

The Christian Family in Biblical Perspective
Seven Essentials in the Christian Family – Essential #6
The Assault of the Adversary and His Allies "Lifting the Fog of War"
Ephesians 6:10-20, Ephesians 5:21 – 6:4
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June 14, 2009 – Morning Sermon

We have been studying Ephesians 5:21 through 6:4. In this study we will look at the necessity that follows this marvelous teaching on marriage and the family and submitting to one another in our homes, our marriages and now what does the Lord say to us?

Ephesians 6:10-20 says, **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. 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, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.*

The grass withers and the flower fades. This is God's Word and it abides forever; by His grace and mercy may it be preached for you.

The year was 1969. That was the year I went to war. In March of 1969, even with the opportunities of marriage I went down to Pecan Avenue where I had to take a physical and a test to join the Marine Corp. I took both of them and they called me back to another physical then they sent me home. A couple of months later while I was awaiting orders to go to Paris Island, the orders came and it said, "Unless we declare this a war you are unacceptable." So I went to a 1A to a 1Y and the Vietnam conflict was never declared war so I never got called. So I'm still awaiting orders and I haven't received them yet. One may be thinking, "You just said you went to war in 1969." I did and that was March. In December of 1969 I became a Christian and that was the day I went to war. That was the day I got drafted into the army of the Lord. That was the day I was introduced to the armor of the Lord and the weapons of the Holy Spirit. That was the day I went to war. In a sense it was a great war because the war had already been won.

I was called to battles so I was called to war to battle for my testimony because Satan right from the very beginning attempted to tear it down. I was called to war and battle for my new wife, my first wife and thankfully my only wife. I was in a battle for my marriage. Satan constantly tried to detour me and distract me. After that I was in a battle for three children that were born to us. These were children that I looked through

the window of the infant nursery and I will admit to tears with the excitement of raising these children and then I'll admit to fear because I had been a Christian long enough to know that what I was getting was actually three people dead in their sins with a promise from God, thankfully. God says, "I'll be a God to you and to your children after you" but they were dead in their sins. I was called into the ministry. I have been at war ever since with Satan attacking against the church and inside the church. Satan has been constant and incessant in his assaults like the waves upon the seaside. That was when I went to war, when I became a Christian in 1969. You are at war.

(We have been covering the Christian family. We have been studying it. It's no accident that when the Apostle Paul says, "I want you to be filled with the Spirit" says the evidence will be that you will submit to one another. Then he tells husbands how to submit to their wives by loving them sacrificially and leading them as servants. He tells wives how to submit to their husbands by coming along side of them, being their helper, completer and respecting and honoring them as their husband. He tells parents how to submit to their children by raising them in the nurture and admonish of the Lord, to know the Lord, love the Lord and serve the Lord. He tells children how to submit to their parents by honoring and obeying them. Paul goes on to deal with other institutions such as the slave/master and the governor/citizen.)

After he gives all of this order of the Christian life to show forth the power of the Spirit in our lives, he then immediately goes to spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6:10 by putting on the armor of God. Stand firm. Fiery darts are coming in schemes of Satan. You stand against cosmic powers. You will wrestle but you do not wrestle against flesh and blood. You wrestle against cosmic powers. It is no accident that he goes to spiritual warfare.

When I was preparing for the ministry there were a couple of things that PCA pastors did. One thing they did was they bought a blue blazer and khaki pants which was their uniform. I still have my first one and I have it on today. Probably every PCA pastor that you will meet that is near my age will also have a book titled The Christian in Complete Armor by William Gurnall. This book is 1600 pages and it is on the 11 verses from Ephesians 6:10-20. The next thing I know is every PCA pastor that is my age with this book hasn't read it yet. This is one of the most overwhelming books you have seen in your life. I remember reading it and thinking, "My goodness if he spent 1600 pages on 11 verses what in the world am I going to do trying to preach through the Bible. I couldn't do that even in my whole life!" But what William Gurnall is telling us in this book is not how to preach and that 1600 pages is required for 11 verses in expositional preaching yet he would certainly tell us to preach expositionally.

The reason he took that much time on these verses is because William Gurnall believed and knew that this was the key text on spiritual warfare because Jesus Christ does not want you to cope. Jesus Christ wants you to be an overcomer. He not only wants you to stand firm but He wants you to take the enemies captive. He wants you to walk in the triumph of Christ. Gurnall spent all this time because he believed that this was the Christian life.

Brothers and sisters I am fully aware that as we have walked through the five essentials that we have covered that you are in a war. (We have covered the essential that Truth trumps technique. We are not looking at techniques to survive a marriage or stay married. We are looking at the Truth of God's Word about what it means to be married,

what it means to commit in marriage, what it means to raise a family for the Lord. We are looking at God's wonderful design of a miracle where one plus one equals one. It's this covenant of marriage that by the way is only a temporary institution pointing to the permanent relationship of Christ and His bride, the church. We have covered the essentials of a husband who loves sacrificially and leads as a servant. We have covered the essentials of a wife who with fear less and faith fullness comes along side of her husband to respect him.)

I know that if you are committed to this Christian life for the Lord, in your marriage and in your family then you are in a war. Most of us think of spiritual warfare as a subset of the Christian life. I'm a victim to this as well. People say, "Pastor I sense that I'm in a period of spiritual warfare." If you are living the Christian life spiritual warfare is not a subset of the Christian life, it is the Christian life. You are always in the battle. The only time Satan leaves you alone is if you have decided to retreat to the rear, or given up on your marriage or your family or your children or if you have conformed to the world or if you have given up on His church or evangelism. If you have retreated to the rear then Satan will leave you alone but if you're in the battle and you're living for Christ then you are at war. You need the full armor of the Lord.

As many of you know I have had the opportunity to use as a bridge for communication the lives of Civil War generals and I enjoy doing that. One of them is Stonewall Jackson who in the smoke of battle and in the dusk of a night was shot by his own men. We are fully aware of that and in every war you hear about friendly fire. You hear about miscommunications. You hear about lost opportunities. Why? It is because whenever there is war and conflict there's a fog and the fog of war many times distracts us or discourages us. In this study I want to take what I feel highly constrained by and at least enumerate the five powerful things that God has given you for your warfare to lift the fog of war. You are at war and you have an enemy. The enemy is inside of you and outside of you. Satan is your enemy outside using sin and sin is your enemy inside of you.

Romans 7 is a very interesting text of Scripture that talks about the conflict of the Christian life. Romans 7:13-25 says, **13** *Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. 14* *For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. 15* *For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16* *Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17* *So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18* *For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19* *For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. 20* *Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 21* *So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22* *For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23* *but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24* *Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25* *Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.*

Here Paul is saying I'm converted and I have this new desire. All things have become new but I still have this old man tied to me. When he is talking about that body of death he is referring to the act if someone committed a capital crime and killed somebody, before they were put to death, for three days they would have to walk around the city with the corpse of the person they killed strapped to their back. It was called the body of death. Paul says, I'm converted, I'm a new man, I have a new life I want to live but I have this body of death strapped to me and I have to get rid of it every single day. How do I do that? I do that through Jesus Christ. I put on the whole armor of God. I die to myself but I've got a war outside of me in the world as Satan through demonic activity, through temptation, through the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the boastful pride of life and with all of his allies with powers of tyrants in a world that is against me so I have a war against me on the outside and I have a war going on within me. I have an old man who keeps wanting to rise up to the ascendancy of my new heart and my new life. I've got this war going on inside of me and outside of me.

I know Jesus has won the victory. Satan has been defeated. Sin has been defeated but Satan and sin have not yet capitulated and surrendered even though they have been defeated. Satan, the demonic forces and sin has broken into the highways and the byways to ambush, to terrorize and to do anything and everything possible. The Lord continues to show His glory by giving us the victory over this defeated yet not surrendered foe of Satan and sin. But Paul reminds himself that Satan and sin, though both defeated, is still greater than me. Paul says, "I am inadequate for this task. Satan and sin is superior to me and I am insufficient for the task" but thanks be to God through Jesus Christ, I have those powerful assets that He has given me that I might walk in the triumph of Christ as a man, as a husband, as a father, as a servant of Jesus Christ.

Now, what are they? I want to give you the five powerful assets the Lord has given you to fight these battles day by day to win the victory over a defeated yet not surrendered foe who has laid traps, ambushes, discourages you, wants to lead you to despair, destroy your family, and distract you. The first one God has given you is the power of the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit. In Acts 1 what did Jesus say to His disciples? He didn't say, "Alright I'm going to send you out to make disciples of all the nations so run out there and get started." No, He said, "Go to the upper room and when you get there I want you to seek the face of your Father because I am going to send the Promised One that the Father has promised is going to be sent to you. When the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power." It is absolutely ignorant and arrogant of us to think that I can serve Christ effectively out of my own strengths, abilities and resolve. No, I must surrender to the Holy Spirit.

In Romans 8 by no accident does Paul follow up with the ministry of the Holy Spirit when he gives us this challenge of the war that is within us in Romans 7. In Romans 8 he gives us the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:5-7 says, *5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.* For without the Holy Spirit I cannot know, follow and love Christ according to His Word.

He goes on to say in Romans 8:8, 9; *8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God*

dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. If you are a Christian you have the Holy Spirit within you according to this passage so away with any false teaching that would tell you when you come to Jesus you now have to go get the Holy Spirit. You cannot come to Jesus without the Holy Spirit. You have been born again of the Holy Spirit. You didn't come to Christ to get regenerated. You were regenerated and that is what brought you to Christ and until then you were dead in your sins. Now He has brought you to Christ and now that you are in Christ you have been baptized with the Holy Spirit. You have been sealed with the Holy Spirit. So why am I so passionate about this? It is because you have the Holy Spirit but you can ignore Him, quench Him and grieve His work in your life. You can ignore Him by attempting to do it on your own.

Four years ago I was at a retreat with 5 or 6 pastors and we decided to do a cultural thing. We went to a movie theater, divided up to go see some movies and then came back to try and talk about the life views behind them. I'm not even going to mention the one I was assigned to and within about 3 minutes I just couldn't handle it. I know somebody had to deal with that movie because a lot of people were being drawn to see and some Christians needed to see it and deal with it. But as I sat there I was so grieved and I sensed I was grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit as I was hearing the language and what I was seeing. I looked to the guys along side of me and said, "Gentlemen, I sense the displeasure of God upon my soul in this place." I had to get up and leave.

Where am I going? What am I doing? What am I watching? What am I listening to? Am I walking in the Spirit or am I grieving Him? You can't live in the triumph of Christ without the Holy Spirit. You have Him, so don't grieve Him. Don't ignore Him. Don't quench Him. Surrender yourself to the Holy Spirit. So the takeaway in your life, your marriage and in your family is I want you to intentionally surrender to the Holy Spirit by walking in the way of those things that He uses in your life, like worship, the ministry of the Word, the reading of Scripture, be in the work of the Holy Spirit.

What is the second thing God has given you for power? The second powerful thing He has given you is the power of the Word of God. I hope and pray you have a Bible but I hope it's not sitting on your coffee table and you think magically it's going to emanate out into you life and change you. No, you have to get into it. You have to lay hold of it. You have to devour it, memorize it, and meditate upon it. It is said of the Word of God in Hebrews 4:12; *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.* It is powerful.

When I came to Christ, one of the first men that came to preach at this little Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina was named Kyle Therman. He was recording the days when he was in Bible College and he used to go out and do street preaching where it was hard to get a crowd. So he figured out a way to get a crowd. He would put his hat on the ground, start running around it and say, "It's alive. It's powerful. It's alive." Somebody doing that will eventually draw a crowd. When he felt he had enough people there he would reach over, pick up the hat and underneath the hat would be his Bible. He would say, "It's alive and powerful, now let me tell you what it says..." I don't know how long the crowd stayed but he did get a crowd whenever he did that. The Word of God is powerful but don't leave it in the case.

So what is the takeaway to embrace the power of the Word of God in my life? This is found in Acts 17:10, 11; **10** *The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue.* **11** *Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; **they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.*** How can I use the power of the Spirit of God? Surrender to Him and walk in the Spirit to receive His power. Don't grieve Him. Don't quench Him. How do I get the power of the Word of God? Do two things. Read it thoughtfully and study it systematically. How often should I read my Bible? You should read it daily. Examine the Scriptures daily. Secondly, hear the Word of God preached. One of the most important decisions any Christian makes is what preaching they listen to and how they prepare to listen to it. I believe, that is the most important decision you make in your life. They heard the Word with eagerness and they examined the Scripture. Your takeaway is personal and systematic reading of the Scripture in your personal life, in your married life and in your family life. Get this powerful weapon there.

I'm going to say something here that I'm probably going to get in a lot of trouble on but it won't be the first time. I understand how we like to sit with our friends and that's fine but I believe with all of my heart that one of the best things that you can do is to prioritize the hearing of God's Word. I also hope and pray that when you come to church you're not hearing me but you're hearing the preaching of the Word. If the preacher isn't faithful to God's Word then find one. One of the most important things in your life is the gathering of your family on a regular basis for the hearing of the expositional preaching of God's Word and I would strongly encourage you to sit together as families. On Sunday nights okay you can divide up but at least on the Lord's Day morning sit together as a family. Then on the way home or around the meal time talk about what you heard, what you learned and draw from it as a family. Being together as a family, as a married couple with the family of God to hear the Word of God preached, is so important.

The average attendance of the average church member today in the United States of America to the preaching of the Word of God is one out of every four Sundays. Harry, don't you want me to have a vacation? Sure, call me and I'll give you a church to go hear God's Word preached while you're there. We don't take vacations from the Lord's Day. We don't take vacations from the preaching of the Word. I need it every week. I need it constantly. There is this regular attendance unto the pastoral expositional preaching of the Word of God. That is a foundational practical commitment that is built upon 7 days a week, reading, studying to show yourself approved as a workman not needing to be ashamed, handling accurately the Word of Truth.

The third gift is intercessory prayer. In Ephesians 6 Paul said, "Pray for all the saints, stand firm by praying prevailingly, continually." This is intercessory prayer in your personal life and in your family life. There is power in intercessory prayer. You need to engage in it. You need to be constantly calling upon the Lord. Here you have the Holy Spirit who then brings you to the Word and as you hear the Word taught and preached and you study the Word He opens your mind and heart. So you have the Spirit of God, the Word of God and then prayer to God, intercession to Lord, now having heard Him I speak back to Him.

What can I talk to the Lord about? You can talk to Him about anything and everything. Be anxious about nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God (Philippians 4:6). Constantly be with Him. Have regular times of prayer. Have spontaneous times of prayer, instantaneous times of prayer, appointed times of prayer so that we are praying at all times. They devoted themselves to the Apostles teachings, to fellowship, to the breaking of the bread, to prayers plural, prevailing prayer in our life.

When I was a new believer I went back to East Carolina University and this was before the Lord called me into the ministry. I couldn't find a Presbyterian church so I went to a Freewill Baptist Church and they asked me to be the youth director. So they ended up with a good reformed Presbyterian youth group in the Freewill Baptist church. I had a great time there. It was a wonderful time. Great people were there. I learned so much from them. Before Cindy and I left there to go to Covenant College there were ten women at Trinity Freewill Baptist Church whose husbands did not know the Lord. Satan was winning the battle in their home. These women got together once a week to pray for each other and their husbands. Now I only had the chance to see three months of that but at the end of three months 7 of the 10 men had come to Christ. You have not because you ask not and when you do ask you ask wrongly to consume it upon yourself. Intercessory prayer is the unused weapon of power that the Lord has given to us.

The fourth gift of power from the Lord is the powerful weapons that God has designed for us. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 says, **3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, 6 being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.** So what are the weapons of the Spirit? Preaching and prayer are two which we have already covered. Fellowship of the saints is a wonderful weapon. Serving together in the body of Christ is a wonderful weapon. The Lord's Supper, the sacraments of the church and worship are wonderful weapons. The Lord's power inhabits God-centered, not worship-centered worship but God-centered worship. The Lord's power comes to such occasions. So do not be indifferent to your family. You are at war but do not be arrogant to think that your family is all you need. You need God's family, God's army, to be connected to God's people. You need to be united with God's people. One cord, if Satan can isolate an individual or a family he will do it but two cords, the three woven together. This is when the people of God are united to each other, encouraging one another.

The takeaway for this gift is the weapons of the Spirit that have been deposited in the church of Jesus Christ to be used in your life, connect meaningfully your family to the family of God. Enlist your family in the army of the Lord that you are a vital part of it – no drive by church for me. I want to be a member of the body of Christ. One of the things that I think is very practical to do all this is of course family worship. I want to make my plea for family worship. You can have grapefruit strength. That means when you get my age you can't eat eggs, ham and bacon any more you have to eat grapefruit. So when you pick up the grapefruit, pick up God's Word and pray personally in the morning. Get some grapefruit Christianity going. Then when you have your evening meal, pull your family together. Our family just gets up on the bed. I have had to keep getting bigger and bigger beds. My children have left the home but when they come back

to visit at 9:30pm they show up on the bed. My daughter used to embarrass me all the time. She would have friends over to spend the night and all of a sudden I'm in my bed attire and she shows up with her friends. She would say, "Daddy aren't we going to have family worship? I want my friend to participate."

There are all kinds of things you can use to pull all this together. We love to use table talk. I don't have any stock in this but I just think it's one of the best ways to read the Scripture, get good teaching personally or with your family. We have used the Check book of Promises (God's Promise to Every Christian) by Charles Spurgeon. We have used the devotional book Our Daily Bread. Do you remember me talking about my fifth grade Sunday school teacher, Miss Allison? When I got married she didn't forget about me even though everybody at that church thought I was gone, hopeless, she didn't give up. On my wedding day she gave us the book Morning and Evening by Charles Spurgeon and it has been of un-inestimable value for our family. The Word of God, prayer to God, walking in the Spirit of God, using the weapons of the Holy Spirit and being connected are invaluable to you as a Christian. Be connected in your family with worship and then with worship in the family of God. These are the weapons of the Spirit. Don't be indifferent or arrogant. Be embracing passionately.

The fifth and final gift is the power of the cross and the Gospel. That cross where the Gospel of grace flows, where the love of God met the holiness of God, where the glory of God met the sinfulness of man, man had God one time where he could put his hands on Him and he crucified Him where you see our sin at the cross and on that cross you see the love of God who paid for all of our sins and it is from that cross that the power of the Christian life comes. It is in that cross that I am forgiven of my sins. It is by that cross that Jesus Christ has purchased the right to send the Holy Spirit into my life and declared me holy. It is at that cross that all my condemnation has fled away. It is at that cross that I am reminded that I am kept in the grip of the Lord. It is not my grip but His grip that keeps me. It is that Gospel that keeps me. For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord to everyone who believes (Romans 1:16). It is that cross that you stay fixed on. It is Christ and Him crucified and that cross that you see the love of God that propels your love to God in Christ. You begin to love all that He loves. You love His Word, His Spirit, His church, the lost and all of those things that He loves because He first loved you. It is that cross that liberates you from fear and instills in you the powerful movement of the love of God in Jesus Christ in your life.

It is that cross that brings victory in the home because when you go to bed at night you are laying beside a sinner and that's the one you said, "I do" to. She or he is a sinner and you are a sinner. Then we have children. When I am baptizing these babies, holding them, thanking God for His promise but realizing what I am holding, a sinner. Remember, the poison of asp which I can hear as I hold them, saying, "Sssss, sssss." My children that I brought home are covenant vipers in diapers. Where is my hope? It's the cross! It there He makes you overcomers.

I took off from Scottsdale and landed in Dallas. Storms came through and they took us off the plane. Tornadoes and storms came through the Dallas/Fort Worth airport. I was watching it through the windows and hadn't seen a show like that in all of my life. After the storms passed through we got the plane and they said we would take off. I was headed back to Charlotte and I was thinking even though I hadn't paid a lot of attention

in my geography class, those storms were headed east and northeast which was where I was headed. Even I could figure out that we were going to catch up with those storms or we were going to be flying really slow. Sure enough, we caught up with them. I experienced turbulence like I have never before experienced in my life. I don't ever want to go through that kind of turbulence again. I love a little bit of turbulence because it opens up some evangelism opportunities but that was too much. I had a lady sitting next to me who had bribed the flight attendant to get her double margaritas and I have the Bible open holding on praying, "Lord, I'm ready to go but I'd like to go straight up and not down and up." I was negotiating. I remember baggage coming out and everything is happening. Then I remember the pilot coming on saying in this calm voice, "Folks, we have encountered some turbulence. I have gotten clearance so you will be hearing the engines being given power for us to ride to another level above the turbulence."

Satan loves to use two vacuums in your life. One is the vacuum of relationships. Do you know how cults succeed? Every cult exists because of the unpaid bills of God's church not properly teaching and the other vacuum is of sound doctrine. That's how the world gets you and that's how cults get you. But there is power in the Word, there's power in the Holy Spirit, there's power in prayer, there's power in the weapons of the Spirit and there's the power of Christ from the cross, the Gospel. The Lord does not promise to take out the turbulence. He does promise to give you the power to overcome it and the triumph of Christ, you and your household. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the time we could be together in Your Word. Thank You for the privilege to briefly walk through these. Father, I pray that in this congregation that men and women have made that first commitment to Christ and now commit themselves and their families to Your Holy Spirit, not to grieve Him, quench Him but to surrender to Him. The Word of God, intercessory prayer, the weapons of the Holy Spirit deposited in the church of the living God, the army of the Lord and the power of the cross which all bids us, come die and live. I ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.