

EPHESIANS - Ephesians 6

Message 103

Date: 10/17/2021

Words: 6052

Scripture: Ephesians 6:16

INTRO: The greatest commitment of all commitments is the decision to become a Christian. Two things are required of man to become a Christian. Number one is repentance from sin. The second is to live the rest of one's life by faith in Jesus Christ. This commitment is a life-long commitment. The moment a person makes this commitment he enters a battlefield. Now that this person has given his allegiance to Almighty God, Satan will do what he can to destroy this believer.

The battle the believer enters is fought in the mind. Here it is won or lost. And in order to maintain that commitment in the battle he will need the Word of God to guide and direct life and to give him guidelines and instructions on how to live. And so as Paul concludes his letter to the Ephesians he gives them instruction on how to stand in the midst of the storms that will come.

So he begins his concluding section to the Ephesians like this:

*10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*

The command to be strong is passive. I understand this to mean, "be strengthened in the Lord, even in the power of His might." You see, it is God who will have to make me strong in His might. So what do I need to do for Him to be able to make me strong?  
Verse 11:

*11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

When we do what we are instructed here, God will strengthen us with His might. And the reason Paul gives why we need this armor is given in verse 12:

*12 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.*

It is so very easy to hear this and forget and not know what is happening. Our life will be under attack if we are truly Christians. And so Paul says this:

*13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day.*

You will remember I believe the sentence should end at the word "day." The evil day will come again and again. If you have watched Christians any length of time you will have seen those who have been side-tracked.

Now we'll read the end of verse 13-16:

*...and having done all, to stand.*

*14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,*

*15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

*16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.*

We have considered how vital truth is. Truth is under huge attack today. We considered the importance of righteousness. Righteousness covers a number of our vitals in the spiritual realm. Our mind and our emotions are two of the major things this breastplate protects.

And recently we have considered the shoes of the Christian soldier. I interpret the word translated as "preparation" to speak of the foundation these shoes give the believer. If one does not have the Gospel right, one has no sure footing. From start to finish, the Bible deals with man's redemption from sin.

And now we have come to the shield of faith. This shield is most crucial as by it we will be able to deflect or quench the fiery darts of the wicked one.

d) The shield

-Above all

Our entire passage began with these words, and I'll give them as I understand them: Finally my brethren, be strengthened in the Lord, even in the power of His might. We have a powerful, and resourceful enemy. And how are we strengthened? What do we have to do? Number 1, be girded with truth. Number 2, live right. Number 3, stand on the sure foundation of the Gospel. And now we come to number 4, take up the shield of faith.

But note in particular the words, "above all." When I looked up the word translated "above" I expected to see the word "huper." So I was surprised to see the word "epi," usually meaning *upon*. This causes various translations. The KJV and NKJV and Youngs literal translation have "above all." The ESV has, "in all circumstances." Darby has, "besides all these."

It would seem to me that if the intent was "above all," the shield of faith would come first rather than the belt of truth. I tend to agree with the translation that would render it something like, "In all circumstances" or "in all cases" take up the shield of faith.

-Taking

The word "taking" is a participle in the aorist tense. I think the idea is in every case that comes along in life immediately take up the shield of faith. We need to learn to learn to trust God in all circumstances. There is no time in life when things kind of stand still. Time always moves forward and we need to learn to live by faith in every new circumstance that comes along.

-Definition

So let us define faith. Faith is that which you believe to be true based on evidence without having seen or known it with full proof. Faith is that which you believe based on evidence from the past. You have not been there nor seen that which you believe in. When you have full proof, you now know; you don't believe. Hope is that which assures you of good things to come based on some evidence of what one has been told or taught. Both one's faith or one's hope may be true or false. Our faith and hope is only as good as the evidence on which it rests.

We normally do not call the history we believe to be true our faith. But it is only faith because faith is what you believe. When we speak of faith, we normally are referring to religious beliefs, that is beliefs about some super human being who controls things etc.. or religion of any kind. One definition of religion said religion is a particular system of belief in a god or gods and the activities that are connected with this system. None of those religions can be proven to be true, but some may have more evidence than others. I know of no belief that has as much evidence as the Bible believer has.

Professing Christianity, one report said, is the largest religion with 31.5% of the population. Islam is as 23.2%; Hinduism at 15%; Buddhism at 7.1%, and Judaism at .02%.

<https://examples.yourdictionary.com/5-main-world-religions-and-their-basic-beliefs.html>

Islam's God is Allah. Buddhism has no god. They seek for Nirvana or enlightenment. Sikhs have one God. I don't know who he is but the most important name for him is Waheguru. That means "Wonderful God or Lord." Whether it is actually true or not, I don't know, but Hinduism is said to have 33 million gods. These are all faiths of one kind or another.

I do not know what evidence there is for any of these religions other than Islam, which has the Koran. I have read it and it is very hard to read. I sat beside an Imam on an airplane some years ago. And I asked, "What evidence do you have that the Koran is true?" And he said, "The evidence is that so many people memorize it." Would you commit your life to Allah on that kind of evidence?

I asked omniscient Google what you have to do to become a Muslim and Google said: **You have to believe that there is only one God, Allah, who created the entire universe, and that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is his final messenger on earth. If you recite this, with total sincerity, in front of two witnesses, you have become a Muslim. It really is as simple as that.**

So there are all kinds of faiths. So Paul said in 1 Corinthians 8:5-6:

*5 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords),*

*6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.*

So in mankind there are many faiths, but for us there is one God and one faith.

-Kind of faith meant here

Now in the Christian faith, the word faith is used in various ways. Our question is, when Paul speaks of the shield of faith, what use of the word faith is he talking about? It is important for us to understand what meaning of faith Paul has in mind in our text. So let me give you the various ways the word "faith" is used in the NT, and then point out what I believe Paul meant here.

#### Personal faith

We have mentioned various kinds of faith before such as Hinduism or Buddhism. Now we are talking about the kinds of faith mentioned in the Bible. Let me begin with the individual's personal faith. Every one's personal faith is according to what they know and believe. Turn to Matthew 9:22 to look at this. Here is what it says:

*22 But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.*

This was her individual faith. She believed the Lord could heal her. We go to verse 27-29. It says:

*27 When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!"*

*28 And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said*

*to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."*

*29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."*

What took place was according to their individual faith, and we could give many other examples.

### Saving faith

Then there is saving faith. Turn to Romans 3. Saving faith is the faith one has to be saved. It is a faith exercised by unbelievers. We begin in verse 20:

*20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

*21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,*

*22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;*

*23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

To experience eternal salvation one must believe in Jesus Christ. The doctrine of conversion, like a coin, has two sides. These are repentance and faith.

We go to Ephesians 2. We'll read verses 8-9:

8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,*

9 *not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

To be saved, one must put one's full trust in Jesus Christ. When we repent, we must believe our sins are forgiven on the basis of His Word. Saving faith is what unbelievers exercise. Saving faith is not a gift, it is a command to be obeyed and it can be obeyed.

#### The gift of faith

Then there is the gift of faith. Saving faith is exercised by unbelievers. The gift of faith is exercised only by believers. It is the teaching of Calvinism that unbelievers cannot repent and exercise faith. So they cannot be saved unless they are one of the elect, in which case God will cause them to be born again before they are saved. I need not tell you that that is not possible. And then once they are born again, now God will give them the gift of repentance and the gift of faith, and now they can and will repent and believe.

I find no reference in the Bible to saving faith being a gift. I have been challenged with Ephesians 2:8-9 to show that faith is a gift. Let me just say to those who study that, it is not hard to show that the gift in those verses is neither grace nor faith because the genders of both grace and faith do not match the gender of the word gift in the original language. I won't take more time on that.



So let me give you a few references to the gift of faith. We go to Romans 12:3:

*3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.*

*4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,*

*5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.*

*6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;*

*7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;*

*8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

Very clearly, the gift of faith here is a gift exercised by certain believers. As one has a gift of singing and another the gift of prophecy, so some have the gift of faith. Let me just mention a man most familiar to most; George Mueller.

Go now to 1 Corinthians 12. We begin in verse 7:

*7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:*

8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

Now clearly, the gift of faith is a gift given to certain believers, and not all have that gift, as most will admit.

So we have the faith of any given individual. Then we have saving faith. That is that which must be believed in order to experience initial salvation. This is only exercised by unbelievers. And then there is the gift of faith, and this is only for believers.

#### The Christian faith

The fourth and last kind of faith I find in the Bible is the sum total of the Christian faith. This includes all of what Christians believe. If you have the opportunity some time, look into a Christian theology book and there you will find most things crucial to what Christians believe.

Let me give you a few references to this use of the word 'faith.' Go to Hebrews 12. We begin in verse 1:

1 *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

2 *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Now notice the word *our*, in the phrase "our faith." You will notice that it is italicized. You also know that when it is italicized like this, that means it is not in the original. Many times it is necessary to do that when you are translating, but I do not see it as necessary here. As a matter of fact, it seems to me to fail to give the intent here.

In the original it says this, that Jesus is the author and finisher of THE faith. Which faith? The sum total of the Christian faith. The word "author" really means the beginning. Jesus is the beginning of the true faith. He is also the one who brought the entire faith of the Christian to completion when He died, was buried, rose again, and ascended into heaven. He is the *beginning* and the *end* of the entire Christian faith! He is the central key to all Christian doctrine! It begins and finishes in Him!

Listen to Acts 16:5:

5 *So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.*

The faith. What faith? The Christian

faith! 2 Corinthians 13:5:

*5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? -unless indeed you are disqualified.*

Paul says, "Check out and see if you are in the faith. Test yourself." Well, if you don't believe God created the heavens and the earth, you are not in the faith. If you do not believe Jesus Christ is God, you are not in the faith. If you do not believe Jesus died, was buried, and rose again, you are not in the faith.

Paul says in Romans 1:5:

*5 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,*

Obedience to what faith? Individual faith? No. Obedience to the entire Christian faith. Just before Jesus ascended to heaven He gave the great commission to Christians. In Matthew 28:19-20 He said this:

*19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

*20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

Jesus is the beginning and the end of the Christian faith. That is the sum of the Christian faith, and new believers are to be taught to observe all things that Jesus had commanded them. The Christian

is to grow in grace. To do this we must keep adding to our faith.

Now note our text in Ephesians 6:14. It says: "...above all, taking the shield of faith..." Literally it says, "...above all, taking the shield of THE faith." I believe what Paul meant here was the shield of the whole of the Christian faith.

The Christian can never rest today on yesterday's learning. The Christian's faith should be ever growing. As soon as one relaxes, that soon one begins to slide back.

Now the matter about faith that amazes me is that according to the Bible, the God known as Jehovah God created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. And He created man with an intelligence above all the animated creatures He created. Man can logically come to conclusions and be creative. Each animal only has a certain realm within which it will always be. Robins have never improved on their nests and beavers still build the same dams they always did.

But man can figure out the different animals and harness these creatures as is good for him and man has a knowledge of himself in a way no other creature does. Yet man has been created with five senses, only five, and he will always be within those five in time as it exists now.

Each animal is limited to a certain sphere of innate knowledge. Outside of this it cannot go. Man, on the other hand, in his experience is limited to the five senses. But within that realm man has an incredible capacity to communicate

and to learn new things through means of communication with others and even with God. When man learns about the God of the Bible, and he learns of God's attributes, he can only go so far and there everything stops. For example, that God is without beginning and without end, this man's little computer cannot handle.

Now God has locked man in this sphere of five senses and with a knowledge capacity that has a cap. But then God has given to man a logical mind and a book, which we know as the Bible. And in this book He has communicated and revealed things that man could not otherwise know. He is taught how he came into existence, how he fell into sin, and how God provided for his redemption. But all of that man cannot prove, he only has evidence. This evidence is given to man in the world book and the Word book. And on the basis of the evidence revealed in those, man is to live his life trusting in what God has revealed. This is living by faith.

Our passage began with these words, and I'll give them as I understand them: "Finally my brethren, be strengthened in the Lord, even in the power of His might." We have a powerful, and resourceful enemy. And how are we strengthened to overcome him? What do we have to do? Number 1, be girded with truth. Number 2, live right. Number 3, stand on the sure foundation of the Gospel. Number 4, take up the shield of faith.

-The *shield* of faith

Now consider our verse again and note the shield:

*16 above all, taking the shield of faith*

*with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.*

One article said this of the shield:

The Roman panoply consists firstly of a shield (scutum), the convex surface of which measures **two and a half feet in width and four feet in length**, the thickness at the rim being a palm's breadth. It is made of two planks glued together, the outer surface being then covered first with canvas and then with calfskin.

So if you crouched behind this shield you could disappear from view to the enemy. The shape of the shield would deflect arrows or darts.

-The darts

Now notice our verse says that with this shield the Christian is able to quench the darts of the wicked one. These darts are fired by demons. Our verse says that with the shield of faith we will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. Let me quote a few commentaries for their thoughts on the fiery darts:

Barnes: "The fiery darts that were used in war were small, slender pieces of cane, which were filled with combustible materials, and set on fire; or darts around which some combustible material was wound, and which were set on fire, and then shot slowly against a foe. The object was to make the arrow fasten in the body, and increase the danger by the burning; or, more frequently, those darts were thrown against ships, forts, tents, etc., with an intention to set them on fire. They were in common use among the ancients." He then cites evidence for what he has said.

Then he says: "Paul here refers, probably, to the temptations of the great adversary, which are like fiery darts; or those furious suggestions of evil, and excitements to sin, which he may throw into the mind like fiery darts. They are blasphemous thoughts, unbelief, sudden temptation to do wrong, or thoughts that wound and torment the soul."

Poole says: "...it seems to be an allusion to the poisoned darts some barbarous nations were wont to use, which inflamed the bodies they hit. By them he means all those violent temptations which inflame men's lusts. These fiery darts of temptations faith is said to quench, when, by the help of grace obtained of Christ, it overcomes them."

Gill says: "And they may be said to be "fiery," because they serve to inflame the mind, and excite to sin, as lust, anger, revenge, and the like; and were they not repelled, would be the occasion of bringing into everlasting burnings. The allusion is to βελεσι πεπυρωμενοις, "the fiery darts," cast by enemies into towns, and upon houses, in order to burn them {p}. Mention is also made of גירי אש, "fiery darts," with the Jews {q}, and of Satan's casting a dart at David {r}: from these customs, and ways of speaking, the apostle borrows his phrases; and suggests, that the shield of faith is of use to quench the fiery darts of Satan's temptations; so that they may not have the malignant influence they are designed for; which is chiefly done by faith's dealing with the blood of Christ. And there were ways of quenching the fiery darts alluded to; which was done by skins and hides of beasts made wet, or anointed with alum {s}."



Consider now that the shield can quench these darts. What we seem to have is what the commentaries mentioned as darts soaked in some fuel and they are burning. To read Barnes comment again, he says:

"The fiery darts that were used in war were small, slender pieces of cane, which were filled with combustible materials, and set on fire; or darts around which some combustible material was wound, and which were set on fire, and then shot slowly against a foe. The object was to make the arrow fasten in the body, and increase the danger by the burning;"

So what we have is not an arrow that is shot straight at people, but a burning dart probably shot up so it would come down onto a person behind the shield. So if a dart like this penetrated one's clothing and one caught on fire, one would quickly forget the battle and seek to put out the fire.

-Wicked one

Now note that these are fiery darts of the wicked one. We know who the wicked one is. Jesus, in that prayer we know as the Lord's prayer, prayed in Matthew 6:13: "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." That is the KJV we are familiar with. The NKJV says, "...but deliver us from the evil one" and I believe that is correct. It is the same wording as our text.

And again, 1 John 5:19 says in the KJV:

*19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.*

But a more accurate translation says:

*19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*

The word "world" speaks of all the lost. Consider this: every lost person is under the sway of demonic forces. There are no exceptions.

Well, the deliverance from the evil one is the deliverance from the evil one's demons. The fiery darts from the evil one are demonic darts. So we get the picture of the fiery darts. Now let me propose to you that we ourselves may be the tool in the hands of demons to fling fiery darts. There are two very key things to recognize. First, I might be the tool of fiery darts going to my wife or my children or my friends. I propose that words are some of the most common fiery darts of the wicked one and we can be the instrument he uses. We can become tools in the hands of the wicked one to fire darts at another Christian. We might say some hurtful thing to our partner or our children, and these words strike the heart, and just like that we are at odds.

If Satan can use us to fire a dart like that, he can then cause us to begin to fire them back and forth and on a day that might have started well, all of a sudden we are each in our own city with a wall of stone around it, hedged in by our own pride.

When we find ourselves in such a case, the swiftest way to take all the fire out of the darts is to humbly repent and confess where one has done wrong. It is amazing how Satan can lose ground as fast as he took it if repentance takes place. But once we have become guilty of firing darts, pride immediately gets brick and

mortar, and begins to build walls.

So first, we can be the tool the wicked one uses to hurl fiery darts. But second, we can be the target of fiery darts and now our thoughts are the key area he uses.

Listen to Lloyd Jones. He writes: "But what of our experiences? Do we not all know something of this? Do we not know something of what it is, perhaps, to wake up in the morning and to find that before we have had time to do any thinking, thoughts come to us, evil thoughts, perhaps even blasphemous thoughts? You were not thinking, you were doing nothing, you had just awakened; but suddenly the darts reach you. That is what the Apostle Paul means by 'the fiery darts of the wicked one.'" (5:301). Then he says, "It is important for us to realize this because it is a part of the enemy's strategy to prevent our understanding that he is the cause of this." End quote.

Well-meaning Christians warn us to not see a demon behind every bush. But Warren Smith, who battled the devil a lot, said, "But there is a demon behind every bush." What he meant was that demons are just everywhere and they are. Remember Paul warned us in our passage that Satan is the prince of the power of the air.

Jones then says, "Have you not experienced this also when you are reading the Bible? You can read the newspaper and concentrate on it, but when you start reading the Bible, thoughts and ideas come from all directions and you find it almost impossible to concentrate."

In another place he speaks about doubts. Oh how doubts can plague us. And then he says: "But there is something even worse! The devil has often plagued some of the noblest saints with blasphemous thoughts - blasphemous thoughts about God, blasphemous thoughts about the Lord Jesus Christ. Horrible, horrifying! And as I explained earlier, what the devil hopes and trusts will happen, is that the saint under attack will assume those are his own thoughts and begin to doubt he is a Christian at all. Or the devil may hurl words and phrases, oaths, horrible language at the Christian" (5:302). End quote.

It is right at such a time that one needs to go by himself somewhere and deal with the devil and get one's mind purified. Further, if one recognizes the wicked one at work one can avoid trouble to begin with. I told you about the man who came down on me about covid and our ignorant town that refuses to get vaccinated. When his arguments did not get the desire affect he fired a dart. He told me what kind of a brain I had and what it was according to him. His language was very plain. I had been memorizing our passage and recognized soon after what had been happening. I could have taken offense, but as it was, all glory to God, the dart bounced off and fizzled out without damage.

There are other darts. Sometimes a thought is fired into our mind and it begins to fester and eat away at us until we get all riled up. It could be thoughts of where we were wronged and they begin to eat away at us. Or it may be a lustful thoughts. For all cell phone and internet users, how fiery are the darts that fly from a little side bar? Only a true godly

faith can come to the rescue. A lack of conviction that the Bible is truly God's Word and that I must give account for every thought, word, or action that is wrong can get us in big trouble.

What is the shield of faith in all this? How does one use it? You see, the more one knows of the truth of the Word of God, the more one is ready for many and various attacks. The more we have a handle on the whole of the Christian faith, the more capable we are of handling demonic situations. There is little doubt that this next week each of us will meet the foe somewhere and the question will be this: Will we recognize him?

And one last word. Jones says we do not have faith in faith. Faith is always in the Lord, not in faith. We can try to work up faith. We think, "Oh, if I could only believe hard enough." That is trying to have faith in faith. When we do what He commands us by His Word, that is faith. Not all are meant to be a David or a Daniel. We are called to be us. If God wants to use us, and we are living by faith, He will use us where He wishes. This is what Hebrews 11 teaches. Some conquered giants by faith and others were sawn in pieces and died by faith.

CONCL: So we conclude. The concept of faith has so intrigued me in the last number of years that I always wish I was eloquent to expound it as it grips my heart. The importance of the Christian faith, and living by that faith in light of our battle against demonic forces is hard to overestimate.

Lloyd Jones says: "The apostle is telling us that we must be prepared for what we may describe as Satanic attacks and assaults which at times can be unusually fierce and fiery. In addition to all his other activities and all the implements or the instruments he employs, the devil employs these fiery darts.

And they are fiery; they burst into flaming and are very destructive.

"An understanding of this is of vital importance to us in our spiritual warfare. Many masters of the spiritual life have described these attacks in detail. The best known examples are Martin Luther and John Bunyan. No two writers have ever dealt more specifically or clearly with this particular aspect of the Christian's warfare than these two men. Most Christians have heard the famous story of Luther and his inkpot, and of his throwing it at the devil. He was deeply conscious of the devil's presence in his room, and he could not get away from him. Whatever he tried to do, the devil was there hurling his darts at him. John Bunyan testifies in his own way to a similar experience."

I can testify to that. I come under such ferocious attacks at times that I think, this time I might not survive. I can tell you that in the last 10 years I have experienced hundreds and hundreds of vicious attacks. I can tell you that many times I got on my knees and took passages of Scripture and held them up to God and then asked Him in the name of the Lord Jesus to remove these unwanted, demonic agents from me. And I can testify that the Lord has never failed me yet. Usually one season of prayer is sufficient. At times I have had to go to prayer as many as three times.

I can speak with no pride. I know if it was not for the Lord's mercy I would have crashed. The darkness at times has been almost overwhelming. I do know this, the power of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ is sufficient to overcome the wicked one.