

Hello, everyone! I hope you're experiencing God's blessings and His intimate fellowship this week.

As I've been counseling people and praying for them, I'm very aware of the reality of spiritual battles many of you are facing. We have wonderful people in our church who are hurting. Some of the battle is caring for family and friends who are sick or still in bondage to sin. For some, they are facing depression or marital hurts. Some are just overwhelmed with the responsibilities of life—caring for family, making ends meet, etc.

So I've been in deep prayer the last few days for our fellowship and these struggles. The Word tells us: Eph 6:12 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. 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.

We also read: 2Co 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 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

Friends, there IS victory in Jesus Christ, there is light at the end of the tunnel, and Jesus still walks with us through the valley of the shadow of death—therefore we are to fear no evil! Hold steady in your faith—keep fighting the good fight, and know that God is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy (Jude 1:24).

There's nothing like the Word of God to give us hope and encouragement. So I trust these words will do just that for you. Know that I love each of you and pray for you often.

---

Tonight—I begin a study in the book of Galatians that will bless you. We'll walk through one chapter per week and finish up in August. We also have other wonderful adult classes tonight, so come on out and join us.

Sunday-I will be preaching on taking up our cross and following Jesus. We are commanded to put to death the works of the flesh, to die to ourselves, that we might live in newness of life. We'll explore what Jesus has to say about this subject—there will be blessing and victory for all who learn this discipline of carrying the cross of Christ.

Pray for our youth—they leave Sunday to Georgia for a week of spiritual renewal at a special youth camp there. We are excited about their time away in this environment as they seek the Lord.

Finally, we plan to have water baptism on July 31 after the morning service. If you would like more information about that, or are interested in being baptized, please email me or sign up in the foyer.

May God's abundant blessings be yours, as you serve him with a grateful, obedient heart!

I hope to see you soon-

Pastor Daniel