



Walking in the Steps of the Master:

A Twelve Step Guide to Discipleship

COME TO ZION MINISTRIES

Isaiah 49:6...I will give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be my salvation to the ends of the earth.

Located in the Western Galilee, Israel

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Step Nine: Learning about our Armor

It doesn't take long for the new disciple to realize that something is at war within their being. The Apostle Paul described this battling within us in Romans 7:15-23 NLT:

I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.

It can hard to understand what Paul is saying , so let's take a closer look at his words. Before we come to the saving knowledge of Yeshua, sin was allowed to run rampant through out our being: weakening our will to do what was right, damaging our emotions through acts of sin, and filling our minds with thoughts that run contrary to GOD's Word. Now that we have the regenerated spirit that is anointed and powered by the Holy Spirit, we have begun the process to reclaim the rest of our being. The Holy Spirit will help us to strengthen our will to the obedience to GOD's will, the Holy Spirit will bring healing to our emotions through our words of praise to the Father and through the loving ministry of our brothers and sisters, and the Holy spirit will transform our mind set into the mind of Yeshua.

We must take an active role to reckon our sin nature to be dead and crucified with Yeshua. This is what the reference to taking up our cross daily to follow Yeshua means, Luke 9:23. Then we need to acknowledge the fact that the Holy Spirit overpowers the sin nature and helps us to walk in the divine nature that Yeshua walked in. Yeshua had to make the conscious choices to walk in obedience that we have to make every moment of our life. We do have the same Spirit in us that Yeshua had, providing for us an example that we are to follow.

The battle therefore becomes one in which we must decide if we will trust in the promise that GOD has given us regarding a new nature, which does not give in to sin, or do we believe the deception of the enemy, which makes us believe that we are powerless to stop sinning. The Apostle Paul describes some spiritual armor that we may use to fight the deception of the enemy of our souls, Ephesians 6:13-18 NLT:

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

The belt of truth is the main defense that we have and just as Yeshua used the truth of the Word of GOD to defeat Satan during His time of temptation, we must speak the truth of GOD's Word for each attack that we receive. The shoes or sandals, refer to our walk now being in the 'peace' that we have with the Father. We were once enemies of GOD, but now we are family, and as such we can walk in the 'peace,' knowing that GOD, who is our Father, will defend us; He loves us, so we don't have to 'fear' His judgment. The shield of faith is our defense against the pesky thoughts that the enemy will try to put in our minds. These thoughts can turn to doubt if we allow them to dwell in our minds, so we must cast them down by standing in faith (trust in GOD) and speaking truth over the lies. The helmet is our salvation that is an ongoing work to strengthen our will, heal our emotions, and to transform our minds to that of Yeshua. The last piece armor is the sword of the Spirit. We need to constantly be in the Spirit, not watching worldly things, not engaging in worldly practices, but rather, we need to be thinking pure thoughts, while communing with our Father, unceasingly.