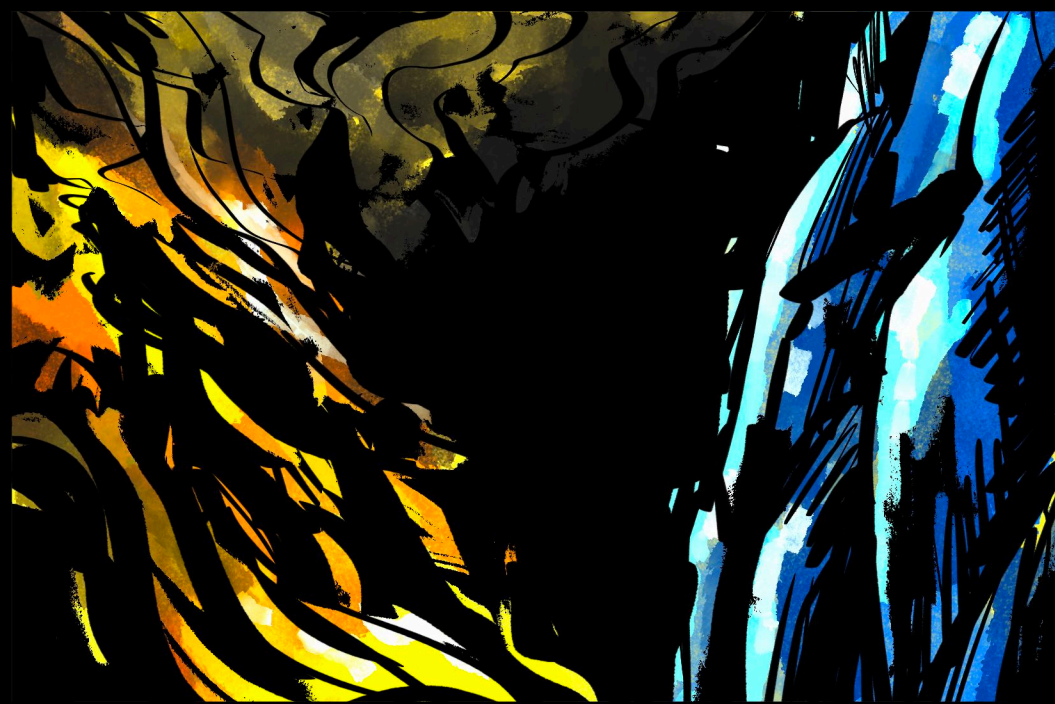


THEN **JESUS** CAME **BACK** INTO HIS BODY (WHICH WAS IN THE TOMB OF **JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA**), CAME **OUT** OF THE **TOMB**, WAS ON EARTH FOR ANOTHER **40 DAYS** AND **ASCENDED** TO HEAVEN



WHEN HE **ASCENDED**, HE TOOK ALL THE **PEOPLE** WHO WERE IN **PARADISE** (WHO HAD BEEN **CAPTIVES** IN THE **HEART** OF THE **EARTH**) UP WITH HIM TO THE **THIRD HEAVEN**.

WE KNOW **TODAY**, THAT **PARADISE** IS IN THE **THIRD HEAVEN**, BECAUSE IN **2 CORINTHIANS 12:2** AND **4**, WE READ THAT **PAUL** WAS TAKEN THERE. AND HE SAYS HE WAS TAKEN **UP** AND **NOT DOWN**.



CHRIST **DESCENDED** FIRST INTO THE **LOWER PARTS** OF THE **EARTH** (4:9). **HELL** WAS ALSO THERE, BUT THERE WAS A BIG **GULF** BETWEEN **HELL** AND **PARADISE** -- AS WE READ IN THE **TRUE STORY** OF THE **RICH MAN** AND **LAZARUS**. **HELL** IS STILL IN THE **CENTRE** OF THE **EARTH**.



AFTER CHRIST ASCENDED UP TO HEAVEN, HE GAVE GIFTS TO THE CHURCH. THESE GIFTS WERE PEOPLE. CHRIST GAVE THE CHURCH APOSTLES, PROPHETS, EVANGELISTS, SHEPHERDS AND TEACHERS (4:11).



THESE GIFTED MEN WERE NOT TO BUILD THE CHURCH BY THEMSELVES. THEY WERE TO EQUIP THE BELIEVERS, SO THAT THE BELIEVERS WOULD BUILD UP THE BODY OF CHRIST. EVERY BELIEVER HAS A PART TO DO IN BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST.



FIRST AMONG THE GIFTED MEN ARE THE APOSTLES. THESE ARE NOT THE FIRST TWELVE APOSTLES ALONE. THE WORD 'APOSTLE' MEANS 'SENT ONE' -- A MAN SENT BY GOD TO A PARTICULAR PLACE AT A PARTICULAR TIME. THEY ESTABLISH LOCAL CHURCHES IN A NUMBER OF PLACES AND APPOINT ELDERS IN THOSE PLACES. HIS RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE FOR THE ELDERS OF THE CHURCHES.

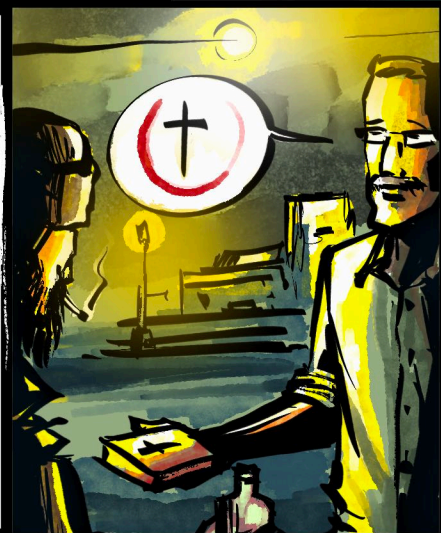


NEXT COME THE PROPHETS. THESE ARE MEN WHO ARE GIVEN THE DISCERNMENT TO DIAGNOSE THE PROBLEMS IN A CHURCH. THEY ARE LIKE GOOD DOCTORS WHO CAN DIAGNOSE A SICKNESS, GIVE HIM THE RIGHT MEDICINE, OR PERFORM THE NEEDED SURGERY, REMOVE THE CANCER AND CURE HIM.

MANY PEOPLE MAY NOT BE HAPPY TO SEE THE RESULTS OF THEIR BODY-SCAN. EVEN SO, MANY BELIEVERS ARE NOT HAPPY WHEN A PROPHET TELLS THEM ABOUT THEIR SINFUL INNER STATE. BUT THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MINISTRY IN A LOCAL CHURCH.

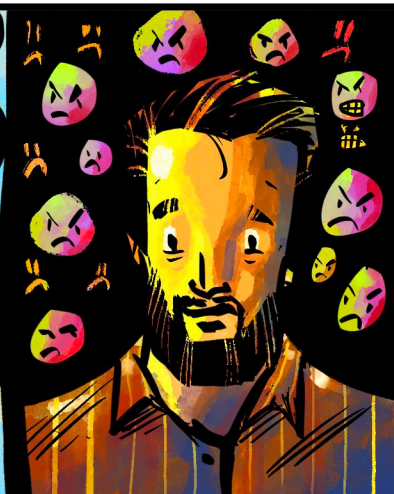


NEXT ARE THE EVANGELISTS. THESE ARE BELIEVERS WHO ARE GIVEN A BURDEN FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD THE GOSPEL AND WHO ARE GIVEN THE ABILITY TO BRING THEM TO THE LORD

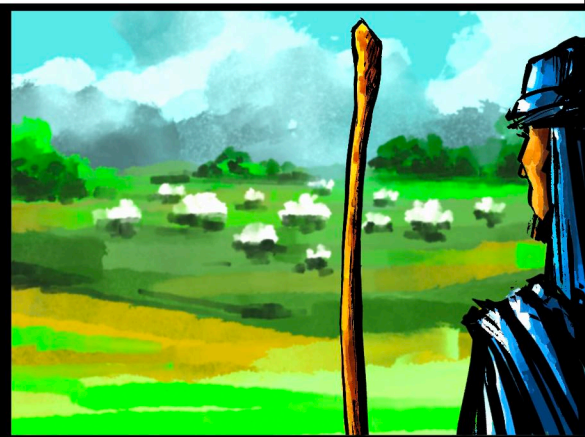




THE **EVANGELIST** IS LIKE THE **HAND** IN THE **BODY** THAT TAKES A **SLICE OF BREAD** (TYPE OF AN **UNBELIEVER**) AND PUTS IT INTO THE **MOUTH**. THE **PROPHET** THEN IS LIKE THE **TEETH** THAT CHEW THAT SLICE AND MAKE IT **SMALL**, AND ALSO LIKE THE **STOMACH** THAT POURS **ACIDS** ON IT AND **REDUCES** ITS SIZE, AND FINALLY MAKES IT A PART OF THE **BODY**.



THE **GENTLE** MINISTRY OF **PICKING UP** THE SLICE IS MORE **APPRECIATED** THAN THE **ACID-POURING** MINISTRY. BUT **BOTH** ARE NEEDED IF THE SLICE OF BREAD IS TO BECOME A PART OF THE **BODY**. SO THE **EVANGELIST** AND THE **PROPHET** HAVE TO **WORK TOGETHER**.



SHEPHERDS ARE THOSE WHO LOOK AFTER THE **SHEEP**, AND CARE FOR THEM WHEN THEY ARE **HUNGRY** OR **WOUNDED**. A **SHEPHERD'S** JOB IS TO **NURTURE** THE **SHEEP**, **TENDERLY** CARE FOR THE **LITTLE** ONES (THE **LAMBS**), AND TO ENSURE THAT THEY GROW UP TO **MATURITY**.



MEGA-CHURCHES ARE NOT IN **GOD'S** PLAN FOR **CHRIST'S** **BODY**, BUT **SMALL** CHURCHES WITH **SHEPHERDS** WHO HAVE A **FATHER'S** **HEART**. **LARGE** CHURCHES ARE ACTUALLY "**PREACHING** **CENTRES**" WHERE PEOPLE COME TO BE **ENTERTAINED** AND **EDUCATED**, BUT NOT TO **GROW** IN **GRACE**. THE **LEADERS** OF SUCH CHURCHES ARE **MERELY** **GOOD** **ADMINISTRATORS** AND **PREACHERS/** **TEACHERS**, BUT NOT **SHEPHERDS**.





FINALLY, WE HAVE THE **TEACHERS**. THESE ARE THE MEN WHO CAN **EXPLAIN** THE **WORD OF GOD** AND MAKE IT **SIMPLE** AND **UNDERSTANDABLE** TO PEOPLE. THERE ARE **NOT MANY GOOD** TEACHERS IN CHRISTENDOM. BUT THEN NOWADAYS, ONE TEACHER CAN REACH **MANY** VIA THE **INTERNET** ETC.



THE **EVANGELIST** MUST **HAND OVER** THE **CONVERTS** TO **GOOD SHEPHERDS**.

UNFORTUNATELY TODAY **EVANGELISTS** CONDUCT **MEETINGS** AND PEOPLE ARE **SAVED (HOPEFULLY)**. THEN THEY TELL THEM TO GO **BACK** TO THEIR **OLD CHURCHES** WHERE THERE ARE **NO SHEPHERDS** OR **TEACHERS** TO LEAD THEM TO THE **TRUTH**.

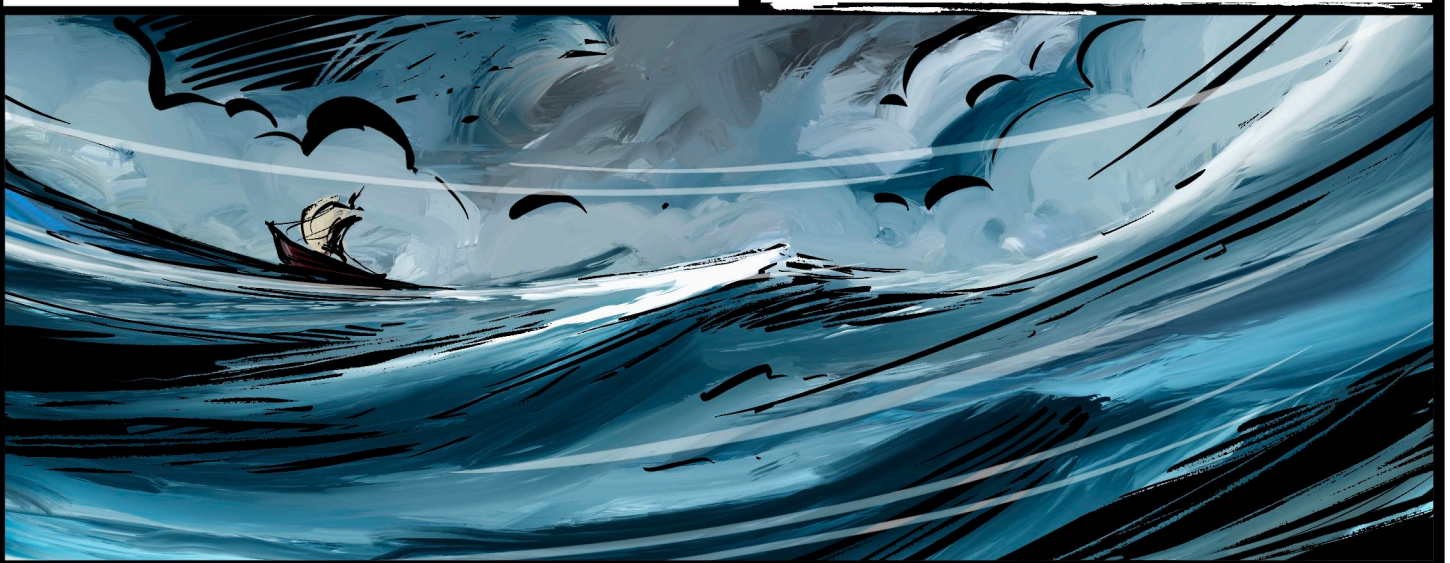
THEN WE ARE TOLD TO **PRESERVE** THE **UNITY** OF THE **SPIRIT ... UNTIL WE ATTAIN** TO THE **UNITY** OF THE **FAITH**" (4:3, 13).



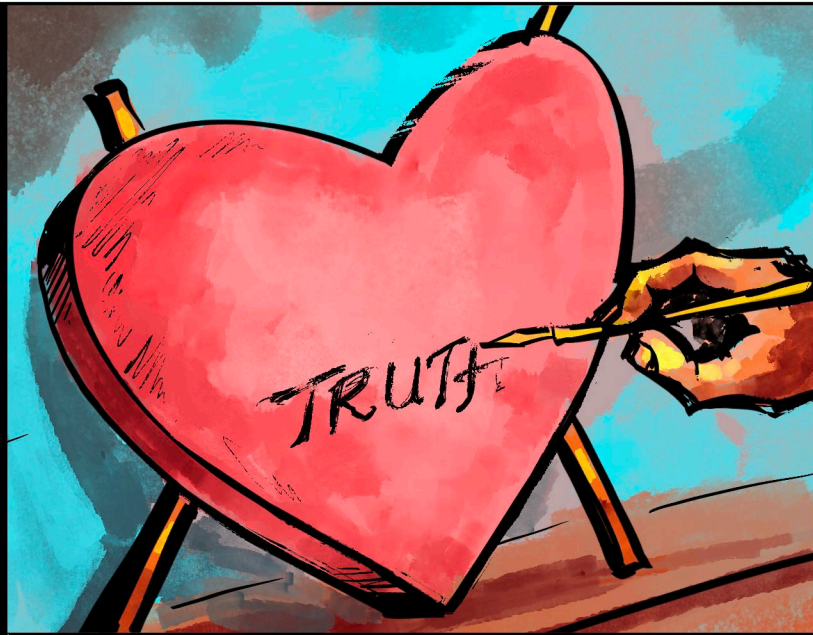
WE HAVE **NOT** ATTAINED TO **UNITY** IN **ALL MATTERS** OF THE **FAITH**. BUT **UNTIL** WE DO, WE MUST BE **UNITED** IN **SPIRIT**.



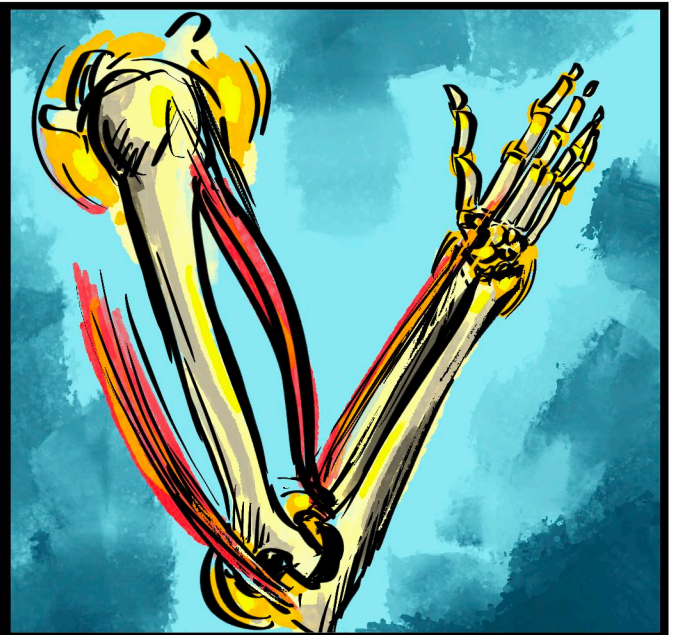
WE ARE TO **GROW UP GRADUALLY** "TO A **MATURE MAN**, TO THE **FULLNESS** OF THE **STATURE** OF **CHRIST**" (4:13). OUR **AIM** MUST BE TO **GROW OURSELVES** AND TO **HELP OTHERS** TO **GROW** TO THIS **FULLNESS**.



WE MUST **NOT** REMAIN **BABIES** "TOSSED HERE AND THERE BY **WAVES** AND CARRIED ABOUT BY EVERY **WIND** OF **DOCTRINE**, BY THE **TRICKERY** OF **MEN**, BY **CRAFTINESS** IN **DECEITFUL SCHEMING**" (4:14). **GOD** **ALLOWS** US TO BE **EXPOSED** TO **DECEPTION** AND **FALSE TEACHING** SO THAT WE CAN **GROW** IN **DISCERNMENT** WHICH WILL **NOT** BE **DEVELOPED** OTHERWISE.



IN 4:15, WE ARE URGED TO "SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE IN ORDER TO GROW UP." NOTICE THERE THE **BALANCE** BETWEEN TRUTH AND LOVE. LOVE IS THE **BOARD** ON WHICH YOU CAN USE THE **PEN** OF TRUTH. IF YOU TRY TO WRITE THE TRUTH WITHOUT A **BOARD** TO WRITE IT ON, YOU WILL BE WRITING IN **THIN AIR**.



THE **JOINTS** REFERRED TO IN 4:16 SPEAK OF **FELLOWSHIP**. CONSIDER HOW MANY **JOINTS** YOU HAVE IN JUST **ONE ARM**...IT IS NOT JUST **STRENGTH** THAT MAKES YOUR **ARM USEFUL**. IT IS ALSO **FUNCTIONING JOINTS**.

CONSIDER THIS - HERE IS A **GOOD BROTHER**, A **STRONG UPPER LEG** AND HERE IS **ANOTHER GOOD BROTHER**, A **STRONG LOWER LEG**. BUT THEY **CANNOT FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER**.. A LOT OF **LOCAL CHURCHES** HAVE **ARTHRITIS**. WHEN OUR **JOINTS** FUNCTION **PROPERLY**, THERE IS **NO NOISE**. BUT WHEN A **BODY** HAS **ARTHRITIS**, IT **CREAKS** AND EVERY **MOVEMENT** PRODUCES AN **UNHEALTHY NOISE**.



DIE TO YOUR "**SELF-LIFE**". THEN YOU WILL BE **HEALED** AND YOUR **FELLOWSHIP** WITH OTHERS WILL BE **GLORIOUS**.



THEN WE HAVE SOME **STRONG EXHORTATIONS** IN 4:17--25: "**DON'T WALK** LIKE OTHER PEOPLE IN THIS **WORLD** WALK. THEIR **UNDERSTANDING** IS **DARKENED** AND THEY ARE **EXCLUDED** FROM THE **LIFE** OF **GOD**. YOU MUST **WALK DIFFERENTLY**. YOU DID NOT **LEARN CHRIST** IN THIS WAY. WHEN WE READ THE **BIBLE**, WE MUST **LEARN CHRIST** AND NOT JUST GET **BIBLE-KNOWLEDGE**.



IF WE LEARN **CHRIST**, WE WILL **NOT** WALK LIKE THE **HEATHEN**. WE WILL **PUT AWAY** OUR MANNER OF **FORMER** LIFE AND WE WILL BE **RENEWED** IN THE **SPIRIT** OF OUR **MINDS** (VERSE 23). WE WILL **PUT AWAY** ALL **FALSEHOOD** (VERSE 25).



IN 4:26, WE ARE EXHORTED TO GET RID OF **ALL** OUR ANGER BEFORE THE **SUN SETS**. IF WE DON'T DO THAT, YOU WILL GIVE THE **DEVIL** AN OPPORTUNITY TO COME **BETWEEN** BOTH OF YOU, AS IN THE CASE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE.



THOSE WHO **STOLE** IN THE **PAST** MUST DO THE **OPPOSITE** NOW. THEY MUST **EARN HONESTLY** AND **SHARE** WHAT THEY HAVE WITH **OTHERS** (4:28).



WE MUST BE **CAREFUL** ABOUT OUR **SPEECH** AND ENSURE THAT **NO WORD** EVER COMES OUT OF OUR MOUTHS THAT **GRIEVES** THE **HOLY SPIRIT** (4:29, 30).



ALL BITTERNESS, WRATH AND ANGER MUST BE PUT AWAY (4:31). I REMEMBER SEEING A BOARD ON THE WALL OF AN **AUTOMOBILE** FACTORY THAT SAID: "OUR **AIM** IS **ZERO** DEFECT". IF AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS CAN PRESS ON TOWARDS **ZERO** DEFECT, WHY CAN'T **CHRISTIANS** ALSO SEEK TO PRESS ON TO THAT?

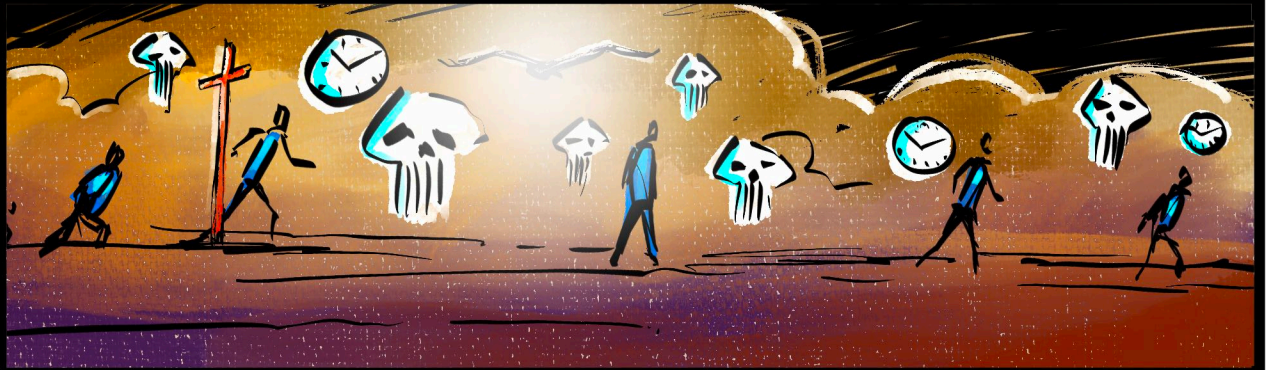


OUR CALLING IN 4:32 AND 5:1, 2, IS TO IMITATE GOD AND WALK IN LOVE.

THEN WE NOTICE IN CHAPTER 5:3--6, THE HIGH STANDARD FOR OUR CONVERSATION. ONE WAY TO AVOID THE NEGATIVE (FOOLISH JESTING AND IMPURITY) IS BY CONCENTRATING ON THE POSITIVE (BEING THANKFUL FOR EVERYTHING). WE SHOULD NOT BE DECEIVED INTO THINKING THAT OUR CONVERSATION HAS NO EFFECT ON OUR ETERNAL DESTINY.



SINCE OUR LIFETIME ON EARTH IS SHORT, WE MUST MAKE THE MOST OF OUR TIME BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL -- KNOWING WHAT GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIFE IS (5:16, 17).



"BE NOT DRUNK WITH WINE BUT BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT" (5:18). NOTICE TWO COMMANDS THERE. MOST BELIEVERS CONSIDER THE FIRST AS A COMMAND ("DON'T GET DRUNK") BUT THE SECOND AS A SUGGESTION ("BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT")!! BUT BOTH ARE COMMANDS -- AND BOTH ARE EQUALLY IMPORTANT.



THE VERB IN 5:18B IS A CONTINUOUS VERB -- IT MEANS "BE BEING FILLED", "KEEP ON BEING FILLED", AND NOT "BE FILLED ONCE". ASK GOD TO FILL YOU WITH HIS SPIRIT ALL THE TIME. SUCH PEOPLE WERE REFERRED TO IN ACTS AS "MEN AND WOMEN FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT".

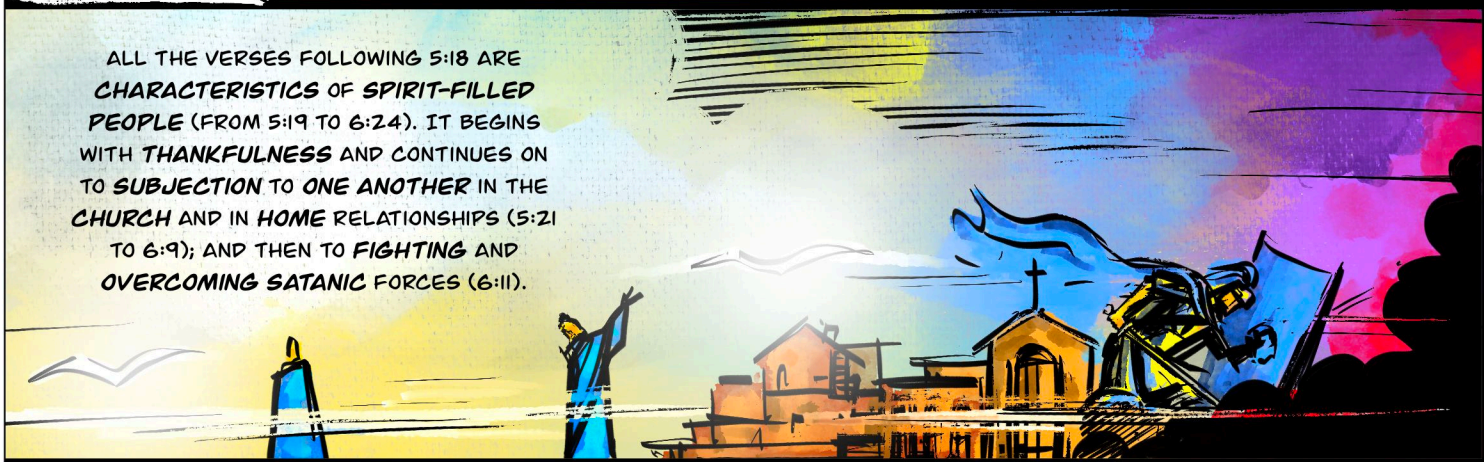


ONE OF THE PRIMARY MARKS OF BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT IS A CHANGE IN THE WAY WE SPEAK. OUR TONGUE WILL BECOME "A TONGUE OF FIRE - OF GOD'S LOVE AND PURITY"

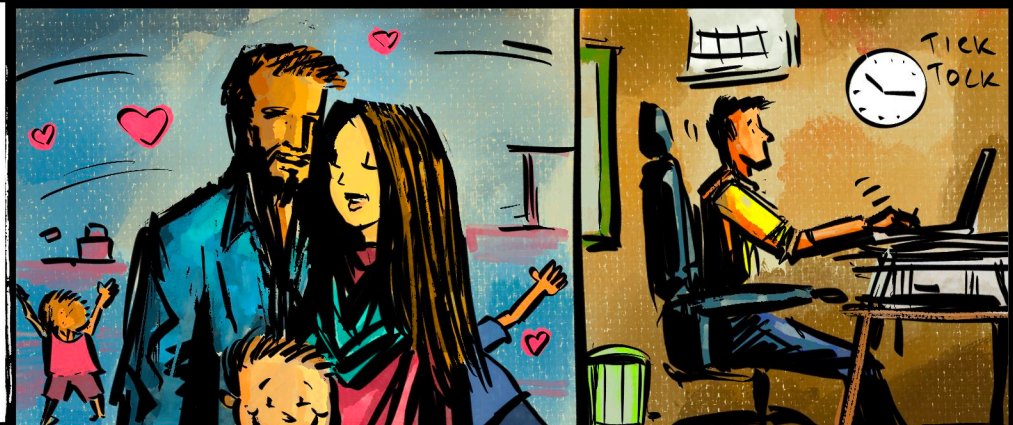
THE SPIRIT OF **THANKFULNESS** (5:19, 20) WILL **REPLACE** THE SPIRIT OF **GOSSIP, SLANDER, BITTERNESS** AND **ANGER** WHEN WE ARE **FILLED** WITH THE **SPIRIT**.



ALL THE VERSES FOLLOWING 5:18 ARE **CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRIT-FILLED PEOPLE** (FROM 5:19 TO 6:24). IT BEGINS WITH **THANKFULNESS** AND CONTINUES ON TO **SUBJECTION TO ONE ANOTHER** IN THE **CHURCH** AND IN **HOME RELATIONSHIPS** (5:21 TO 6:9); AND THEN TO **FIGHTING** AND **OVERCOMING SATANIC FORCES** (6:11).



IN RELATION TO OUR HOME, WE ARE TOLD HERE ABOUT **THREE** RELATIONSHIPS -- **HUSBANDS AND WIVES** (5:22--33), **CHILDREN AND PARENTS** (6:1--4) AND **MASTERS AND SERVANTS** (6:5--9). THIS LAST SECTION APPLIES TO **SERVANTS** WORKING IN OUR **HOMES** AS WELL AS TO THOSE WHO WORK IN AN **OFFICE** -- AS **SERVANTS OF A COMPANY** OR THE **GOVERNMENT**, WITH **BOSSSES** ABOVE US.



THE **FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE** THAT **UNDERLIES** OUR **CONDUCT** TOWARDS **ONE ANOTHER** SHOULD BE: "BE **SUBJECT TO ONE ANOTHER** IN THE **FEAR OF CHRIST**" (5:21). **GOD** HAS DRAWN A **BOUNDARY** AROUND EVERYONE AND WE MUST **ALL RESPECT** THOSE **BOUNDARIES**. THAT IS HOW WE "**HONOUR ALL PEOPLE**" (1 PETER 2:17). **HUSBANDS, WIVES, FATHERS, CHILDREN, MASTERS AND SERVANTS, ALL** HAVE A **BOUNDARY** DRAWN BY **GOD** AROUND EACH OF THEM.

AS A **FATHER**, I MADE IT A **RULE** THAT I WOULD **NEVER PUNISH** MY **CHILDREN** IN THE **PRESENCE** OF **OTHERS** -- WHETHER **VISITORS** OR THEIR **BROTHERS** -- BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE A **DOUBLE PUNISHMENT** FOR THEM. SO A **CHILD** ALSO HAS A **CIRCLE OF DIGNITY** AROUND HIM -- AND HIS **FATHER** MUST **RESPECT** THAT **BOUNDARY**.





IF YOU HAVE A **SERVANT** WORKING IN YOUR HOME, HE HAS A BOUNDARY OF CERTAIN RIGHTS THAT YOU **CANNOT VIOLATE**. FOR EXAMPLE, HE MUST BE GIVEN HIS **SALARY REGULARLY**, HIS **DIGNITY** MUST BE **RESPECTED**, HE MUST **NOT BE HUMILIATED** WHEN HE IS BEING **CORRECTED**, ETC.



IN THE SAME WAY, A **WIFE** HAS A BOUNDARY AROUND HER TOO. I HEARD OF A **GODLY MAN** WHO WAS VERY **ORDERLY** IN HIS WAYS. BUT HIS **WIFE** WAS THE VERY OPPOSITE. SHE USED TO KEEP THE **PLATES AND CUTLERY** IN HER **KITCHEN** IN A VERY **HAPHAZARD** WAY -- ALL **MIXED UP**.



WHENEVER THE **HUSBAND** WASHED THE DISHES IN THE KITCHEN, HE WAS **TEMPTED** TO PUT AWAY THE DISHES AND THE CUTLERY IN THE **ORDERLY** WAY THAT HIS MIND TOLD HIM TO DO IT. BUT HE **KNEW** THAT WHEN HIS **WIFE** SAW THE ORDERLY KITCHEN SHE WOULD GET **DISCOURAGED** BECAUSE SHE COULD **NEVER** ARRANGE THINGS THAT WAY



SO HE **DELIBERATELY** PUT AWAY EVERYTHING IN THE SAME **SLIPSHOD** WAY THAT HIS **WIFE** PUT THEM AWAY, SO THAT **SHE** WOULD **FEEL** QUITE AT **HOME** IN HER KITCHEN. WHAT WAS THE **RESULT**? THEY HAD A **SLIPSHOD KITCHEN** BUT **GLORIOUS FELLOWSHIP** BETWEEN THEM!!



FELLOWSHIP BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN ALSO IS **MORE IMPORTANT** THAN HAVING A **NEAT AND TIDY** HOME. BUT WHEN THEY ARE **YOUNG** AND **PLAY** IN THE HOUSE, IT WILL BE **IMPOSSIBLE** TO **KEEP EVERYTHING** NEAT AND TIDY AT **ALL TIMES**.

IT GOES ON TO SAY IN EPHESIANS 5 THAT A WIFE MUST RECOGNISE THE AUTHORITY OF HER HUSBAND AS HER HEAD. BEING THE HEAD DOESN'T MEAN JUST GIVING ORDERS. IF THERE IS THE SLIGHTEST INJURY ANYWHERE IN THE BODY, THE HEAD FEELS IT IMMEDIATELY AND DOES SOMETHING ABOUT IT. EVEN SO A HUSBAND, AS THE HEAD, MUST BE SENSITIVE TO THE HURTS (EMOTIONAL HURTS AS WELL) OF HIS WIFE.



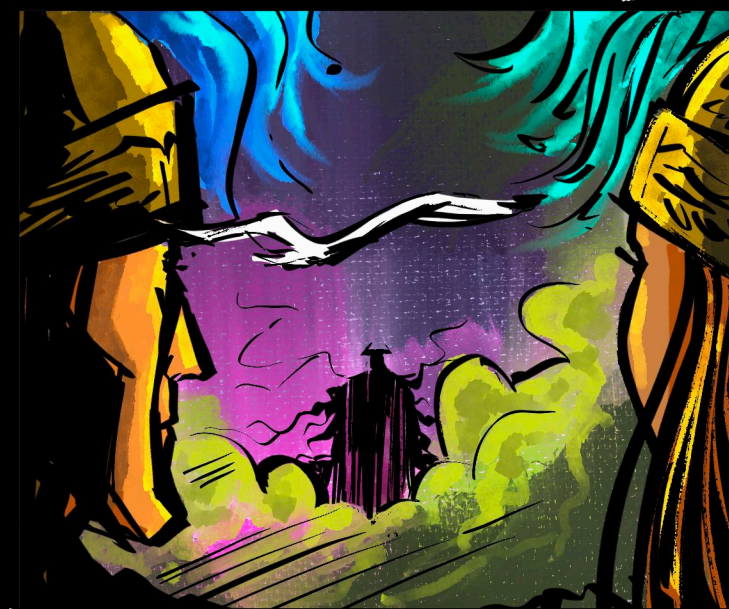
A SENSITIVE HUSBAND AND A SUBMISSIVE WIFE ARE TOGETHER A BEAUTIFUL DEMONSTRATION TO THE WORLD OF WHAT CHRIST AND THE CHURCH ARE.



CHILDREN MUST BE BROUGHT UP TO OBEY THEIR PARENTS (6:1--4).



SLAVES ARE COMMANDED TO OBEY THEIR MASTERS, NOT WITH EYE SERVICE BUT HEARTILY. AND MASTERS ARE URGED TO DEAL WITH THEIR SERVANTS GRACIOUSLY AND WITHOUT PARTIALITY (6:5--9).



IN 6:10--18, WE READ ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE -- WITH SATAN. NOTICE THAT THE SECTION ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE COMES IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SECTION ON THE HOME. THE DEVIL ALWAYS ATTACKS THE HOME FIRST.

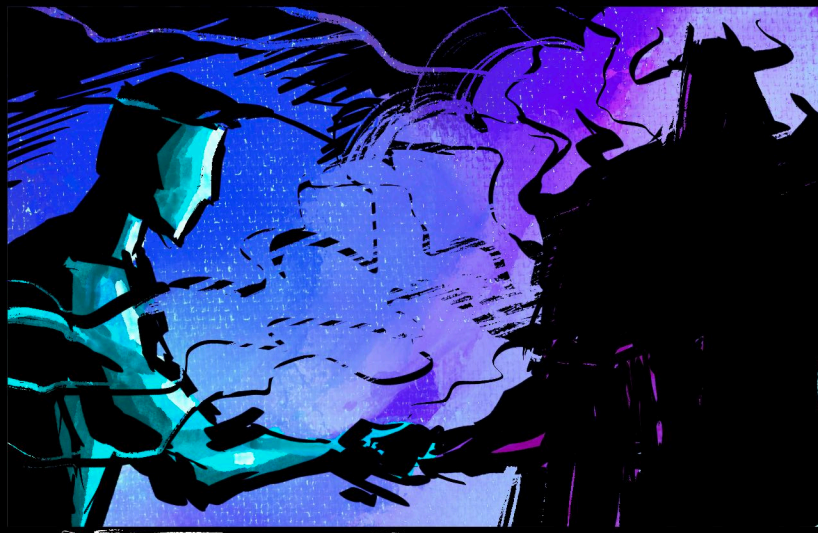


WE ARE TO STAND FIRM AGAINST THE DEVIL AND NEVER FIGHT WITH FLESH AND BLOOD (6:12). THE REASON WHY MANY BELIEVERS ARE OVERCOME BY SATAN IS BECAUSE THEY FIGHT SO MUCH WITH HUMAN BEINGS.

THE ARMOUR IS A PICTURE OF THE MANY PIECES OF SPIRITUAL EQUIPMENT GOD HAS GIVEN US.

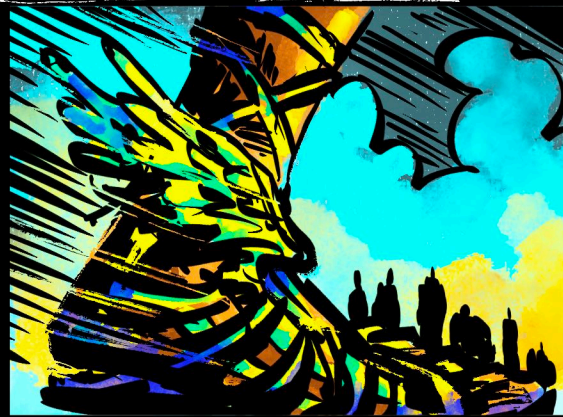


FIRST OF ALL, THE **BELT OF TRUTH**. TRUTH MEANS **SINCERITY, REALITY, NO HYPOCRISY AND NO LYING**.

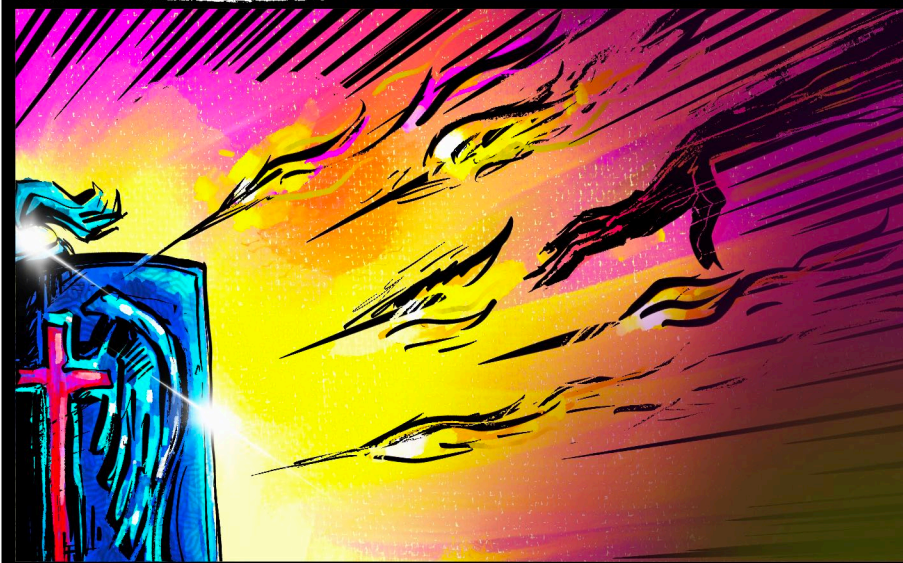


THE **DEVIL** IS A **LIAR** -- AND IF WE HAVE **LYING** IN OUR **INNER** LIFE, **SATAN** WILL HAVE **FELLOWSHIP** WITH US IN OUR **INNER** MAN. THEN WE **WON'T** BE ABLE TO **OVERCOME** SATAN.

THE **BREASTPLATE** IS **RIGHTEOUSNESS**. THERE ARE **TWO** TYPES OF **RIGHTEOUSNESS**--
I. THE **RIGHTEOUSNESS** OF **CHRIST** THAT IS **IMPUTED** TO US, BY WHICH WE ARE **JUSTIFIED** (DECLARED **RIGHTEOUS** BY **GOD** HIMSELF); AND
II. THE **RIGHTEOUSNESS** OF **CHRIST** THAT IS **IMPARTED** TO US, THAT WE **PARTAKE** OF, THROUGH THE **HOLY SPIRIT**, **LITTLE BY LITTLE**, AS WE **GROW SPIRITUALLY**.



NEXT COMES THE **SHOES OF READINESS** TO **PREACH** THE **GOSPEL OF PEACE**. THOSE WHO ARE **LAZY** AND NEVER THINK OF **SHARING** THE **GOSPEL** WITH OTHERS ARE **OVERCOME** BY **SATAN** EASILY. BUT THOSE WHO ARE **ACTIVE** AND **SERVING** THE **LORD** ARE **PROTECTED**.



THE **FOURTH** PIECE OF **ARMOUR** IS THE **SHIELD OF FAITH**. ONE OF **SATAN'S** GREATEST WEAPONS IS TO MAKE US **DOUBT** THE **LOVE** OF **GOD**.



SATAN SOWED A **SEED** OF **DOUBT** IN HER MIND **SUGGESTING** THAT IF **GOD** REALLY LOVED HER, HE WOULD **NOT** WITHHOLD SUCH **LOVELY** FRUIT FROM HER. SHE **FELL** UNDER THAT **MISSILE**.



NEXT COME THE **HELMET OF SALVATION** AND THE **WORD OF THE SPIRIT**. **JESUS** ALWAYS OVERCAME SATAN BY QUOTING **GOD'S WORD**. IN TIMES OF TEMPTATION, WE MUST QUOTE SCRIPTURES SUCH AS, "**GOD WILL NOT ALLOW ME TO BE TEMPTED BEYOND MY ABILITY**" (1 CORINTHIANS 10:13), "**SIN CANNOT RULE OVER ME**" (ROMANS 6:14), "**JESUS IS ABLE TO KEEP ME FROM FALLING**" (JUDE 24). QUOTE **GOD'S WORD** TO SATAN AND HE WILL **FLEE** FROM YOU AS HE DID FROM **JESUS** (JAMES 4:7).

FINALLY, WE MUST **KEEP OUR ARMOUR WELL-OILED**. HOW DO WE DO THAT? "**WITH ALL PRAYER PRAYING AT ALL TIMES IN THE SPIRIT**". PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT IS PRAYER **INSPIRED** BY THE **HOLY SPIRIT** AND **NOT** BY OUR **FLESH**. WE NEED TO PRAY **ESPECIALLY** FOR **GOD'S SERVANTS** WHO ARE OUT IN THE **FOREFRONT** FIGHTING THE **LORD'S BATTLES**.

WITH THE **WHOLE ARMOUR** OF **GOD**, WE CAN **BUILD** THE **BODY OF CHRIST** IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT WILL BE **TRIUMPHANT** AGAINST THE **GATES OF HELL**.