

Monday Morning Rewind (Tuesday Edition) - July 29, 2008

Good evening! Monday's Rewind is a tad delayed due to my being in McCall yesterday, but I want you to know that I was still "dressed to kill," and I pray all of you were also.

On Sabbath, we continued our Armed and Dangerous series by revisiting Paul's famous passage on spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6:10-18. There we learned what the "well-dressed" Christian is to wear in the battle against our enemy. The first thing to realize is that: **To be dressed to kill requires a supernatural wardrobe.**

Sin is serious business. To get rid of it requires more than just an ordinary change of clothing. Wearing weekly church attendance, sporting a Sabbath School quarterly, accessorized with a tithe envelope, won't do the job! We need something from heaven--clothing that only God can provide--in order to defeat sin and be ready to see Jesus. And that's why: **To be dressed to kill, you need the "full" armor of God.**

Verses 14-17 of Ephesians 6 list the various pieces of spiritual armor. But it is the admonition in verse 18 that contains the key to victory. *"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."*

Here Paul ends the spiritual warfare section with a four-fold call to prayer.

The four "Alls" of Prayer

We are to pray "on all occasions" (constant)

We are to pray "with all kinds of prayers and requests" (comprehensive)

We are to "always keep on praying" (all perseverance). (intensity and concentration)

We are to "pray for all the saints." (unselfish)

Why this four-fold call to prayer at the end of this passage? Rewind to Eph. 6:10-13 and observe the four-fold call to "stand" at the beginning of this same passage. Paul is letting us know that our job is to "hold our ground" against evil. The armor is essential in the battle, but prayer is how we fight (or "stand"). Prayer is more than a weapon. It is foundational for the deployment of all the other weapons. John Stott says, "Most Christians pray *sometimes*, with *some* prayers and *some* degree of perseverance, for *some* of God's people." But the well-dressed Christian soldier will live in the atmosphere of prayer and take off the "some" and put on the biblical "all" of prayer.

A great example of the kind of prayer that brings victory was shared with me by Curtis Craft: "I 'ask' for a blessing but 'beg' for a change." If you want to see spiritual victories in your life, don't just ask for blessings, ask for a change.

Think of the pain, the disappointment when someone is critically ill in the hospital, and at every inquiry about progress, the response is, "There's no change." Day after day, week after week the IV drips on, the medicine is dispensed, the care given, but still "no change." Spiritually, some have been in the church, under the influence of God, for years, and still there's "no change." No change in character, no change in attitudes and temperament, no change in lifestyle or habits, *no change!* How desperate for them and how disappointing for God. Let the change begin in your prayer life. Do less asking for blessings and start begging for change--a change of heart and a change of wardrobe. Because: Before we can be dressed to kill, we may first have to ask God to kill the way we currently "dress." Talk to Jesus today about the wardrobe He has with your name on it. -Pastor Randy