

**RESTING IN CHRIST**  
**(Resting in HIS LOVE is how we are waging war)**

**Bertie Brits**

**June 6, 2021**

**Greetings, friends!** What a blessing it is for me to come to you today and bring you the good news of Jesus Christ! Helena and I are safe back in Malmesbury and are almost ready to go back to Zambia to fetch our vehicle.

Well, I believe our trip there was very successful. We have attained much more than what we ever planned to reach in this time and I'm very excited about what took place there. Unfortunately, as you guys know, we had a small accident with our vehicle and we have to do some extra things to get that sorted out. But thank God for His grace and His goodness and that He empowers us to finish that and just accomplish that.

I want to welcome everybody that is watching for the first time. Thank you so much that I can serve you with the Good News of Jesus Christ. And then, all of our faithful listeners, people that just slot in faithfully, thank you so much that I can just minister this message of grace to you again.

Like I say at most of our services when we start, that you can expect **ONLY** to hear the gospel of God's grace. The message of the goodness of God and how that is made applicable in everyday life in these messages. The vision that I have is to preach only the grace of God... nothing else. So many times, we can say that we also believe in the grace. I've met many people, when I share the grace of God with them, they say, "Well, at our church, we also believe the grace of God."

Now, I don't believe that we should **also** believe the grace of God but **only** believe in the grace of God. Now the grace of God is a very broad topic and it touches every area of our life but I want to assure you that you are going to hear the gospel of grace, by God's grace, today.

**PRAYER:** Let us just pray together as we start our service. Father, I want to thank You so much for Your love and Your grace. Thank You that You empower us with Your gospel, with Your Good News, that can set us free, that sets us free, that keeps us free and that it also has the hope of eternal life. Thank You that we are safe in Your hands, that You are a God of grace. Thank You that You greet us in a very loving way: "Grace to you and peace!" Thank You that we can, today, say, "We receive the grace that You are giving us. We receive the peace that You are giving us. We receive the mercy that You give us and, in receiving this goodness of You, that we have a long, prosperous life, eternal life, in the house of God. Amen and amen

**TODAY'S MESSAGE:** Today we are going to get into a message where Paul was talking to Timothy. Timothy was a young man, a prime person that could be elected for an army. He was the kind of a person, that the Jews, that wanted to start a rebellion against Rome, would have wanted to pick to get him to fight in their army. Obviously, you would find the Jews, or the zealots, use the Bible, use the scriptures, to basically back their course and then get people and their religion and what they believe about God, hooked into this so that they can have the victory that they think they should have in this world. We are going to look a little bit at that today.

Now, I want to just tell you from the beginning that this message might not be the most popular message but, as you stick through this, you are going to hear that it is only the grace of God. Let us start out by just reading Ephesians chapter 1. I mentioned it last time and I would like to mention this again: This is how Paul starts his letter. He starts the same way when he writes to Timothy. ***Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God...*** Now, just saying those words is like today we will say to somebody, "Hi". or when we write a letter, we would say, "To whom it may concern", or, "To the Church" and then we would start our letter.

Listen to what Paul does: He starts his letter and says, "I am Paul. I am sent by the Messiah Jesus." What he was basically saying there is, "Jesus was raised. He's seated at the right hand of God. He's actively working in the earth today and He sent me. I'm a sent one by Him." That means He's alive. So, Paul comes and he says, "I want to just tell you that Jesus is alive and I am a sent one apostle, by Him. I am an apostle of Jesus Christ sent of Jesus.

I remember, years ago, I was at a place and there was a young kid running past. You know some of these African villagers, when a kid runs past, you can quickly stop him and you can say to him, "Will you go and get me this or get me that?" You can just send him and I remember one time I was sitting at a table somewhere outside a house and one of the people that were with me called this kid and he said to him, "Hey, can you. quickly go and buy me a bread?" The kid said, "No, I am sent." So that means that someone else has already sent him to go and buy something for him. He might have been sent by a parent or by some other person. What he was basically saying is, "I'm an apostle for someone else. I'm sent by someone else."

Here Paul starts his letter and he says, "I am an apostle of Christ Jesus and the fact that I am sent by Him is inside the will of God." It doesn't contradict God and what He wants to do.

And then he says to the holy people that are in Ephesus, amazingly he talks to the holy people in Ephesus and then he's referring to people who also have mistakes.

***2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*** What he is saying is grace is the power of the resurrection and the effect and the promises it keeps for you. That is what it is. Grace and peace: harmony between different people groups, between you and God, from God the Father and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

That simply means that they are both in on the deal. It is not that Jesus is trying to rob the Father of glory. No, it is both of them. So, you have heaven, that which fills heaven, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, greeting you saying, "I'm coming and I'm greeting, I'm meeting with you. I'm talking to you and I just want to say to you, "The foundation of our conversation is, "My power to quicken the dead as well as My power to sustain you, My power to preserve you and how that is exercised towards you." That is how God, the Almighty greets.

So, I want to greet you in that very same way. I want to say to you, "I am Bertie Brits and I am sent by Jesus Christ and this sending is in accordance to the will of God. And I am speaking this to you, right now, God's holy people. You are set apart for God and from God, I have a message for you: The power of His resurrection and how it influences you to eternal life. That's what He sent me to come and minister to you, to confirm in you that which you've already heard. He hasn't changed. He's still saying the very, very same thing and this is from the Father, as well as from the Son. There's no division between the two of them on this. They are both in on this deal. All of heaven is for you!" That's how I greet you today. Be greeted in the name of Jesus Christ.

Before we get into Timothy, I want to quickly jump to Hebrews chapter 4 and I'm going to read from verse 8. Listen to this passage. I'm going to just share with you the power of the word of God. When we preach today, I'm going to preach the word, the message that God has for humanity. I'm going to preach it again, but listen to the power it has, the effect it has on you.

***Hebrews 4:8 For if Joshua had given them rest God would not have spoken later about another day.*** (This is his argument to the Jews. He's basically saying the rest you think that came, which was by Joshua, that is not the true rest because later in the scriptures it talks about a rest that was to come.)

***9 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God;***

***10 for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his.***

***11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.***

So, what he was saying was he was speaking to Joshua. Joshua was talking about the rest. These people did not enter into the rest. They perished. Then he said, "Let us, therefore, since there is a promise of rest, make every effort to enter into the rest.

So, what is our effort as a Christian? What is the work that we must do as a Christian? Our work is to see how we can enter into the rest that God provides where we rest from our own works, where we rest from living by willpower and the law and all those kinds of things. So, the work that a Christian has is to obey the Gospel which is to believe that God gives rest in Jesus Christ. That is what it is. So, he says, "I want you to obey the Gospel. I want you to believe in the Good News. I want you to believe in my greeting, how I greet you, for as you believe in this, you will enter into the rest of God. He says, "If you don't enter into the rest of God you will perish."

So, what is God's rest? God's rest is God preserving your life. God loving you. God keeping you and you not perishing. That is the rest of God. It says here that if we hear the Word and we obey the Word, meaning if we listen to what God says, which is simply this: Believe in Jesus! Believe that He is raised. Believe that He promises you eternal life and that He will bring it forth. As you believe that, as I've preached every Sunday when I minister, you receive the Holy Spirit which brings forth the fruit of God.

He says here, **Hebrews 4:12** *For the word* (That which we hear) *of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates* (it distributes life) *even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges* (distributes) *the thoughts and* (the intents) *attitudes of the heart.*

**13** *Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight* (From the Word).

So, what he is saying is, "Listen, here is God's Word: Eternal life is for you. Rest from trying to produce peace. Rest from trying to produce good works. Rest from trying to get your government to become right. Rest from trying to be a success. Rest from all those things which you think you need to do in order to have peace. Rest from all of that by believing what God says about you. What does God say about you? He says, "I've conquered your death. I've conquered your sin and I offer to you the hope of eternal life demonstrated in the resurrected Jesus." That is what he is saying. He says, "There's nothing that can escape this Word." He says, "This Word will reach into the depths of your being. This Word of the resurrection, this Word of Jesus that was raised from the dead and His Lordship, this Word, nothing is hidden from this Word's sight. In other words, the Word sees everything and His promise is to everything. He who believes and rests from his own works is not busy to destroy himself but he is experiencing the life that God gives him. Hallelujah!

Now we can see here that he is saying, "Let us labor. Let us make every effort to enter into the rest." So, it sounds like a bit of a battle there. It sounds like a bit of an effort there, something that can make you tired. Although Paul, or the writer of the Book of Hebrews, is not trying to put an emphasis on how hard the work is but what he is saying is the concentration, or the focus, should be on obeying what God says. Now I want to qualify what God says. God says, "Trust Me!" That's all! So many times, we want to obey 20 other scriptures. We want to obey so many laws. We want to obey the systems of this world... whatever! No, a soldier that has been recruited by an officer should not be entangled with the affairs of this world so that he can please the one that has recruited him. Paul says that to Timothy and he doesn't even explain it further because he knows there is so much turmoil in explaining that passage and he just said to Timothy, "Timothy, I just say this and I trust that God will give you understanding."

In the very same way with me. I want to just tell you this: The Bible says that God has recruited us. Let us be involved with the One and what He has recruited us for. He has recruited us for resting in Him! He has recruited us for entering His rest, obeying His command which is He commands us to rest and believe and trust upon Him that He will vindicate us with eternal life. That is it!

Therefore, if we believe that, there is no system outside of the resurrected Christ whereby we can condemn ourselves, whereby Satan, the accuser, can have a hold on us, because we cannot be accused. We are simply relying upon Him. Amen

Then he goes on if you read **Hebrews 4:16**, he says, **“Come boldly to the throne of grace.”** What is this throne of grace? The throne of grace is the throne of the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ whereby He gives us His life. Hallelujah! You are not rejected by God! You are accepted by God! Think of Luke 15. I’ve ministered about his in this last month. The Bible says that Jesus Christ came to save sinners. He came and He loved Zacchaeus. When He saw Zacchaeus in the tree, He said, “Today I must dine with you!” That ‘must’ is like an urgent desire. “I must! I cannot not do it! I want to come to you!” And he was the outcast of all people! He was the one that was hated by the Jews. He was hated by the Romans because he was a Jew and he was hated by the Jews because he worked for the Romans collecting taxes from the Jews.

It’s almost like being the traffic officer that gives out heavy fines and lives in town. You don’t have many friends. Your friends are basically other traffic officers because you know you it’s always this law thing and this negative thing. It’s the very same way with Zacchaeus and what did Jesus do? He went and He ate with him. What do you see in Luke 15:1? They complained against Jesus and they said that He receives sinners. Receives sinners means that He accepts them just the way they are and it’s okay. That’s basically, “He receives sinners. He’s okay with them. He says, “Come! I’m okay with you!” That is what Jesus Christ demonstrated and this love that He had for people gave a brand-new life to them and lifted them from the depths of death that they were in.

Before I read 2 Timothy verse 1, I want to mention this when we went on our trip to Zambia and I want to say this: What I enjoy in going there is it’s not so much the African bush although I love the bush. It’s not the beautiful flood plains although you see that I do put pictures of the rivers and the sunset on there. It’s none of that. To me there are much more beautiful places two kilometers outside of town where I live. I mean, for goodness’ sake, I can just drive down to Table Mountain, drive to Cedar Mountains here, drive to the most beautiful ocean right here. Cape Town area is just like one of the top tourist destinations in the world,

When Helena and I go to Zambia, what is more beautiful there, to me, than all of this nature, is the joy on somebody’s face when they realize that they have been co-raised with Christ, when they realize that their sins are forgiven, when they realize that it is not about their works, when they realize that it is about the grace of God. It’s about God’s influential power which is His love preserving people’s lives where they see their value, where they see that they are worthy and that God gave His Son and His Son died for them, that He was raised and appointed as their Lord. It is beautiful for me to see, especially, the one night when I preached and I said that you don’t have to have a life that is determined by politicians for you have a good Lord.

I even ministered that message on line for all of you to watch. When the people see that, you find the joy in their hearts, people begging to hear more, sending messages to the guest house where we stay. And they say, "We cannot afford that you don't preach. We need this message! We need this message!"

The joy that comes is not by me being accepted. It's not that at all! But when you see a life born from the resurrected Jesus, that is what drives Helena and I to go and do those things and preach there and go through a lot of discomfort. We really don't experience so much as a discomfort because of the empowerment of the Gospel.

So I just want to say again, to everybody that has been following us on our trip, people that are with us on this, "Thank you, so much, you know, for just having this same persuasion of goodness and love and kindness where you just encourage us and co-believe with us, pray with us, as we travel and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Well, I want to say that before the service, I didn't get to that. I forgot about this thought. Let me just throw that in there. I also think, for the very same reasons, and this is what Jesus went through and Paul. 4

Listen to what he says here to Timothy.

**2 Timothy 2:**

**1 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.** He didn't say, "Be highly educated on what the latest political news is and what the latest conspiracy theory is. That's not what he said, **You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.**

**2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.**

What he is saying is, "Listen, man, be strong in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the things which you've heard me teach, in other words, the message of grace, entrust this message of grace to other people who will be faithful to this message and will not deviate from this message. And these must be people that is also able to teach others." (This is also a great part of my ministry and what I endeavor to be involved in all the time.)

**3 Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.**

**4 No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.**

**5 Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules.**

What he is saying here is, "Listen, the way you compete in this race, if you want to call it like that, or in this battle (now likening it to a war) is by staying in the doctrine of the grace and the love of God. He says, "Be strong in this grace. Take this message wherein you are strong in and then equip others with this message which will stick to this message. And please know the rules whereby we live. If you are in this battle, there are certain rules by which you must abide and the rule for the Christian is going to be by grace only. That's the rule.

So, if you don't compete according to the rule, which means I am strong in grace, and you know outside of the rule which is by works or by your own effort to try to get involved with things that you are not supposed to get involved with, to try and bring the kingdom of God into existence or something like that, he says, "Then you are not competing according to the rules and you cannot receive the crown." If you want the crown of life, this is what he is referring to here, the only way whereby you can get the crown of life is if you are in this race if we liken it to a normal race or a battle, or whatever, and you compete according to the rules. This is the rule: Hands off! Believe God! And stay in that! Minister to others and teach them this same principle. What is the principle? It is, believe in Jesus, rest in Him. He, then, in His resurrection power, causes you to rest from your anxieties and fears. He brings forth life in you and you just focus on the fact that He loves you, that He died, that He rose again, and what hope that gives you. That is what he is saying here.

***:6 The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.***

He is saying here is, "Listen, let me explain to you. If you are a hardworking farmer, you are the first to receive a share in the crops." Many preachers use that and say, "Well, if I'm a preacher, I'm the first one to receive an offering and the money that comes in!" That is not what that scripture means! What it means is, he says, "Timothy, you believe in the grace of God so I want to tell you, "You be the first one to rest. You, as pertaining to yourself, rest and, from that rest that is given to you by God, you equip others." What happens to them is they enter into rest and that's the law whereby we abide. We can't preach grace and live from the law. No! We live by the grace and the acceptance and the love and our union with God in Christ. That is what we do. This is what he is saying.

***7 Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.***

***8. (And this is the thing that he is talking about:) Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel,***

***9 for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.***

I will read from a different version: NLT

***8 Always remember that Jesus Christ, a descendent of King David, was raised from the dead. This is the Good News I preach.***

So, what is the Good News that Paul preached? It was that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead! That was his Gospel. He didn't preach too many things you need to do having to jump through hoops. He preached that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and that that gives you a confident expectation and a hope.

A good example on the grace of God: **Colossians 1** We need to enter into His rest, into the grace. How do we enter rest? We enter into rest by obedience. What is obedience? Obedience is not closing your eyes trying to hear what God tells you that you must do every day. Obedience is not opening a scripture thinking what you must do every day.

No. Obedience is to the command that God has given and He says, "A new commandment I give you so that you can love one another." What is this commandment? The commandment is simply, in **1John 6:28** that you believe on Him whom He has sent. Believe on Him whom He has sent... that's it! As you believe on Him, you now have access, an entrance, into the rest. He says. "Let's not be like Joshua who did not believe that God would take him into the promised land." And what did they do? They were just in the wilderness all the time. Why were they in the wilderness? They wanted it the way it happened in Egypt. They wanted it to be by slavery. They didn't want it to be by rest. If they could have believed that God could take them into the Promised Land, they would have rested from all their stresses, all their fears, and all those kinds of things.

So, we as Christians, our battle is to keep the faith. How do we fight this battle? It's very simple! We sit back and we listen to the Good News. That's it! You come on a Sunday and you listen to this message that I preach. In the week or in the day, you listen and speak to your wife, speak to your child, your friend, about the Gospel of Grace. You are strong in the Gospel of Grace. How are you strong in the Gospel of Grace? Some people are very strong in politics. That's not a good place to be. That's a very wrong place to be. It's not going to help you. I want to tell you that a life of peace is not on the other side of government. It's on the other side of Jesus's obedience and He has already obeyed. And through His obedience we have life.

Like I said to somebody earlier today, "We were talking about critical race theory. I didn't even know... sorry for my ignorance. I didn't even know there was such a thing. I don't know how. Maybe I don't listen too much to these things. I found a Christian guy speaking a little bit on this and what he finds wrong with it popped up in YouTube and I listened to it. Then I sent it to two of my friends and asked them what their view is on this because what this guy basically says is that if we want to solve our issues between races, it is going to be by the Gospel, the message of Grace. It is not going to be by trying to dig into the past of what one nation did to another nation and those kinds of things. If you want to dig into the past, dig into the past where Jesus Christ is and find your new identity in Him and so be healed. That is what he basically says. I sent this to some of my friends and he responds.

I responded again this morning and this is basically what I think. I think that healing for every person is never on the other side of another person's obedience. But, if it's on the other side of another's obedience, that other must always be Jesus and not another person. I remember years ago when Helena and I started out in ministry, we were upset if people didn't support our ministry. We were thinking that we are giving our life for the Gospel and these people are buying a new car and they are going on an over sea's holiday and those kinds of things. This was in our early years, our first year of ministry. It didn't last long. It lasted about a year and then God gave me a revelation. But it was the most terrible way of living having my joy on the other side of someone's else's obedience to give me something. And to all preachers watching me, I want to tell you that your joy is not on the other side of your congregation's financial commitment to you! Neither is your joy on the other side of bringing forth a ministry.



Last night, Helena and I were talking and I said to her, "What do we have to show as pertaining to ministry?" I said, "The only true thing that I can show is the doctrine that I'm preaching. That's what I can show. I can show the truth, the Gospel. That is what I can show." Some might say, "But what can you show? Where is your big building that you have built?" Or, "Where is this or where is that?" To me, if I show something, the only thing that I can show and want to show at the end of my life is this pure Gospel. That is what I want to show. Other things might come but that is not what I'm aiming at. The aim is what can you show? You can show the Gospel of Jesus! Alleluia!

So, I want to say to you preachers and everybody, "Listen, blessing is not on the other side of someone else's obedience." I'm talking about normal people in this world. Blessing on the other side of someone's else's obedience can only be true should Jesus Christ be the other one! That's why Jesus obeyed. He obeyed and on the other side of His obedience is our blessing and our obedience is to believe Him. As persuasion comes to our heart to yield and give over and to stay in that condition of strong persuasion where we are strong in the grace of God as explained in Colossians, that I'm trying to get to..

I'm enjoying my message! Glory to God! Some say, "How can you enjoy your message? That is vain!" It's not mine. It's God's message!

### **Colossians 1:**

**3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people—**

**5 the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel.**

He says, "I see that you are full of love. I see that you care for other people and the reason why you do this is because of this message of hope that you have heard about which is laid up for you in heaven." (He's talking about the promise of the resurrection and the return of Jesus, and so forth.)

He says,

**6 (This message) that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit** (So what he is doing now is saying that this message that Jesus was raised and the hope it brings is the Gospel) **In the same way, the gospel** (the good news) **is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace.**

So, what is God's grace? God's grace is the resurrection power, the hope it gives you, and the fruit that this hope brings forth in you because of Him. That is the grace.

Now he goes to Timothy and says, "Listen man: Be strong in the grace of God. Don't get entangled with the affairs of this world but be strong in the grace of God, for that is the rules by which we compete. This is the rule, the only rule: Be strong in grace! Be strong in how gracious God is and how loving God is and how He accepts you and how He preserves your life and how He's good to you! Be strong in that!" That is what he is saying. Be strong in the grace of God. Amen

You know that our battle is not against flesh and blood. You are not battling. I mean, if you are in South Africa, we are not battling the AFC. That's not what we are battling. Paul goes in 2 Corinthians chapter 10 and he corrects people. Let me give this as an example to you and he talks about his battle. He was talking about his battle as part of just correcting the church from wrong belief. That was the spiritual war. Paul's spiritual war was preaching the Gospel and helping the church bringing true doctrine to the church. That was the battle. That was the war.

Our war is not against political parties. Our war is not against corrupt systems where people are just doing whatever they want. We can all see. You don't even need the Lord, I'm talking about being born again and all of that, in order to see that certain people are just corrupt and that things are just wrong. Common sense is all you need. You can see it's wrong. But, to have life, you need to believe in the Lord and He needs to do it in you.

## **2 Corinthians 10:**

**1 By the humility and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you—I, Paul, who am "timid" when face to face with you, but "bold" toward you when away!** He says, "Maybe I'm timid when I'm with you but now I'm away and I'm writing this letter in all boldness.

**2 I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world.**

**3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.**

**4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.**

**5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.**

What he is basically saying here is, "Listen. I just come and I write boldly to you and I want to tell you that I don't want to come to you and be as bold as what I am now and, in my boldness, what am I doing? I'm correcting your belief as pertaining to thinking that we should walk according to the flesh." (Now he's talking about walking in the flesh as Jew, Gentile, law and even the customs of this world and so forth.) He is saying, "No. We are here to say, 'Jesus is Lord and these others aren't! Jesus is Lord and He's the Ruler and we should just simply believe upon Him and have life by Him.' That is the battle. That is the weapons of warfare. Paul's weapon of warfare was the preaching of the Gospel. Paul's weapon of warfare was not a physical sword or a gun, or a cannon, or missiles. That was not. The weapon of his warfare was the belief and the proclamation of the Gospel of peace. Hallelujah!

Some say to me, "But, Bertie, are we, as Christians, is it not our Christian duty to be involved in wars, physical wars?" I want to tell you, and you can hate me for this, it is not our duty that we must! Nowhere in the Bible is it written that a Christian is only a true Christian if he gets involved in governments and goes to battle and war and those kinds of things. We can do it. You can be involved. I'm not saying that you should be a pacifist. But what I'm saying is that that is not a must or a commandment that we must obey. But the commandment that we should obey is to believe the Gospel, the Good News of God's grace, and not to be strong in all the theories of the world but to be strong in how we are loved, to be strong in how we are accepted, to be strong in how we are forgiven, to be strong in the message of the new creation!

I don't want to be strong in what the English did to the Afrikaans speaking farmers years ago, oppressing them, putting them in concentration camp, raping their women, burning their farms and killing their children. I don't want to be strong in that message. I want to be ignorant of evil and I want to be excellent in the good that God does for me and the good that God does for all people. Glory to God!

So, I want to say to you, "As we are living in this world, as we are battling in this world, our battle is this one: I think of this picture of somebody sitting with his hands behind his head, on a beach, looking at the ocean, at rest. That is our spiritual war. That is our battle, resting in what Christ has done for us, resting in the good that God has done for us, being strong in His grace, the grace that He has for us. This is what Paul calls his battle and he's demolishing all the pretensions and all the arguments that there is against the fact that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. So, Paul was strong in the Gospel of the Resurrection. That is what he was strong in!

I'm going to end off by quickly jumping to **Ephesians 6:10 *Finally, be strong in the Lord and the power of His might.***

What is 'strong in the Lord and the power of His might'? That is where we are strong in as pertaining to our understanding. That's where we are strong in as pertaining to our education. That is what we are strong in as pertaining to our knowledge. That is what we are strong in as pertaining to our persuasion. That is what we are strong in as pertaining to, and I repeat myself, to understanding. We understand that Jesus died. We understand that He rose. We understand what it promises. We understand the fruit that comes from it and we understand that we can only be strong in that. Yes, we can also be in something else but we cannot be strong in something else. I cannot be strong in what's the latest negative thing. No, we are strong in the love that God has for us. And as we are strong in this, this is how we put on the full armor of God.

I want to just summarize it this way: To be clothed in the full armor of God can be sub-categorized but the way that you get clothed in the full armor of God is by being strong in the fact that Jesus is Lord, being strong in the fact that He is gracious, that He died, that He rose again and how that includes you and how it pertains to you. As you are strong in that, you are fully clothed with all the armor of God.

And when the evil one, the one who wants to bring in labor and annoyances, that wants to force you from the poverty of your human ability to produce life for yourself. When the evil day comes, a day when you are tempted with that, you'll be able to stand against the plans of the accuser. They will always be in our lives until the day Jesus comes, a place where the accuser can point things out and say, "Well, if you really hear God, then this wouldn't have happened, that wouldn't have happened, this wouldn't be this way. That would have been that way!" And it would want to bring accusation. But, if you are strong in how God loves you, when that comes, you will just answer the way Jesus answered and say, "Well, I don't live by all the successes of this world but by what God has promised. Amen and amen"

I want to thank you so much that you've allowed me to serve you with this Good News message. I also want to thank all of those who have traveled with Helena and me to Zambia and back and I want you to buckle up because very soon we are going to travel again and we will just share with you. We will just have messages on the road, not so much about where we travel but more Gospel messages sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we go with you. We are going to drive to Zambia again and we're going to get our vehicle that's there and bring it back. Insurance is going to repair it. Well, that is what they said. You know with insurances, it might be, it might not be. We will see what is going to happen there. But we know that our rest is in Jesus. We can do all of that and you're going to travel with us. It will be about an eight - ten day travel and just the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I'll keep you updated on what our go abouts are so I'm looking forward to travel with you. Thank you! Know that you are blessed by God and deeply loved by Him. Amen