

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

*“Whoever goes to the Lord for safety, whoever remains under the protection of the Almighty, can say to him,
‘You are my defender and protector.
You are my God; in you I trust.’*

*God will put his angels in charge of you to protect you wherever you go.
God says, ‘I will save those who love me and will protect those who know me as Lord.
When they call to me, I will answer them; when they are in trouble,
I will be with them. I will rescue them and honor them.
I will reward them with long life; I will save them.’ ”*
Psalm 91:1-2,11, 14-16 Good News

Lord, as I am drawn closer to you, the evil one tries harder to make me stumble and fall. Thank you for your word through Isaiah that you strengthen those who are weak and tired. Those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak. (Isaiah 40:29, 31 Good News) Thank you, Lord.

As your disciple Paul encouraged the church at Corinth, so also may I be encouraged to keep alert, be firm in my faith, stay brave and strong, and show love in everything I do. (1Corinthians 16:13-14)

Lord Jesus, I learn from your word that you pray for me, you intercede with the Father on my behalf, that I might be protected from the evil one. (John 17:9,15,20) Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord.

I thank you again, Lord, that I may build up my strength in union with you and by means of your mighty power. Help me to put on all the armor you have given me so that I will be able to stand up against the devil’s evil tricks. Remind me that I am not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world. Help me to stand ready, with truth as a belt tight around the waist, with righteousness as a breastplate, and as my shoes the readiness to announce the Good News of peace. Strengthen me so that at all times I may carry faith as a shield, for with it I will be able to put out all the burning arrows shot by the evil one. May I receive salvation as a helmet, and the word of God as the sword, which the Spirit gives to me. Lord, may I do all this prayerfully, asking for your help. Help me remember to pray on every occasion as the Spirit leads. (Ephesians 6:10-12, 14-18a Good News)

May each one speak aloud to you and to all who may hear, “You are my defender and protector. You are my God; in you I trust.” Hear my prayer, O Lord, for I pray in Jesus’ Holy Name. Amen.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, stand in his strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the gospel armor, each piece put on with prayer;
Where duty calls or danger, be never wanting there.
Hymn 514, verse 3

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