

Spiritual Warfare – The Helmet of Salvation – Part III

Ephesians 6:17 - Message Discussion Guide

Connect

- How have you struggled with assurance of your faith through the years? What has been a trigger?

Discover

- Which statement or experience stood out to you from the worship service?
- Read Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23.
 - What do you think Jesus is communicating with his analogy of a narrow and wide road?
 - How does the narrow road idea mesh with the Ephesians 2:8-9 promises that we are saved by grace through faith and not our own works?
 - What was wrong or missing with what the unsaved people said in Matthew 7:21-23?
 - What does Jesus mean, “I never knew you?”
- Read 1 John 5:13, Hebrews 10:22, 2 Peter 1:10-11.
 - Why was the book of 1 John written?
 - How can we make our “calling and election sure” (2 Peter 1:10)?
 - How does a “full assurance of faith” (Hebrews 10:22) help us draw near the Lord?
- Read 1 John 1:8-10 and 1 John 2:3-5.
 - How can both of these passages be true at the same time? How do they complement one another?
 - According to these two passages, what is a true believer’s heart toward sin?
- Read 1 John 2:19 and Philippians 1:6.
 - What do these passages say about our confidence that God will protect the faith of his children?
 - What does 1 John 2:19 say about people who seem to be faithful to the Lord for a while and then walk away?

Respond

- Why do so many people doubt their salvation?
- How would you counsel someone who doubted their salvation? What are the sure signs that salvation is genuine?

Bonus for Thinkers

- Why does Paul seem to lump the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit together in Ephesians 6:17?

First Baptist Nacogdoches Bible Reading Plan

Day	Scripture
Monday (1/13)	1 John 2
Tuesday (1/14)	James 1
Wednesday (1/15)	James 2
Thursday (1/16)	James 3
Friday (1/17)	James 4

Daily Devotion Questions

Monday (1/13) — 1 John 2

- Review the “Respond” questions on the reverse side of this devotion guide.

Tuesday (1/14) — James 1

- According to 1:14-15, what are the three stages of sin? Write down one or two ways you get “lured” or “enticed” into sin? How can you avoid those situations in the future?
- Write down the opposite of the three-fold command found in 1:19. Which most often describes your response to adversity, the command of 1:19 or the opposite of the command that you wrote down? Pray and ask the Lord to help you be more focused on hearing and slow speaking instead of hotheaded anger.
- 1:27 says that true religion consists, at least in part, of helping those who cannot help themselves (example: widows and orphans). What are you doing now that fits this description? What could you begin to do to help those who cannot help themselves in the name of the Lord?

Wednesday (1/15) — James 2

- James 2:1-5 warns us against treating people differently because they are rich or because they are poor. What are some ways that people do this today? What are some ways you are tempted to treat people differently because of their financial status, social status, race, background, etc.?
- What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself (2:8)? What are some ways you are doing that now? What are some ways you can do that this week?
- James says he can show evidence of his faith in the things he does and the life he lives (2:18). How about you? Other than attending church, what evidence could others see in your life that would give them the unmistakable impression that you are a follower of the Lord?

Thursday (1/16) — James 3

- There are many ways someone can use his words negatively. What are the three ways you are most tempted to misuse your speech? Write those down and ask the Lord to help you with each of them.
- What are two specific ways you can use your words (your speaking) today to honor the Lord? What are two ways you can use your words today to be a blessing to someone?
- According to 3:13-18, what are the marks of worldly wisdom? According to the same verses, what are the marks of godly wisdom? What do these two lists teach you?

Friday (1/17) — James 4

- James gives us two reasons we sometimes do not have what we need in 4:2-3. Write each reason down in your own words. How faithful have you been to overcome these two obstacles?
- What does James mean when he says that friendship with the world makes us an enemy of God (4:4)? What does this have to do with the fact that James uses the word “adulterous” (4:4) and “jealousy” (4:5)? What does it mean that someone has a friendship with the world? In what ways are you in friendship with the world?
- Does the warning in 4:11 bring conviction to your heart and mind? Are there certain people or certain situations that heighten your temptation to speak evil against a brother in Christ?