Shadow Boxing (Ephesians 6:10-24)

Shadow Boxing (Part 2)

The Armor of God and the Battle We are in!

"Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord** and in the power of His might. Put on the whole **armor of God**, that you may be able to **stand against the wiles of the devil**. For **we do not wrestle against flesh and blood**, **but against principalities**, **against powers**, **against the rulers of the darkness of this age**, **against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places**. 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. Ephesians 6:10-13

{READ} Ephesians 6:14-20

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak." Ephesians 6:14-20 NKJV

Such of Picture of Today—the great divide—two nations

"Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. **For your hands are defiled with blood, And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken lies, Your tongue has muttered perversity. No one calls for justice**, Nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; **They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity.** They hatch vipers' eggs and weave the spider's web; He who eats of their eggs dies, And from that which is crushed a viper breaks out. Their webs will not become garments, Nor will they cover themselves with their works; **Their works are works of iniquity,** And the act of violence is in their hands. **Their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed innocent** **blood;** Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; **Wasting and** destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they have not **known, And there is no justice in their ways;** They have made themselves crooked paths; Whoever takes that way shall not know peace. Therefore justice is far from us, Nor does righteousness overtake us; We look for light, but there is darkness! For brightness, but we walk in blackness! We grope for the wall like the blind, And we grope as if we had no eyes; We stumble at noonday as at twilight; We are as dead men in desolate places. We all growl like bears, And moan sadly like doves; We look for justice, but there is none; For salvation, but it is far from us. For our transgressions are multiplied before You, And our sins testify against us; For our transgressions are with us, And as for our iniquities, we know them: In transgressing and lying against the LORD, And departing from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter. So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him. For He put on righteousness as a

breastplate, <u>And a helmet of salvation on His head</u>; He put on the <u>garments of vengeance</u> for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak. According to their deeds, accordingly <u>He will repay, Fury to</u> <u>His adversaries, Recompense to His enemies;</u> The coastlands He will fully repay. So shall they fear The name of the LORD from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; <u>When the enemy</u> <u>comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard</u> <u>against him."</u> Isaiah 59:1-19 NKJV

THE ARMOR (part 2)

- First, it is your duty to do everything you can to withstand the attacks as the day is evil
- Gird your waist with **truth**
- Put on the breastplate of righteousness
- Shod your feet with the preparation of the **gospel of peace**
- Take the shield of **faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one (this seams to be the most important one as Paul says "above all".
- Put on the helmet of salvation
- Carey the **sword of the Spirit**, which is **the word** of God
- **PRAYER**
 - Praying always with all **prayer and supplication in the Spirit**

- Being watchful with all perseverance with this end in mind (knowing who the true enemy is and how to fight)
- Praying with supplication for:
 - ☑ All the saints
 - Paul himself (so that utterance may be given to him, that he may open his mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel)
- For which he is an ambassador in chains
- All this deliver by Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister

(Notes)

- **THE ARMOR** (Part 2)
 - First, it is your duty to do everything you can to withstand the attacks as the day is evil

The Times in which we live

"The fool has said in his heart, " <u>There is no God.</u>" They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.

They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt;

There is none who does good, No, not one. **Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge**, **Who eat up my people** as they eat bread, And do not call on the LORD? There they are in great fear, **For God is with the generation of the righteous**." Psalms 14:1-5 NKJV

"The faithful man has perished from the earth, And there is no one upright among men. They all lie in wait for blood; Every man hunts his brother with a net." Micah 7:2 NKJV

"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, **so do these also resist the truth:** men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; **but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all,** as theirs also was." II Timothy 3:1-9 NKJV

Times of Noah

"The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth." Genesis 6:11-12 NKJV

Walk Circumspectly

"See then that you **walk circumspectly**, not as fools but as wise, **redeeming the time, because the days are evil.** Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is **dissipation**; but be filled with the Spirit," Ephesians 5:15-18 NKJK

Gird your waist with **truth**

"I tell you the Truth" Y'shua (30X alone in the book of Matthew)\

Only one right path

"Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed; Let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause. Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. **Lead me in Your truth and** **teach me,** For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day." Psalms 25:3-5 NKJV

"For the word of the LORD is right, **And all His work is done in truth**." Psalms 33:4 NKJV

"For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. **But he who does the truth comes to the light**, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."" John 3:20-21 NKJV

Pilate's Encouter with the Truth!

"Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" They answered and said to him, **"If He were not an evildoer,** we would not have delivered Him up to you." Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, **"It** is not lawful for us to put anyone to death," that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die. Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. **What have You done?"** Jesus answered, "**My kingdom is not of this world.** If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now **My kingdom is not from here**." Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "**You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear** <u>witness to the truth</u>. <u>Everyone who is of the truth</u> hears My voice." <u>Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?</u>" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all." John 18:28-38 NKJV

Those against the Truth

"You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; The LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man. But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple. Lead me, O LORD, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; Make Your way straight before my face. For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; Their inward part is destruction; Their throat is an open tomb; They flatter with their tongue." Psalms 5:6-9 NKJV

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,... who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen." Romans 1:18, 25 NKJV

"And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**" John 1:16-17 NKJV

"Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. **And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."** They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?" Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin." John 8:31-34 NKJV

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me... "Most assuredly, I say to

you, he who believes in Me, **the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these** he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." John 14:6, 12-14 NKJV

Put on the breastplate of righteousness

Out of the mouth of our savior

"Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness,** For they shall be filled." Matthew 5:6 NKJV

"But seek first the kingdom of God **and His righteousness**, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:33 NKJV

As opposed to: "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God." Romans 10:3 NKJV

Doer!

"(for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified [**seen as righteous**];" Romans 2:13 NKJV

Who May?

"LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, **And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart**; He who <u>does not</u> backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the LORD; He who swears to his own hurt and does not change; He who does not put out his money at usury, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved." Psalms 15:1-5 NKJV

If—Then

"For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to **those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice**, And preserves the way of His saints. <u>Then you will</u> <u>understand righteousness and justice</u>, Equity and every good path. When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul, Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you, To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things, From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness; Who rejoice in doing evil, And delight in the perversity of the wicked; Whose ways are crooked, And who are devious in their paths;" Proverbs 2:6-15 NKJV

Your Assignment

""Thus says the LORD of hosts: '**If you will walk in My ways, And if** you will keep My command, Then you shall also judge My house, And likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk Among these who stand here." Zechariah 3:7 NKJV

Justice will return to the righteous, and all the upright in heart will follow it. Psalm 94:15

"When the **righteous are in authority,** the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan." Proverbs 29:2 NKJV

"Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us **by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:** Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as **His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,** through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue," II Peter 1:1-3 NKJV Shod your feet with the preparation of the **gospel of peace**

His Words!

"Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God." Matthew 5:9 NKJV

His Work

"For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, **having made peace through the blood of His cross**." Colossians 1:19-20 NKJV

"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice **in hope of the glory of God.**" Romans 5:1-2 NKJV

Your Job

"**Pursue peace with all people**, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;" Hebrews 12:14-15 NKJV

"And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "LORD, who has believed our report?" So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:15-17 NKJV

Isaiah knew!

"How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, **Who proclaims peace**, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"" Isaiah 52:7 NKJV

Beyond Born-Again!

"for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another." Romans 14:17-19 NKJV

The Peace of God

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; **and the peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV

In the end—no matter what

"Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;" II Peter 3:14 NKJV

Take the shield of **faith** with which you will be able to quench all the **fiery darts** of the wicked one (this seams to be the most important one as Paul says "above all".

A measure of faith

"For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to **each one a measure of faith**." Romans 12:3 NKJV

Read all of Hebrews 11-the faith history of Israel

Faith is..

"Now **faith is** the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders **obtained a good testimony.** By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible." Hebrews 11:1-3 NKJV

Without faith...

"But **without faith** it is **impossible to please Him,** for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:6 NKJV

Believe and Declare

"that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe in your heart** that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:9-10 NKJV

Roaring like a lion

"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the **devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.** Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world." I Peter 5:6-9 NKJV

Abundance

"The **thief does not come except to steal**, and to kill, and to **destroy.** I have come that they may have **life**, and that they may have it **more abundantly."** John 10:10 NKJV

Fiery Darts—Accuser

"So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who **deceives the whole world**; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "**Now salvation**, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, **for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.** And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death." Revelation 12:9-11 NKJV

Put on the helmet of salvation

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:1-2 NKJV

"For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak." Isaiah 59:17 NKJV

Protected in the times and the seasons

"But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the **breastplate of faith and love**, and as a **helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him." I Thessalonians 5:1-10 NKJV

Lawlessness and Salvation (did you ever wonder?)

"And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end <u>shall be saved</u> [Strong's Greek 4982]. And this gospel of the kingdom ..." Matthew 24:12-14 NKJV

Will be Saved: (Verb) (<u>sōthēsetai</u>) Strong's Greek 4982: To save, heal, preserve, rescue. From a primary sos; to save, i.e. Deliver or protect.

"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own <u>salvation</u> [Strong's Greek 4991]** with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." Philippians 2:12-13 NKJV **Salvation:** (Noun) (sōtērian) Strong's Greek 4991: Feminine of a derivative of soter as noun; rescue or safety.

"Will be Saved" and "Salvation" both come from the same root: **sózó:** to save: 4982 s**ố**z**ō** (from s**ō**s, "safe, rescued") – properly, deliver out of danger and into safety; used principally of God rescuing believers from the penalty and power of sin – and into His **provisions** (safety).

Redemption

Contrast "**salvation**" with "**redemption**" (redemption, not salvation is actually what you are referring to when you talk about eternal life.

"In Him we have <u>redemption</u> [Strong's Greek 629] through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" Ephesians 1:7 NKJV

Redemption: (apolytr**ō**sin) Strong's Greek 629: ransom in full, literally, "buying back from, re-purchasing (winning back) what was previously forfeited (lost)." This is vitally important as you read the Word, so you don't get confused by scriptures that say, " But he who **endures to the end** <u>shall be saved</u> " and work out your own <u>salvation</u> with fear and trembling." These verses, and so many others like them, are not speaking of eternal life, but life here on earth (**Safety, provision**). And they serve as inspiration to obey the Lord **after we are redeemed** (paid for once and for all), so we will enjoy an absolutely glorious life RIGHT NOW (no matter what joys we experience or suffering we endure!) And <u>what a witness</u> this is to the dying world. As a matter of fact, it is the most powerful witness there is.

Carey the **sword of the Spirit**, which is **the word** of God

""Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it." Matthew 10:34-39 NKJV

SWORD OR NO SWORD, THAT IS THE QUESTION

1. The Battle That Must Take Place First!

A. <u>Take nothing with you, and go manifest the Kingdom</u>

- (1) Sending Out the Twelve
 - (a) Matthew: "He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Matthew 10:1NKJV
 - (b) "...And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food. "... Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!" Matthew 10:5-15 NKJV
 - (c) Luke: "Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. And He said to them, "Take nothing for the journey, neither staffs nor bag nor bread

nor money; and do not have two tunics apiece. ..." Luke 9:1-6 NKJV

- (2) Sending out the seventy
 - (a) Luke: "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves. Carry neither money bag, knapsack, nor sandals; and greet no one along the road. ... And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ...

Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near you.' But I say to you that it will be more tolerable in that Day for Sodom than for that city."

Luke 10:1-12 NKJV

B. Take a Sword with You

- (3) Time to buy a Sword
 - (a) "And He said to them, "When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?" So they said, "Nothing." Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one. For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'And He was

numbered with the transgressors.' For the things concerning Me have an end *[end = goal, and that goal being Isaiah 53]." So they said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough."" Luke 22:35-38 NKJV

C. Put that Sword Away, You Don't Need It!

- (1) Luke and the sword in the garden
 - (a) ""Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him." Luke 22:47-51 NKJV
- (2) Matthew and the Sword
 - (a) "a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people... one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled [Isaiah 53], that it must happen thus?" ... But all

this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled." Matthew 26:47-56 NKJV

D. The Real Weapons of War

- (1) Look at the words of Mark in his version of sending out the twelve
 - (a) "And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits. ... And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them." Mark 6:7-13 NKJV

(2) We do not wrestle against flesh and blood

- (a) Which brings use right back to Ephesians 6:10-18
- (b) HIS WORD AS A WEAPON: "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJV

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit

The prayer of a righteous man

"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. **The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he** prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit." James 5:16-18 NKJV

Pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments

"Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ— who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you. But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the **obedience of Christ,** and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled." II Corinthians 10:1-6 NKJV

"Be anxious for nothing, **but in everything by prayer and supplication**, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV

Being watchful with all perseverance with this end in mind (knowing who the true enemy is and how to fight)

I will stand my watch

"I will stand my watch And set myself on the <u>rampart</u>, And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I will answer when I am corrected. Then the LORD answered me and said: "<u>Write the vision</u> And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry. "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; **But the just shall live by his faith**." Habakkuk 2:1-4 NKJV "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love." I Corinthians 16:13-14 NKJV

"Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them." Romans 16:17 NKJV

"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to selfcontrol perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins." II Peter 1:5-9 NKJV

- Praying with supplication for:
 - ☑ All the saints
- Paul himself (so that utterance may be given to him, that he may open his mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel)
- For which he is an **ambassador in chains**

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All this deliver by Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister

Ambassador!

"For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have an answer for those who boast in appearance and not in heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin

for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." II Corinthians 5:12-21 NKJV