Friday, March 13: Read Ephesians 6:16-17

Now we will take up in prayer the last two armors of God. Read each verse, pray it back to God and by faith, appropriate the resources (armors) he has given you so that you can stand strong.

*The Helmet of Salvation

(Psalm 27:1, Acts 4:12, Ephesians 4:23, Ephesians 2:8)

*The Sword of the Spirit

(Hebrews 4:12, 2 Corinthians 1:20, John 17:17, Matthew 25:35, James 4:7)

To conclude the week, you may want to go back and, through prayer, affirm the value of each armor, thank God for it, and confess its importance to you and your strong standing in the Lord.

Friday: Pray for Our Missionaries

Juan & Adriana Palacios (Angola, Africa), David & Miriam Trott (Cochabamba, Bolivia), Mario Bloise (Argentina), Dan & DeAnn Gerard (San Antonio, TX), , Craig & Shelly Shafer (Sentani, Indonesia), Sue Saunders (Bosnia), Matt and Becky Kooi (Tijuana), Daniel Jezowski (Wycliffe), Andrew & Sara Williams (Ethnos360), Brad and Christa Babjack (University of West Virginia), Salomon and Megan Guzman (Tijuana), Alvaro and Rachel Garriga (Central Asia), William and Salma Garcia (Tijuana church plant), Brendan and Ashley Camp (Columbia)

Focus Four: Be sure you are praying regularly for four people (individuals, couples or families) that you will invite to our upcoming Outreach Sunday with Rod Snow on March 29.

Week of March 8



Spiritual Disciplines Guide:

- *Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading each day.*
- Read the chapters and underline any meaningful verses and take note of specific advise or wisdom gleaned from your reading.
- Note any unclear passages or teaching and seek insight, answers or help.
- Think about what you're reading. Ask:
 - 1. How does this apply to me?
 - 2. Are there any temptations to avoid, sins to confess, commands to obey or promises to claim?
 - 3. What insight do I gain on God, myself, others, or life?
- Ask God to show you any specific action you need to take as you read.

Monday, March 9: Read *Ephesians 6:18-20*

Five times in three verses Paul tells us to pray. Prayer is a key to the spiritual battle. It is also a key to living the Christian life. Read the following verses, take to heart the emphasis on prayer in each verse and assess your own prayer life in light of the word of God. Be ready to make necessary adjustments as God speaks to you personally.

<u>Matthew 5:5-13; Luke 22:31-32,46; Romans 8:26-27; Colossians 4:2-4, 12, 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Hebrews 5:7-10; 1 John 5:16.</u>

Monday: Pray for yourself:

- ---My relationship with God
- —My life roles and responsibilities
- —My personal needs/weak areas
- —My goals and objectives for 2020

Tuesday, March 10: Read Ephesians 6:13

The repeated word in the armor of God passage is the verb *to stand*. Like a boxer, we win the battle when we remain standing and we lose the fight when we fall down. God wants us to be victorious. He has provided all the resources necessary for us to prevail in spiritual temptations and trials. Part of our heritage as God's children is victory. Read the follwoing passages and rehearse the truths of what God offers us now as his people in Jesus Christ. Faith comes by hearing God's word (*Romans 10:17*). Ask God to strengthen your confidence in his victory lived out consistently in your life.

<u>Proverbs 2:6-8; Matthew 12:20; John 16:33; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57; 2 Corinthians 2:13-14; Colossians 2:14-15; 1 John 4:4-5.</u>

Tuesday: Pray for Family and Friends by Name.

Wednesday March 11: Read *Ephesians 6:13-14*

Let's take the rest of the week to practice putting on our amor through prayer. Read each verse and affirm its significance for you through prayer. Thank God for each armor he's given you.

*The Belt of Truth

(John 17:17; John 8:32)

*The Breastplate of Righteousness

(Titus 3:4, Romans 1:16-17, 3:21-22, 2 Corinthians 5:21)

Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church

- 1. <u>Leadership</u>: Pray for God's grace and guidance in Pastor Jim and Pastor David's ministries and families. Pray for Linda Penn in her work at BGCC. Pray for the church council and the various ministry team leaders. Ask the Lord of the harvest to raise up more workers for the harvest (*Matthew 9:38*)
- Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Pray for more musicians to help lead the church in worship, including a pianist. Pray for the development of a youth praise team.
- 3. <u>Fellowship</u>: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers. Pray that we incorporate newcomers into our church fellowship. Pray through this past Sunday's congregational prayer requests.
- 4. <u>Discipleship</u>: Ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries at BGCC. Ask God to bless our small group ministry, to raise up new groups, new teachers and more leaders.

- 5. <u>Outreach</u>: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ. Ask God to embolden our people to intentionally reach out to others, especially through the upcoming Kingdom Projects. Pray for our upcoming Rod Snow outreach on Sunday, March 29.
- 6. <u>Future Faith Goals</u>: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in our 2020 plan as we call our members to a greater love and commitment to the Lord and his service. Ask God to bless our finances so that we can better accomplish his purposes for our congregation.

Thursday, March 12: Read *Ephesians 6:15-16*

Today we'll take up the next two armors. Again, read each passage and turn it into prayer, thanking God for the armor he provides for our defense.

*Shoes of Readiness of the Gospel of Peace

(Romans 1:16, Romans 5:1, Ephesians 2:14-15)

*The Shield of Faith

(Hebrews 11:1,6; Romans 10:17, 2 Corinthians 5:7; 1 John 5:4)

Thursday: Pray for "My World"

(Write down names as God brings people to mind.)

- Neighbors People who live around me.
- <u>People at Work</u> Others God brings into my life. Take note of specific needs around you and ask God what he wants you to do to help. Who can you invite to church this Sunday?
- <u>Community</u> -- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County.
- Pray for the <u>area churches</u> and a greater spirit of unity and cooperation.
- Pray for the <u>community parachurch ministries</u> serving our county, including Beginnings Care for Life Center, Branch County Right to Life, Celebrate Recovery, Coach Eby Youth and Family Center, Damascus Road Ministry, Family Hope Outreach, Forgotten Man Ministries, Foster Closet of Branch County, God's Choice Church, Jacob's Well Ministry, Presbyterian Free Health Clinic, Shelterhouse, Tommy's House, the Gideons and the Bronson Food Pantry.
- America -- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America.