

“Always Be Prepared”

Be Strong in The **Lord**

Ephesians 6:10-12 NLT

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.

Satan and his demons are fallen **angels**

Isaiah 14:12-14 NLT

“How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world. For you said to yourself, ‘**I will** ascend to heaven and set my throne above God’s stars. **I will** preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. **I will** climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.’”

Revelation 12:7-9 NLT

Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against **the dragon and his angels**. And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven. This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

Pray for all **believers**

Ephesians 6:18 NLT

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your **prayers** for all believers everywhere.

Your prayers are **heard**

Daniel 10:12 NLT

Then he said, “Don’t be afraid, Daniel. Since the **first day** you began to **pray** for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, **your request has been heard in heaven**. I have come in answer to your prayer.”

Daniel 10:13-14 NLT

“But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. Now I am here to explain what will happen to your people in the future, for this vision concerns a time yet to come.”

Be persistent in your **prayers**

Ephesians 6:18 NLT

Pray in the Spirit **at all times** and on **every occasion**. Stay alert and be **persistent** in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

Before the battle, Jesus got battle ready through **baptism**.

Matthew 3:13-14 NLT

Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John tried to talk him out of it. “I am the one who needs to be baptized by you,” he said, “so why are you coming to me?”

Matthew 3:16-17 NLT

After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.”

Jesus Promises the **Holy Spirit**

John 14:15-17 NLT

“If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

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Acts 2:36-41 NLT

“So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!”

Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”

Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

Dr. Tony Evans, Pastor, Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Dallas Theological Seminary

Truth is an objective standard by which reality is measured.

Truth is not predicated by how you feel or what you think about it.

Truth is reality in its original norm.

Truth is that which is real because it was real originally.

Since God is the originator of all origin, only God can be the fixed standard of what is true.

The question of truth:

The ultimate question of truth is this: What will be your final standard?

You cannot use your feelings as a measurement of truth.

You cannot use your intelligence as a measurement of truth.

You cannot use your moral instincts as a measurement of truth.

Truth is more than information and more than facts. Truth includes all information and truth includes facts, but you can have information and facts and not have truth.

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John 8:32 NLT

“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Anything, regardless of popularity, status, or opinion, that disagrees with a divine point of view is not the truth.

If you have believed a lie, you have invited a demon.

We are to **tear down** anything that blocks God’s point of view from getting through.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NLT

We are human, but we don’t wage war as humans do. We use **God’s mighty weapons**, not worldly weapons, to **knock down the strongholds** of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We **destroy every proud obstacle** that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and **teach them to obey Christ**.

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