



PURPOSE

LIVE OUT OUR FAITH IN JESUS AND INVITE OTHERS INTO LIFE WITH HIM

CONNECT

LIVE STREAM
live.cornerstonesf.org

CURRENT UPDATE
cornerstonesf.org/update

FOLLOW

[@cornerstonesf](#)

cornerstonesf.org | 415.861.2439 | info@cornerstonesf.org

DEVOTION

GOD AS PROTECTOR

Sam Marcum, Associate Pastor

June 9, 2021

Devotion to God is a commitment to continually deepen our relationship with God and orient our lives around that priority.

PSALM 91:1-5 ESV

¹ He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." ³ For He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. ⁴ He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and buckler. ⁵ You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day.

PSALM 3:3 ESV

But You, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.

We can grow in our devotion to God as we recognize that He protects us physically and spiritually.

EPHESIANS 6:10-13 ESV

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities,

against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ 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 firm.

"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors."

- C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters

EPHESIANS 6:14-18 ESV

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

We can grow in our devotion to God as we realize that He protects us spiritually with His spiritual armor.

continued ►

THE ARMOR OF GOD

The Belt of Truth

John 8:31-32 ESV

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

The Breastplate of Righteousness

Isaiah 33:15-17 ESV

¹⁵ He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, who despises the gain of oppressions, who shakes his hands, lest they hold a bribe, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed and shuts his eyes from looking on evil, ¹⁶ he will dwell on the heights; his place of defense will be the fortresses of rocks; his bread will be given him; his water will be sure. ¹⁷ Your eyes will behold the king in his beauty; they will see a land that stretches afar.

Feet shod with the Gospel

Psalms 1:1-3 ESV

¹ Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ² but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night. ³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

The Shield of Faith

Romans 10:13 ESV

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

The Helmet of Salvation

1 Thessalonians 5:8-11 ESV

⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with Him.

¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

The Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God

Hebrews 4:12 ESV

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

We can grow in our devotion to God as we realize that He has already provided all that we need to live under His protection with freedom and hope.

ROMANS 7:21-25 MSG

²¹⁻²³ It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge. ²⁴ I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question? ²⁵ The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.

1 JOHN 3:19-22 ESV

¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before Him; ²⁰ for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and He knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²² and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him.

We can grow in our devotion to God as we become aware that God may utilize us to protect others.

JOHN 10:27-30 ESV

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13 MSG

No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; He'll never let you be pushed past your limit; He'll always be there to help you come through it.

We can grow in our devotion to God as we see His protection amongst and through our hardships.

DEVOTIONAL CHALLENGE 8: “THE ARMOR OF GOD”

Each day this week, let's prayerfully put on the armor of God:

1. The Helmet of Salvation
2. The Breastplate of Righteousness
3. The Belt of Truth
4. The Shoes of the Gospel
5. The Shield of Faith
6. The Sword of the Spirit - the Word of God
7. Pray - Heavenly Father, protect me today, with salvation in my mind, righteousness in my heart, truth at my core, my feet ready to walk out my faith in the good news of Christ, guarded by my faith in You, and wielding your Word as led by Your Spirit. In Jesus' name.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is your normal response to “outside” threats (anger, passivity, prayer, etc)? How does viewing God as your protector inform or reinforce your responses?
2. What steps can you take to allow God to be your ally against whatever “enemy within” may come up from time to time? How can others help strengthen and reinforce your areas of vulnerability?
3. After reflecting on the full armor of God, which piece do you wear most readily? Can you see areas of the armor that need to be added or strengthened in order for God to bring His protection to you in a more robust way?

For more information about taking steps to draw near to God,
email: info@cornerstonesf.org

Join the Zoom chat at cornerstonesf.org/faithtrack-zoom