

SUIT UP FOR BATTLE: Pastor George Everard - 24/07/2011

Acts 4:26 "The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One."

Introduction:

1. We live in a hostile world, a world that has lost the value and the meaning of life; the values of God are no longer considered valuable – God's main value LOVE.
 - Man has clothed himself in a suit of self righteousness and has become a god unto himself.
 - He has clothed himself in the pleasures of this world and his world revolves around money sex and power!
2. As we look at the world, at times we might feel intimidated by it as the world seems to be prospering and having fun.
 - But the apostle John reminds us this in his writings; ***He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*** (1John 4:4)
 - No matter the opposition we face in the world, the world is a defeated foe.
 - The battle that we face every day of our lives is a spiritual battle and we must be suited up to overcome the attack which comes in many various forms!
3. As we suit up in Christ, we walk under His anointing, an anointing that has defeated the devil and his demons.
 - When Jesus came out from the Jordan, baptised as a man and rose from the water filled with God's Spirit.
 - The confirmation He was the one – Holy Spirit clothes Him for a battle set before Him.
 - There is a battle set before us – check your suit!

SUITED UP; MAN YOUR STATION

1. When we face the battle that is raging before us, we need to check if we have the right armour on.
 - We will not be able to man our stations effectively if we are not properly equipped – suited up!
 - Paul writes to the Ephesians as says; ***Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.*** (Eph.6:11)
 - The devil has a scheme and if his scheming could cause Adam to fall who was in a perfect environment, what will the outcome of his scheming do to your life!
2. We have no excuse when it comes to the sin we constantly fall into – we fail to suit up in our armour given.
 - Look at what Paul says about our battle; (vs12) ***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.***
 - To walk in the victory that God desires for each of us we must understand that the attack is against ***his Anointed One!***

3. Let us look at the ARMOUR; ***the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace, 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.*** (15-17)

SUITING UP WILL ALLOW YOU TO STAND YOUR GROUND

1. Having a new nature does not put an end to the old nature that we have become so familiar with.
 - As far as God is concerned, the old nature is dead but our old nature still wants to argue this point – our old nature still wants to take control.
 - If we are going to be effective in our stand against the onslaught of the enemy, we need the ‘SUIT OF GOD.’
2. Paul understood the working of the armour that protected the soldier in battle.
 - Our greatest battle that we face in life is the protection of our heart – not allowing our heart to turn from God.
 - When Adam fell he turned his heart from God and gave the fruit of this world the passage into his life.
 - The human heart is a battleground that the devil wants to win over and will use the things of this world.
 - We need to be constantly on guard of where we place our heart and where our heart is heading.
 - The Israelites were in a constant battle with their heart, they always longed for Egypt.
3. In Egypt they were not in a place of freedom, they were beaten, they were killed, their children were killed, yet their hearts were constant longing for Egypt.
 - This world has nothing positive to offer one but yet man will do everything in his power to stay in the world.
 - In our daily battle with sin we need to guard our hearts, Proverbs 14:30 says; ***“A heart at peace gives life to the body, ...”***
 - On what do you set your heart each day?

SUITING UP WILL ALLOW YOU TO TAKE BACK GROUND

1. To be victorious in our daily battles we need to be alert at all times - a soldier on a front line never drops his guard.
 - Many Christians fail to realise the intensity of the battle we are in – if you were in a natural battle, with bullets flying, the wounded are all around, bombs exploding all around, you will be alert!
 - As Christians, we living in a dark world – we are in a spiritual war zone – but many feel they can drop their guard, often neglecting to remain ‘SUITED UP’ in God’s armour – walking away from God’s protection.

2. God does not tell us to live in anxiety of the battle that is raging around us, but like Noah, he remained faithful to God and the position God had placed him in.

- As the battle around Noah escalated, God called him and his family into the Ark – safety in Christ.
- It was only once God had locked the doors of the Ark did the destruction fall on man – Noah was safe!

3. As we learn to 'SUIT UP' in the Armour of God, we will be able to take back the ground the enemy has taken from us.

- One of the important Armour pieces we have is 'SELF-CONTROL' driving the enemy back.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says; ***we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.***
- We have the choice, to stay in the light or be swallowed up in the darkness of this world.
- Take back ground, stay in the light and Suit Up in God!