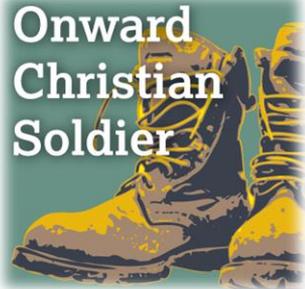


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## ***The Christian Soldier's Response to Spiritual Conflict***

As we read of the war in the Baltics, we are reminded that we are also soldiers of Christ by our calling. We are constantly under attack by the foe, often without us even knowing it. The evil one is diligent to try to tempt and test the saints to cause them to fall into sin or deception or spiritual nonchalance. We need to be ready, equipped, vigilant and watchful to resist the devil in the Lord's strength. The Lord reminded Joshua before the conflict in Canaan in Josh 1:8 saying, *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."*



### **Steps to Resist Evil**

James reminds us to stand up and be prepared to resist evil and to fight back by God's strength and grace, and not our own. Jas 4:7&8 says, *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."*

Let us remember to do 7 things:

1. Submit to God first and draw nigh to Him
2. Resist the devil
3. Confess our sins and repent
4. Cleanse our hearts
5. Be on guard with the times
6. Put on the full armour of God
7. Know the Lord is our Rock / Fortress against all evil.

## Know the Malevolent Methods and Our Vulnerabilities

Satan knows our *Achilles* heel and we need to recognise that we are susceptible to sin and temptation. Be mindful of the following weapons of the foe in these 12 Ds.

1. **Disappointment.** Satan can use setbacks in life to cause us to lose perspective in our calling and service but we need to be faithful and focused on the Master. No matter what happens in the end for the elect, remember Rom 8:28 which says, *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”*
2. **Discouragement.** One of the powerful weapons of the evil one is to dampen our spirits and cause us to give up. But note what David did in 1Sam 30:6 which says, *And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: **but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.*** We need to draw strength and wisdom from the word of God and seek counsel from godly men and press on despite our fears and sadness in the strength of the Lord.
3. **Distraction.** We are all vulnerable to the manifold modern distractions of life, such as hand phone games, movies, small talk, daydreaming, television, Internet, pets, hobbies, etc. Matt 14:30 says, *“But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.”* Stay focus on Christ and His word with prayer
4. **Doubt.** The enemy specialise in creating intellectual doubts in our minds about God and his word and his promises and undermine our faith in Christ. Note Gen 3:1 says, *“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”* Stay faithful and trust God no matter what happens for He will never fail His Word. Faith and the Word of God, not feelings or circumstance, should be the bedrock of our Christian profession. Faith is founded on the truth of God that we should not doubt.
5. **Disbelief.** Together with doubt, sometimes there can be a more intense attack in causing our minds to be in total disbelief of God leading to spiritual indifference or even rebellion. Gen 3:4-9 say, *“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil”*. Know the Word and be informed of the truth that will set you free.

6. **Double-mindedness.** This is a state of mind when we are undecided and even confused and there is disarray in our hearts towards Christ that can render us ineffective for the Lord. Matt 6:24 says, *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”* Eph 4:14 says, *“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.”* Make up your mind and be resolute to serve only one Master and not others.
7. **Despair.** This is a situation of profound distress and even depression when a believer is downcast and most vulnerable to unedifying thoughts or unpleasant events in life. 2 Cor 4:7-9 say, *“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Be patient and wait upon the Lord for his deliverance.”*
8. **Deceit.** This is the number 1 weapon of the evil one when he spread lies and falsehood, and we are easily taken in and fall into the trap easily. 2 Thess 2:8-12 say, *“And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”* (i.e., with regards to false doctrines). Learn to authenticate and verify information and do not believe gossip, tales and false teachings or unproven practices or accusations easily without discerning and knowing the truth of the matter.
9. **Dullness.** This has the sense of both ignorance of God’s Word and indifference. Heb 5:11-14 say, *“Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*

10. **Defilement.** This is where Satan tempts us into sin and we can be affected by it adversely and we need to turn to the Lord and to avoid it and to confess and repent of it and do not give the evil one a stronghold over us. 1 Cor 3:16, 17 says, *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are”*. (i.e. beware of besetting sins). Strive to grow in holiness and not worldliness in this depraved and fallen world.
11. **Discord.** One of the means to destroy the unity of the church is to sow discord among its leaders and members. (Eph 4:3-4) It is normally done by spreading rumours or unsubstantiated statements or differences among its members or leaders and caused some to be dissatisfied and even to spread lies to undermine the harmony of the church. We need to humble ourselves and seek the Lord and the truth and not in a self-centred or subjective or biased manner to the detriment of the church.
12. **Disobedience to God.** The best way to get someone to incur the wrath of God is to tempt him and or her to rebel or disobey God and suffer loss in the process. (Rom 3:23, 1Jn 1:9) For this reason Balaam, the false prophet was able to get Israel into trouble with a temptation in their rebellion against God as he advised Barak the king of Moab with his evil counsel. Confess and repent of your sins if you have disobeyed God and seek his pardon (Num 22-23)

### **Managing Diabolical Wiles**

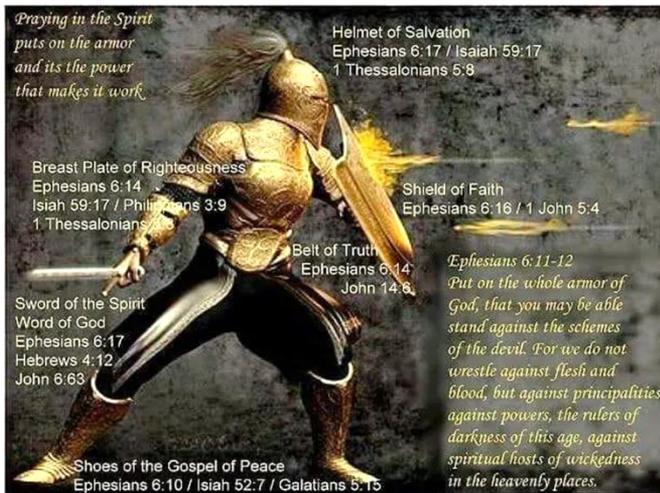
We are engaged in daily spiritual warfare. We need to be vigilant and beware of the temptations and diabolical darts of the evil one. Paul in Eph 6:10-12 says, *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”*

We need to always stay away from temptation and stay close to God in our daily prayer, the reading of and obedience to His Word, the regular worship of the Lord and fellowship of the saints. We have a special weapon. Consider Heb 4:12, which says, *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

## Conclusion

The Christian soldier and the church need to be fit, disciplined, strong in faith and to trust in the Lord always. There is also a need to stay alert and be watchful to deal with the wiles of the evil one biblically.

God is with us and for us if we rely on Christ. He will defend the faithful in the power of His might and not on our strength.



The armour of God that is provided for us must have the support of fervent, watchful and Spirit-filled prayer as Eph 6:18 says, *“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”*

Finally, we have Christ as our Commander, Refuge and Deliverer. We have nothing to fear but to resist evil and to trust and obey our Lord. Paul reminds us in Rom 8:37-39, *“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

*Jack Sin*

# BIBLICAL PARADOXES OF LIFE EXPOUNDED

LORD'S DAY PROGRAM APR-JUN 2022

## APRIL

**FINDING & LOSING ONE'S LIFE**

MATTHEW 10:31-39

**CHOSEN BY GOD & ABIDING**

JOHN 15:1-16

*Good Friday Service*

**DIVINE SATISFACTION AT THE CROSS**

JOHN 19:25-42

*Easter Service*

**OF DYING & YET LIVING**

MATTHEW 28:1-10

**SORROWFUL YET REJOICING**

2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-10

## MAY

**POOR & YET RICH**

MATTHEW 5:5, PHILIPPIANS 4:10-19

**TEMPORAL & ETERNAL**

1 JOHN 5:1-13

**STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS**

2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10

**KNOWING THE LOVE  
OF CHRIST**

**THAT SURPASSES  
KNOWLEDGE**

EPHESIANS 3:11-19

**OF LIGHT & DARKNESS**

2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-7

## JUNE

**OF HOLINESS & WORLDLINESS**

1 JOHN 2:15-21

**OF PERPLEXITY & PEACE**

2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-18

**SPIRIT OF TRUTH VS ERROR**

1 JOHN 3:18-4:6

*Gospel Sunday*

**ENDLESS HOPE OR HOPELESS END?**

ROMANS 5:1-11

**SOVEREIGNHOPE**  
bible . presbyterian . church

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The goody bags for 100 Indian migrant workers at Westlite Dorm after a Seminar on **“How to Cope with Stress”**. Gideon NT Bibles were also given out.

Evangelism at Macpherson Estate with tracts given to residents through the letterbox. Do pray that they will fall on good ground.



## Memory Verse

*Luke 16:31* And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

## Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor speaks today on “**Probing Heaven and Hell**” (**Luke 16:19-31**), being our quarterly Gospel Sunday Service.
3. Pastor speaks next Sunday on “**Finding & Losing One’s Life (Matt 10:31-39)**”, starting a new quarterly series on “*Biblical Paradoxes of Life Expounded*”.
4. Sunday School classes continues after worship service:
  - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
  - Understanding Biblical Eschatology & related Topics – Joseph
  - Studies in Deuteronomy – Dn Kwong Leen
  - Burmese Bible Class - James
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Included in the programme is a study on Church History in China on alternate Sundays. Join us for a time of profitable learning.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church.
7. In accordance with the Vaccination-Differentiated Safe Management Measures (VDS) that is effective from 1Feb, our Sunday worship services are for vaccinated worshippers. The measures do not apply to religious classes ie. Sun School and Bible Study classes and hence all are welcome to attend.
8. **The Church camp will be from 16 -18 June at Changi Cove** on the theme “**Biblical Precepts for a Vibrant Christian Walk**” by Dr Jack Sin. Registration Forms are available from Dn Yue Kay and all are encouraged to register as soon as possible as there is a limited capacity.
9. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 1 Apr 2022, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
10. Those who wish to bring a new friend to the worship service, kindly inform the safety officer Dn Yue Kay or Pastor at least a day in advance.
11. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
12. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
  - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
  - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
  - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

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