

WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 3, 2016

LITTLE OPENINGS

Psalm 139:23-24 "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

For weeks I have been searching for the tiny crack or crevice where the lady bugs are coming in the house. I have gone from room to room looking for a tiny 1/8 inch space where these "pesky" lady bugs are coming in. (I know Mr. Organic Gardener - don't preach - they are good for eating aphids in the summer. So, how about I send them to YOUR house for the winter and you ship them back when spring comes?!) But today is "happy dance day"! I finally found the place of entry. I finally found the window where they are slipping in. In the west bedroom, I opened a window and about 300 of them flew in. Today I will seal the window with weather stripping. Point of this story for all Christians is this – no matter how mature you are in your faith, we all have tiny cracks in our lives where Satan finds access. These cracks are areas where we doubt God or disobey God. We must never give up allowing the Holy Spirit to continually bring us to Scripture, where we look at our lives in the light of God's Word. We must never stop searching for sin, never stop allowing the Holy Spirit to transform our lives into the character and likeness of Jesus. - Virginia Thompson

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 4, 2016

PUTTING ALL YOUR WEIGHT DOWN

1 Peter 5:7 "Cast all your worry on Him, because He cares for you."

Tim is afraid of flying. He is not afraid of dying. He just likes to be in control. Every time we travel on an airplane, I look over and see him sitting 'stiffly.' I ask what he is doing, and he says, "I'm trying not to put all my weight down." Tim is dead serious. He sits on a plane trying not to put all his weight down. Some of us go through life like this with God. We are afraid to put all our weight down, afraid that our life is simply too much for God to carry. We come to Christ to save us, but then we go through the rest of our life thinking we need to be carrying part of the burden ourselves. God didn't intend for us to carry the burden of life. God says, "Give it to me." We are no more ridiculous than the man who gets on the ferry carrying his heavy duffle bag, and then holds the bag over his shoulder the entire trip. God tells us to put the burden of our lives 'DOWN.' God commands us to give Him the load to carry. All of our worries – all of them – all our fears for our children or our health or finances, God says we are to entrust them into His care. - Virginia Thompson

FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 5, 2016

How BIG Is YOUR GOD?

Ephesians 3:20 "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."

An elderly couple was in Alaska on vacation. They wife had purchased tickets for a two-hour excursion to fly over the nearby glacier see the beauty of Alaska from the air. When they arrived at the tiny airstrip, the husband saw one beat-up, rusty, teeny-tiny prop plane. He turned to his wife and said, "Honey, I am not going up in that plane." The wife sharply said, "You just don't have enough faith." The husband matter-of-factly responded, "You just don't have enough plane." Too often in the church we talk about needing more faith before we will entrust our lives to God. Yet, some of us, like the husband, have enough faith. What we don't have is the understanding of how BIG our God really is. We read about God in Old Testament times and how He defeated the Egyptian army, and how He conquered enemy after enemy for Israel. Too many people today look at God and see a rusty, out-of-date teeny-tiny god who isn't bigger than our cancer or our marriage problems or our depression or the drugs that are slowly killing our child. We have the idea that God is so small and unreliable that we aren't willing to entrust our life to Him. God is almighty; God is all-knowing, and God is all-wise. Trust Him. He is big enough! - Dr. Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 6, 2016

VERSES FOR TRANSITIONS

As our church goes through this time of transition and begins implementing our new vision, here are five Bible verses to pray through and memorize.

1. "For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)
2. "Brothers and sisters, I myself don't think I've reached it, but I do this one thing: I forget about the things behind me and reach out for the things ahead of me. The goal I pursue is the prize of God's upward call in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14 (CEB)
3. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths." Proverbs 3:5-6 (HCSB)
4. "The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will renew you in His love; He will exult over you with loud singing." Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV)
5. "The unending love of the LORD never ends! By His mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is his faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each day. I say to myself, "The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in Him!" Lamentations 3:22-24 (NASB)

- Rev. Brandon Dasinger/ Teaching Pastor and Director

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

WESLEY HALL - JANUARY 31, 2016

WORSHIP GUIDE & DAILY DEVOTIONS

SERMON SERIES: FIGHT WINNING BATTLES THAT MATTER MOST

Week 1-Fighting for the Vision

Week 2-Defense: Understanding Our Enemy

Week 3-Offense: Knowing our Strategy

Week 4-Spiritual Armor (part 1)

Week 5-Spiritual Armor (part 2)

Week 6-Prayer: Our Greatest Weapon



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Spiritual Armor (part 2)

How to Fight in Spiritual Warfare

• Be Aware of the Battle.

- There is a spiritual war and we have a spiritual enemy.
- Realize the war has already been won and rely on God's strength.

"A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places." Ephesians 6:10-12 NLT

• Be Equipped with God's Armor.

- Belt of Truth—through Christ we know the truth and live the truth.
- Breastplate of Righteousness—through Christ we are made right with God and are empowered for right living.
- The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace—through Christ we are reconciled to God and reconciled to one another.
- Shield of Faith—Faith in God's character, Faith in God's promises, Faith in God's power.
- Helmet of Salvation
 - Justification-We have been saved...freedom from the penalty of sin.
 - Sanctification-We are being saved...freedom from the power of sin.
 - Glorification-We will be saved...freedom from the presence of sin.
- Sword of the Spirit—Read the Word, Memorize the Word, Apply the Word.

"Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Ephesians 6:13-17 NLT

• Be Equipped with God's Armor.

- Pray at all times.
- Pray for the spread of the gospel.

"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should." Ephesians 6:18-19 NLT

— Rev. Brandon Dasinger

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Go Deeper:

- Which piece of armor do you need the most right now? Why?
- Read Ephesians 1:3-11. Spend some time thanking God for all the blessings we enjoy in Christ.
- Read Hebrews 11. How would you define faith according to this chapter? How can faith help us overcome our daily battles?
- Read Matthew 4:1-11. How did Jesus use scripture to overcome temptation? Pick a verse from Ephesians and commit it to memory this week.
- What are some of the main truths that God wants you to know from this message? What actions does God want you to take according to the truths of this study?

Watch today's sermon on WFRZ-TV, online at frazerumc.org/media or download the podcast at frazerumc.org/podcast. You may also order a CD of today's service at the Connection Point desk.

THE BATTLE NEVER ENDS

1 Peter 4:12 "Do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you."

Billy Graham tells of visiting Romania under Communist rule in 1985 and seeing the magnificent frescoes decorating the walls of the churches. Because most people couldn't read, the Bible stories were depicted in elaborate frescoes on walls. Graham writes about one piece of artwork showing people struggling upward on a ladder. They were climbing a staircase to heaven. Surrounding them were angels, encouraging and helping. Below were demons pulling them down, grasping at their heels and trying to drag them into the fires of hell. Billy Graham remarks that this reminded him of the continual cosmic conflict that all Christians experience. In the Spirit world there is a battle going on that we can't see. And it is played out in our earthly circumstances. Our struggles are a reflection of a much bigger struggle. The Christian life is a battlefield. Too many of us think once we are saved, that life will now be one big playground. The Bible promises trouble. The key of spiritual victory is staying close to God. Jesus said in John 16:33, "In the world you will have trouble but here is the good news. Be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." - Dr. Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor

FEAR OF DEATH

Hebrews 2:14b-15 "...through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is the devil, and deliver those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery."

The fear of dying is the number one fear of people everywhere. What most humans do with their personal fear of death is 'deny it.' We find ways to ignore it, to surgically remove the signs that it is coming, to medicate it, and keep ourselves busy pretending that death isn't coming. Hebrews 2:14-15 teaches that the fear of death produces slavery in us, and that we will be enslaved by this fear of death for our entire lives. But know this - Jesus can free us from our fear of death. The Bible tells us that Jesus, by His death on the Cross, rendered the devil, who held the power of death, powerless. The person who, through faith in Jesus, seeks forgiveness and peace and grace from God, can live without the fear of death. The Bible affirms to God's children that Jesus' resurrection proves that death has been defeated. While the child of God will one day fall asleep in his earthly body, the child of God will never taste eternal death and separation from God. Jesus says in John 8:51, "if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." - Dr. Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor