

Current Affairs # 21 - You are the Light of the World, Part 2

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I wish to continue on from the last message, where I spoke about how the people of God are light in the world of darkness. I want to continue on from that, and I would like to begin with a reading from the book of Ephesians, the sixth chapter. I have been working in Ephesians for quite some time, and I have been talking about the armor of God. So, these two messages go with the armor of God. But I want to point out something about how this darkness has come to be, and I even want to talk about what the darkness is. In Ephesians 6, at verse 10, Paul says, *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.”* So, in the lead up to talking about the armor of God, Paul makes it clear that contextually, every aspect of the armor of God is a depiction of some facet of the power of God, or the strength of the Lord, or the might of the Lord. Keep that in mind, because when he talks, for example, about the shield of faith, that has to do in some fashion with the power of God, the strength of God, the might of God.

Then he says, *“Put on the **whole armor** of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil”* (Ephesians 6:11). The word for “armor” is the word *panoplia* (Strong’s Greek 3833), the panoply—the overarch, the complete. So putting on the whole panoply of God means to clothe yourself with who God is. When Paul says, *“be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might,”* strength, power, and might are how, when you are clothed with the panoply of God, you engage the enemy. Whatever the strength, power, and might of God is and however you access *that*, that constitutes the armor of God. You access it, of course, by being *in Christ*: *“be strong **in** the Lord,”* be strong *“**in** the power of His might.”*

It is no wonder that the armor of God is a form of spiritual clothing. Now, all references to clothing in Scripture is a reference to identity. When Adam sinned, what did he do? He clothed himself.¹ In the final days of the Body of Christ on the earth, what is the instruction given in passages like Revelation 19? The bride has made herself ready; with righteous acts she has clothed herself with fine raiment, bright and clean, that she was given to wear.² So, clothing is a metaphor for an identity. In 2 Corinthians 5:2, when Paul is speaking of clothing ourselves with the eternal, he says, *“Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling.”* So, the idea of putting on the armor of God, putting on the panoply of God, is to clothe yourself with an identity, with the specific intent at that time of engaging the enemy. The armor of God is not just a series

of pieces of weaponry that we attach to our bodies; it is how we take on an identity that relates to and allows us to be enfranchised in the strength of the Lord, the power of the Lord, the might of the Lord. These words are words like *dunamis*.

- The word for “power” is actually *dunamis* (Strong’s Greek 1411).
- The word for “the Lord” is the word *kurios* (Strong’s Greek 2962), which means the dominant one.
- The word for “power” is the word *kratos* (Strong’s Greek 2904); it relates to the word “creator.”
- The word for “might” is the word *ischus* (Strong’s Greek 2479), and it means ability or strength.

We are to do that—“be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power”—taking on the panoply of God, because we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Paul continues in Ephesians 6: “Put on the whole armor of God so that you will be **able** (and the word “able” is the word *dunamis*: you will be empowered) to **stand** (that is the word *histémi*) against the **wiles** (the word there is *methodeia*—against the methods) of the devil.”³ So, you are to be clothed in the panoply of God so that God, in the form of the Spirit of God in you, will stand up. The *histémi* of God will stand up against the methodology of the devil. Why? Because “*we do not wrestle against flesh and blood,*” but we do wrestle against principalities, we wrestle against powers, we wrestle against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and we wrestle against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. In conjunction with that, we are to take up the armor of God.

Now, I want to disclose certain of these words again, where the apostle is speaking about us not wrestling against flesh and blood:

*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against **principalities** [arché], against **powers** [exousia], against the **rulers** [kosmokratór] of the **darkness** [skotos] of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12 NKJV)*

- The word for “principalities” is the word *arché* (Strong’s Greek 746), and it refers to: rule over domains.

- The word for “powers” is the word *exousia* (Strong’s Greek 1849), which means that there is a companion order to the order of the Kingdom of God, a mimicry of the order of the Kingdom of God. So, it will not do for you to engage this mimicry of the Kingdom of God in human power, in human identities, in human understanding.
- The word for “rulers” there is the word *kosmokratór* (Strong’s Greek 2888), which means: the god of this world. The world it is speaking of is the age in which we live, and the systems of the *kosmos* (Strong’s Greek 2889) that are deployed in the age in which we live. So, the *kosmokratór* has created a series of systems that produce darkness to obfuscate, to confuse, to remove standards in the age in which we live.
- Now, let’s focus for a moment on the word “darkness,” because we tend to have the idea that darkness is such a threatening thing. This darkness is something that men love because of the nature of darkness. The word for “darkness” is the word *skotos* (Strong’s Greek 4655), and it means: obscurity, shadiness, darkness. In short, it is an unchallenged hypothesis; it is a thing that has not been brought into the light.

The principal thing that the armor of God does is that, in the identity that one has when he is clothed in the *dunamis* of the Lord—or the power of the Lord, the strength of the Lord—when he is clothed in an identity that links him inextricably to the person of Christ, as a member of the Body of Christ, then what do you have? You have access to the light of the world; you have access to the revelation of God. When God said in the beginning, “*Let there be light,*” it was because the things that He wished to bring out of darkness needed to be brought into illumination. Darkness there was not sin; darkness there was obscurity—the thing had not been illuminated. Every aspect of the armor of God resists the darkness and brings light—shows the world how to live in the light in the midst of a darkness that has come upon the minds of men. The darkness is not a physical darkness, it is a spiritual darkness. It is where, in the neglect of what is true and because men and women choose not to retain God in their knowledge, the secrets, the systems of the *kosmokratór* have become increasingly powerful. They are powerful only because men and women are sinking deeper and deeper into the darkness of deception.

Have you noticed how it is virtually impossible to talk to people today about divine standards? How people seem to so thoroughly resist standards of society that reflect the plain and simple

meaning of Scripture? Now, I will say that one of the prime contributors to the abandonment of these standards is those groups of persons charged with modeling the standard. The Scriptures say when the salt loses its savor, it is not good for anything, except to be thrown out and trodden under the foot of man.⁴ For a very, very long time now, for decades, the foremost church groups—groups that spoke of the Holy Spirit, groups that spoke of morality, some even called it the moral majority—they have shown, secretly, they practiced the same debauched behavior as the people whom they were criticizing. When caught, they would simply say, “Well, nobody is perfect.” Yes, people will commit sin, but that is not what I am talking about. I am talking about advocating one standard publicly and, privately, regularly indulging in another standard opposing the very things they were saying publicly. Did they think that God was mocked? Did they think that none of these things came to the attention of the Living God?

That is the folly of those who built empires by selecting certain doctrines that could be readily monetized, and they have done it. When they ran out of clients, they looked for a way of selling the residual—the residual being their popularity—to political parties, because they no longer have a moral high ground and the schemes they have been living in defy the very standards they have said were the true standards. The standards themselves may have been true, but the practitioners were so far from the standards, that God was never going to be held hostage to filthy and worthless practitioners. So, He has disclosed the vile nature of the practitioners. Now, because of that, the nation has turned against these practitioners and the results of their practice.

Before that, as I said in the prior broadcast, groups like the Roman Church impaled itself on its own practices, and now the world is weary, it is exhausted, from trying to find and make sense out of what was once presented as the standards of Christ. All that that means is that every pretense, everything that was not genuine, is being overthrown by God Himself. These things could have never sustained themselves anyway, because at the core they were fraudulent. It is not that the standards were fraudulent, it is that the practitioners were not authentic. Time shows that, and their judgment is that they are being discarded.

That does not mean that the alternative darkness is the only solution. That does not mean that there are no solutions. It just means it is time for that which is the authentic to arise, and the sound of it, and the practice of it, and the reality of it is going to be entirely different. Indeed, it is entirely

different. Now, it has to endure the sufferings of rejection based upon those who came before and spoke a message out of hearts that were false. It has to endure that, and all of that, too, is part of the plan to cause a people to be strong enough and firm enough in their convictions to be unshakeable. When they are, and when the tests and the circumstances they have endured disclose them as being unmovable and steadfast and abounding in the work of the Lord, then God Himself will stand up in the midst of them and stand them up in the person of Christ. When they are stood up in that corporate Man, there is no other description that is more apt than that they are and will have become the light of the world. Light judges darkness. Light does not have to go about trying to judge darkness; the nature of light is that it cannot be consumed or forbidden by darkness. If you go into a dark room and turn on a light, the darkness cannot object to the illumination. It simply has to bow, has to give way.

So, the schemes of the devil are the means by which he obscures and blinds the minds of humans to what is actually true. This, after all, you see, is not a conflict of personalities, so God does not just rush in and bring forth certain personalities to counteract the darkness. God Himself comes in wearing human form that is the Body of Christ, and when He comes in, there is no darkness in creation that could possibly resist Him—not the systems of the *kosmos*, not even the minds of men who have been conditioned to walk in darkness and to even profit from being in darkness. There is no way to resist the incarnation, the coming in human form, of the Living God Himself. The Body that He is preparing is a Body that is being prepared to carry His presence, to carry His glory in the earth. He has always wanted to show His goodness, His kindness, His mercy, His compassion, His grace, His patience, His long-suffering. He has always wanted to do that, because these are the elements of His love—that word that describes His divine nature. The enemy came into creation having resisted God as a created being. It is here, on the earth, that God will confront His enemy, and He will confront His enemy wearing human form.

Now, His enemy is not benign; he has established these systems of the *kosmos*, of which he is the *kosmokratór*, that have power to entrap the minds of unwary humans through deception. This is where and this is why these schemes are described as “darkness,” the darkness of this world, because they serve to dull the human mind to what is true and to redirect the focus of the human soul away from the search for God to the search for survival. These systems are designed to be a

one-to-one attraction to the human desire for provision and protection. So, in the darkness of the human soul there is an absolute correlation, by way of desire and perceived need, to the systems of the *kosmos*.

When Christ came into the world, He came to show us how to rely upon the Father, so that when we would be received into His own Body and received and presented as children of the Father, that we might then have the standard of His righteousness that He already embodied in the earth when He lived here and left for us in the record of Scripture to be opened to us and for us to be empowered to possess in the form of the coming of the person of the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us to bring us into conformity with the standard who is Christ. When we are brought into conformity to the standard who is Christ, then God comes to dwell in the Body of Christ and in each member of the Body of Christ in the same fashion in which He dwelt in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

At that point He raises up light in the darkness, and all that had been hidden, all that had been obscured, all that had been confused and obfuscated will be laid bare in the light of the revelation of the person of the Most High God, coming incarnate in the Body of Christ. At that point the darkness will flee. It is analogous to the Scriptures that say that every mountain will flee out of its place and every low place will be filled up because the darkness will have been shown to be dark.⁵ It does not mean everybody is going to come to the light, because some people love darkness because their deeds are evil and they do not intend to change. But, whoever loves the truth will be drawn to the light.

So, we are right now in that state in which darkness is becoming gross, so gross that the confusion of it makes it impossible for people, even intelligent people, to figure out or even to remember that there is a different standard. They are going to try to find a way to function in darkness. On the other side of this great divide is a people of stunning brilliance, who are clothed with the Son, who are clothed in the righteousness of God. The illumination that comes by the reflection of Christ in the earth will show everyone what the choices are. Those who still have a love for the truth will come to Christ lifted up in this fashion, and those who love darkness will dig themselves even further into the pit. That is what we are facing now in the world. The political stuff is just the way

that this is all showing itself in a glaring fashion. So, continue to walk in the light and you will not be part of the growing darkness.

I am Sam Soleyn. God bless you. I will talk to you again soon. Bye-bye.

Endnotes:

1. See Genesis 3:7 NKJV: “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”
2. See Revelations 19:7-8 NKJV: “... ‘Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.’ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”
3. See Ephesians 6:11-13 NKJV: “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **stand** [*histémi* (Strong’s G2476)] against the **wiles** [*methodeia* (Strong’s G3180)—the **methods**] of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be **able** [*dunamai* (Strong’s G1410)—**you will be empowered**] to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”
4. See Matthew 5:13 KJ 2000: “You are the salt of the earth: but if the salt has lost its savor, how shall it be salted? it is thereafter good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”
5. See Luke 3:5 NKJV: “Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill brought low. The crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough ways smooth.”