

*** GIVE THANKS ***

Thanksgiving Service

WELCOME

We warmly welcome you, if you are worshipping with us for the first time. We believe you've become a member of our church family by God's grace.

Please ensure you speak to the Pastor or one of today's facilitators before you leave.

May God bless you richly (Amen).

Armour of God

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand (Ephesians 6:13 KJV).

Belt of Truth
(Ephesians 6:14)

Sword of the Spirit
(Ephesians 6:17)

Feet of Peace
(Ephesians 6:15)



Source(s): <https://www.dckasarani.org/resources/weekly-articles/spiritual-warfare-part-2/>

VERSE(S) OF THE DAY

You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

1 John 4:4 (NLT)

GROWTH & ADVANCEMENT

To build a church that is **growing**, **healthy and full of love**, do you have comments, ideas or suggestions? If so, please talk to the Pastor or a minister.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know you could join most of our services online when you are unable to attend? Talk to the technical team or the Pastor to find out how.



Sunday 2 August 2020

WELCOME

Redeemed Christian Church of God

Bethel

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

SUNDAY

Thanksgiving / Worship service
From 10am

FRIDAY

Prayer meeting / Bible study
From 7pm

RCCG Bethel Parish

Unit 13, Skylines Village
Limeharbour, London E14 9TS
PHONE: 07889906677 || EMAIL:
admin@rccgbethel.church
WEB: www.rccgbethel.church

Our 'must-visit' website



Home Our Focus About us Contact Us Sermons Privacy Policy



Our website is a treasure trove of information, and not only about our focus and mission. You could subscribe to our podcast or listen to past sermons too (<http://rccgbethel.church/sermons/>). This is particularly useful for when you are unable to attend services or for refreshing your recollection as an essential part of your private Bible study.

There's more! Details of events and outreach will almost certainly be available from relevant pages on our website and updated regularly, along with downloadable copies of our Sunday bulletins (<http://rccgbethel.church/category/bulletins/>).

So, why don't you set our homepage as one of your **startup page(s)** in your browser now? The following instructions for most of the common browsers may help.

Google Chrome

1. Open the browser and the **Settings** menu (or the **three vertical dots** to the right of the menu bar).
2. Scroll down and click on **Advanced Settings**.
3. Select **Open a specific page or set of pages** under **On Startup**.
4. Select **Set pages** and enter or add <http://rccgbethel.church/>.

Mozilla Firefox

1. Open Firefox. Press **Alt-T** on the keyboard and select **Options** from the drop-down menu or go to **Tools >> Options** from the main menu.
2. In the **Home** section, select **Homepage and new windows** and **Custom URLs...** from the field's drop down.
3. Enter or paste the URL: <http://rccgbethel.church/> or click **Use Current Page** if you are already on our website.

Microsoft Edge

1. Click the **three horizontal dots** to the right of the top menu bar.
2. Select **Settings** and select **A Specific Page or Pages** from the **Open Microsoft Edge With** section drop down options.
3. Enter <http://rccgbethel.church/>. (Click the Plus sign to add more pages if required).
4. Click the **three horizontal dots** to the right of the top menu bar again to close **Settings** menu.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Spiritual warfare (Part 1)

Text: Ephesians 6:10-18

In our previous studies from the book of Ephesians, we've considered that we're all connected together, benefitting from each other on this journey. And last week we talked about the balance of power in relationships and forming a synergy that helps us all to thrive. Today, we will be delving into spiritual warfare; a topic which often leads into misunderstanding.

Consider David who won every battle he fought. He was so successful that all feared and revered him. For example, three of his followers braved being captured and broke through the camp of the Philistines to get him water from the well of Bethlehem when he expressed a desire for some (2 Sam 23:15-17). When he wanted to build a temple for God, he was told his hands have been stained by too much blood (1 Chro 28:2-3).

Wars create a misconception that the enemy we're fighting is physical. Our enemies are spiritual and unseen; not your colleague, neighbour or someone who insulted you. In fact, Jesus said love your enemies and praise those who spitefully despise you (Matt 5:44). He told us to treat our enemies with love and feed them; in so doing, we heap coals of fire on their heads (Rom 12:20). We're also encouraged to be at peace with all men as long as it depends on us (Rom 12:18).

The second misconception is we deny their existence, perhaps because they're unseen. When Paul was writing to the Ephesians, they understood what he meant. This is because they've experienced the effects of evil spirits operating among them since many of them practice sorcery and believe in unclean spirits (Acts 19:1-20; 23-29).

Spiritual powers / enemies are not interested in our status, riches, position etc. Their sole interest is our souls – to draw our attention from God – and their main battle field is in our thoughts (2 Cor 10:4-6; Job 1:1-22; 2:1-10; 2 Cor 4:4). If you're rebellion against God and not subject to him, then you're subject to these powers (Eph 2:1-10).

One analogy that may explain our perception of our unseen enemies could be illustrated by the current battle with COVID-19 pandemic. When it began in Wuhan, we watched the images on TV, but it didn't seem real until it was brought closer to home and started to affect us. We see the death count grow, and even the Prime Minister was infected. It was only then we began to think about how we could protect ourselves.

In the same way, our spiritual enemies may be invisible, but they're just as insidious and more deadly than COVID-19. And just as we needed protection against COVID-19 such as the PPE, masks, washing our hands, distance and so on, we need protection from our invisible enemies too. That's what Paul was trying to drive home to us in this passage. In other words, there's no need to be afraid as long as we make God's strength our own.

Every warfare is spiritual and that's why we need the father of all spirits (Psa 91:1-2). The devil has a strategy and his own weapons. We will talk more about that next time. But for now, let's be aware that he specialises in trying to find our weaknesses and turn them against us. If we're going to be successful, we need the armour of God.

Bottom line:

Paul used physical protective equipment of warfare to explain the nature of the armour we have in God. Just as they're able to protect soldiers on the battle front, we're not defenseless as a Christian. On the contrary, there's a guarantee from the most high God that we will have victory (Rom 8:37-38; Prov 18:10).

RCCG Bethel Parish
The pillar of truth, defining the future today