

Bay City Wesleyan Church
December 31, 2017

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Sunday Morning 12-31-2017

Our Challenge for 2017 is to regularly ask Jesus, "Am I following you?"

When was the last time you asked?

<http://bible.com/events/335137>

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[Image]

Claiming the promise in 2018

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"The year 2017 was like licking the beaters on a mixer, while it was still on. Next year I am making sure it is unplugged."

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul wrote about how Jesus can help us deal with "the day of evil." He describes life as a battle zone.

Before we dive into the section on the battles of life, I want to follow the word "power" through this letter.

Ephesians 1:18-21 NIV

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

<https://bible.com/bible/111/eph.1.18-21.NIV>

Ephesians 3:16-21 NIV

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

<https://bible.com/bible/111/eph.3.16-21.NIV>

Let me summarize what Paul says about the Spirit's power.

His power works in us, through us and for us. The Spirit's power raised Jesus from the dead and enthroned him in heaven above all spiritual and physical creatures. His power can do "immeasurably more" than we pray for or dream of praying for. His power strengthens our spirits, so we can begin to grasp Jesus's infinite love and, so we can be filled with the Spirit's presence.

Ephesians 6:10-18 NIV

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

<https://bible.com/bible/111/eph.6.10-18.NIV>

Sermon in a Sentence:

Holy Spirit filled people stand up, stand firm, and stand back up.

[Image]

Prayer for the New Year

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