

BATTLE READY

MAXIMIZING OUR GOD-GIVEN WEAPONS

THREE AREAS OF READINESS - PASTOR BRAD HOWARD

JANUARY 2, 2021

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

Ephesians 6:10-13 NLT

Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven. This great dragon--the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world--was thrown down to the earth with all his angels. And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 12:7-9, 17 NLT

THREE AREAS OF READINESS

1. WE NEED A CHRISTLIKE ATTITUDE.

Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

Philippians 2:3-5 NLT

"Your life is always moving in the direction of your strongest thoughts."

-Craig Groeschel

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices His life for the sheep.

John 10:10-11 NLT

"Humility isn't thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less."

-C.S. Lewis (from The Ideal Team Player by Patrick Lencioni)

PRIDE - the greatest evil. It was through pride that the Devil became the Devil. Pride leads to every other vice. It is the complete anti-Christ state of mind.

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I (King David) humbled myself with fasting . . .

Psalms 35:13b NKJV

2. WE NEED SIMPLE AND STABLE NEXT STEPS.

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:3 NKJV

"Simplicity is about subtracting the trivial and adding the meaningful."

- *KNOW GOD*
- *FIND HOPE*
- *DISCOVER PURPOSE*
- *MAKE A DIFFERENCE*

. . . take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:17-18a ESV

3. WE NEED TO SURRENDER EVERYTHING TO GOD.

Surrender to God! Resist the devil, and he will run from you.

James 4:7 CEV

But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua 24:15b NKJV