

TODAY'S FACILITATORS

PRAYER: Bimi

OFFERING: Esther

WORD: Pastor

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).

VERSE(S) OF THE DAY

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10 (ESV)

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.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Spiritual warfare (Part 4) contd

Text: Ephesians 6:10-18

When the sinful thoughts come, know they did not originate from Jesus and reject them (James 4:7). They're from the flaming arrows of the enemy. Just like you would a virus infestation, isolate these thoughts when they come into your mind and destroy them with God's truth. Gird your mind and question any thought(s) that doesn't give you hope (Phil 4:8). Then, use your shield of faith to neutralise their effect on you.

The **sword of the Spirit** is the only one of these weapons that is offensive. The scriptures says it is the spirit that quickens (John 6:63). When the Holy Spirit makes the word of God alive to you, it becomes a sword that you can use to fight the enemy. Facts become the truth that you can use to destroy the enemy. Let the helmet of your salvation protect your thoughts, don't allow lies to take root (2 Cor 10:5) and let the truth of God "**garrison your heart**" (Phil 4:7 – AMPC version).

Bottom line:

Christianity is meant to be enjoyed, not endured, and success in warfare depends on the word of God that has become Spirit and has come alive for us. When this happens, there's no way we can lose. It is our secret weapon.



Sunday 23 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 4)

Text: Ephesians 6:10-18

How we see ourselves makes a lot of difference. For example, last week we saw that although Paul was in prison, he saw himself as an Apostle of God. That's why he was able to write all those letters offering hope to other believers. We also know Satan's not a figure of speech, but skillful in deceit and at striking fear in our hearts. We're not defenseless however. Just like the PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) and other tools we use to protect ourselves from COVID-19, Paul outlined some of the weapons that could protect us from the enemy, getting the idea from his observations of the Roman army while in captivity.

So, what's in the armour and our weapons of protection? The first is **belt of truth**, which is not exactly the same as facts. Scripture verses may be fact, but not be the truth. For example, the devil tried to use facts to tempt Jesus, but Jesus countered with the truth. The truth sets us free (John 8:32-36). Therefore, if you're still feeling bound, check to see that you're not believing a lie (2 Thes 2:11).

Jesus said my sheep know my voice and will not listen to the voice of a stranger (John 10:27-28). As Christians, we should recognise the voice of our saviour. We've been discussing of recent how Solomon could end so badly when he started well. In his beautiful prayer, we may be able to deduce that he may have believed in a lie (1 Kings 8:22-61). He said in verse 46: "**there's no one that does not sin**". That's what he believed. It doesn't have to be your truth.

The **breastplate of righteousness** must be understood in the righteousness that is found in Christ by faith (Phil 3:9). When we sin, and Christians do sin, it doesn't mean we've automatically lost that righteousness, because we didn't earn it in the first place. The scripture says we're God's masterpiece (Eph 2:10). So, we will automatically want to please God and stay away from sin. However, we can only lose our righteousness when we believe the devil's lies and take off the breastplate and the **helmet of our salvation**.

When we shod our feet with the preparation of the **gospel of peace**, taking on the **shield of faith**, we become a difficult target for the enemy to deceive. Consider the mountain goat. They have specially adapted hooves which helps them to tread on tough terrains. In the same way, having our feet shod with the gospel of peace gives us specially adapted feet to navigate challenging circumstances in our lives.

We may have times when we're low or down, but our faith should be consistent. And the way we know if we're experiencing righteousness i.e. right standing with God, is through the peace and joy of the Holy Spirit within us (Rom 14:17). It may be a struggle, but stay in God's truth and with persistence, the joy of our salvation will be restored (Psa 51:12). Then we can confidently challenge any lie telling us we've lost our salvation and faith in Christ.

The Roman army's armour is reinforced by a specially constructed shield which is practically indestructible, neutralising fiery darts from their opponents. In the same way, the shield of faith is "**able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one**". So, don't let the enemy tell you differently.

Continued >>

RCCG Bethel Parish
Pillar of truth ... defining the future today