

EPHESIANS - Ephesians 6

Message 97

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Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20

INTRO: We have looked now at the crucial verse related to our enemy, Satan, and his fellow demons. We were given two ranks of angels, which indicate, as I see it, that there are more ranks. The devil was not listed and he is the first in order. Then his principalities or chief rulers, and then the authorities. These indicate to me that they have authority over other lesser demons. And there may be more ranks.

But second, we saw their character. Satan's character is well described by the names that are given to him. In the NT we have these: There is first, the name Devil, which means slanderer. We could give a message on each of these names. The name Satan means he is an adversary. He is the adversary of God, good angels and Christians. He is called the god of this age (2 Cor. 4:4; the prince of this world (Jn. 12:31) the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2); the ruler of darkness (Eph. 6:12); the great red dragon, (Rev. 12:7); the deceiver (Rev. 20:10); Apollyon, which means the destroyer (Rev. 9:11); Beelzebub, the prince of demons (Matt. 12:24); Beliel, vileness or ruthlessness (2 Cor. 6:15); the wicked one (Matt. 13:38); the tempter (1 Thess. 3:5); the accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10); an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14); a liar (John 8:44); a murderer (John 8:44); the enemy (Matt. 13:39); a roaring lion (1 Pet. 5:8). He is evil, heaped on evil. He is ruthless and merciless, and will do all he can to destroy the Christian, and yet many professing Christians live like he does not even exist.

So having given us a few ranks of angels, Paul then gives a few descriptions of their character. They are the rulers of the darkness. Darkness speaks of sin. Everything that is against God Almighty is darkness. God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. Then these demons are described as spiritual beings of wickedness. The wickedness described is the evil that seeks to entwine or entangle others into the same kind of evil. Many people living in sin are like that. They are not content until they have others entangled in their own sins.

So we have seen, what I call the headlines of what, why, and how to withstand these evil forces. We come now to the details of

the believer's victory over these demonic armies.

2. The Believer's Victory over this Opposition
(6:13-20)

a. How to defeat the devil - In general (6:13)

1) What to do - Take up whole armor (13a)

We take that up now in the first part of verse 13. It says:

13 Therefore, take up the whole armor of God..."

In verse 11 we were told what to do in light of the Christian's opposition. The believer is to be enabled in the power of God's might. In verse 12, we were told how to do that and it was by putting on the whole armor of God that we might be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Then in verse 13 we were told why that is necessary, and it is because we have a spiritual enemy who operates in the spiritual darkness of this age. These are spirits of wickedness that exist in the heavenlies, that is they exist in the air.

What we have in verse 13 is instruction on how to defeat the devil in general. In verses 14 and on, we will be instructed on how to do that in particular.

In our passage we see the first two pieces of armor the Christian is to wear. He is to wear the belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness. He is to have his feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel, and to take up the shield of the faith and put on the helmet of salvation. The last thing mentioned is prayer, to which no likeness is given of the literal soldier. Later we will look at each of these in detail.

Let me make this observation. We cannot fight the forces of darkness with physical armament. We find it amazing that such soldiers have a chance of overcoming the forces of darkness when we look at the world around us. Here is the Christian's armor: Truth; righteousness; the Gospel; faith; salvation; the Word of God, and prayer. Such armament is needed because we do not have an enemy of flesh and blood!

2) The reason for doing that - To be able to stand (13b)

Second, in general the Christian's reason for putting on the whole armor of God is that he might be able to withstand in the evil day. So we'll read verse 13:

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

I will explain in another message why, but I would put a period after the word *day*, and begin a new sentence right there. Now note once more in our text the words "may be able." Would you care to guess what word the word "able" is? It is the word *dunamis*, ability. And then we have the words "to withstand." The word's *to be able*, and *to stand* are key in this whole passage.

Now let me add here that the verb "may be able" is in a mood of possibility. If one does all necessary to stand, that is not an assurance one will stand. Now one must stand. It is not a passive stand. It is a stand against fierce opposition.

Now, the key of the wrestler of verse 12 is that he remain standing. The key to victory for the Roman soldier was to remain standing. Once he was down he was almost certainly finished. The key for the

Christian is to remain standing, spiritually. A Christian who is discouraged, staying home from church, failing to read the Bible and has stopped praying is a Christian who has been knocked down. I understand that there are many places where it is almost impossible to find a church. That is not what I am talking about.

Now in our text, the word "withstand" means to stand against. There is something or someone that is seeking to knock the Christian to the ground against which he must be able to stand. In verse 13 we learn what those powers are that seek to knock the Christian down. James 4:7 says:

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

When we submit to God, we put on the armor He provides. But after we put on the armor, now we have to resist the devil. The word "to resist" in this verse is the word of our text, "to stand against." In our passage we will learn how to resist the devil.

Turn to 1 Corinthians 10. Paul will here show us how Israel's experiences in the 40 years of wilderness wanderings has been written down for us to learn from. We begin in verse 11:

11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

I do not know if verse 12 and standing or falling are an illusion to wrestling, but the picture is the same. The believer needs to be able to stay on his feet. The danger

is that of falling. The danger of falling is greatest when we think we are standing, that is we think we cannot be knocked down.

Verse 13:

*13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are **able**, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be **able** to bear it.*

Notice twice the word "able." There is our word, *dunamis*. Now temptations are one of Satan's key ways to bring us to fall. Notice that God says He will not allow us to be tempted above what we are able. How minutely must God not be interested in our lives? He wants us to grow spiritually. When we grow, He will allow such temptations to pass as we are able to bear them.

Have you ever wondered why God wants us to grow? What is important about spiritual growth? The more a Christian grows spiritually the greater is his benefit to the kingdom of God, and the greater the potential for God to be glorified, and the greater the defeat of Satan. What can God accomplish through weak Christians? All effort goes into getting them to become healthy and growing. That is also why healthy, meaty food is important for grown Christians.

This summer I became like the devil to my garden. I sprayed plants with the wrong chemicals and quite a few died and many were very sick. All they did for a long time was try to recover. Now that it is almost too late they are thriving once more. That is how it can be in the Christian's life.

Listen to Hebrews 5:12-14:

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

When we do not grow we may be given to feeling sorry for ourselves. I wonder, are you given to feeling sorry for yourself? It is a sign of spiritual sickness. There is something wrong. Maybe we have some health situation. Or maybe some circumstance that is testing us almost beyond what we think we can bear and we begin to feel sorry for ourselves. Right there we begin to stand in danger of falling.

Consider Joni Tada Erikson. She was born in 1949 and so is now 72 years old. In 1967 she dove into water that was not as deep as she thought and hit bottom. After that she was paralyzed from her shoulders down. She later got married and has done things like artwork with her mouth holding the brush between her teeth. She has written 48 books.

Think of Fanny Crosby. She was very young when she became blind. She got to be 95 years old and wrote over 8000 hymns. But if she had let some spiritual disease enter in, she would not have accomplished all that. You see, God will not let any temptation too strong for us, come our way.

Now let me say to that, that we don't have

to have a great legacy to be important to God. One of the greatest legacies you can pass on is first, to become one of God's children by faith, and second to live faithfully, trusting Him, regardless of what comes our way. We do not have to have great accomplishments, but we do need to be faithfully.

But notice in this verse that God will not let those who belong to Him experience a temptation beyond what they are able, *dunamis*, to bear! But He will make a way of escape for every temptation He allows our way, in order that we might be able, *dunamis*, to bear it!

Now notice our text again:

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

There come in life, days that one can but call evil days. It is a day when an attack from Satan hits us. Just like that, out of the blue it seems, all of a sudden one finds oneself, to use Anne of Green Gables expression, in the depths of despair. Nothing seems right. One feels like one has never done anything right. One might begin to wonder if one is even a Christian. Every personal weakness seems to be magnified. Everybody else, so it seems, has it easy, but we have these great struggles. Darkness sets in. Sometimes it lasts for some days and for some even longer. One can almost wish one was not alive anymore. I wonder if you have known such days?

They tell me that pilots that are not experienced in flying by instruments, if they suddenly get caught in a cloud so they cannot see anything have 178 seconds left to live. Why? The reason is they cannot see.

Almost immediately their feelings automatically begin to dictate to them what to do. These feelings might scream, turn, turn, turn! And the feelings take over the controls, and lead them to disaster just seconds later.

As soon as one becomes a Christian, one must enter a course called, "Living by Faith 101." A Christian who suddenly finds him or herself in an evil day needs to have some experience of living by faith. What one must do as soon as one is in a spiritual fog where sight fails, is to immediately go to the instruments and fly by them. One must not give in to the feelings that yell, "Turn, turn, go back!" One must learn to trust those instruments, and deny every other sensation; and if one does not do that, one only has so much time left to live. There come evil days, when in just a few moments or a few hours, one has committed that which will land one in the wrong place.

The modern teaching called Once Saved Always Saved can leave a Christian diving towards the earth because one has trusted in a teaching that is unbiblical. The teaching that one who is saved and will persevere to the end has the same danger. The Bible knows of no such teachings. There are warnings all through the Scriptures. We have just read such a warning in the words, "Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." The book of Hebrews is full of such warnings.

Consider with me, King Saul. Turn to 1 Samuel 13. Israel had requested a king prematurely and Saul became the king of Israel. God had warned them that if they disobeyed, He would take away both them and the king. So we begin in verse 1:

1 Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel,

2 Saul chose for himself three thousand men of Israel. Two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in the mountains of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. The rest of the people he sent away, every man to his tent.

3 And Jonathan attacked the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. Then Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, "Let the Hebrews hear!"

4 Now all Israel heard it said that Saul had attacked a garrison of the Philistines, and that Israel had also become an abomination to the Philistines. And the people were called together to Saul at Gilgal.

5 Then the Philistines gathered together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the seashore in multitude. And they came up and encamped in Michmash, to the east of Beth Aven.

6 When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger (for the people were distressed), then the people hid in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in holes, and in pits.

7 And some of the Hebrews crossed over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

8 Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.

I have no doubt God had allowed this test to come upon Saul. And having allowed it, Satan whispered to Saul. In human reasoning I fully understand Saul. The Philistines have thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people without number. And Israel's people are flying into the hills and caves, hiding in fright. And Saul is waiting, and waiting. And then an evil day comes. Panic sets in. He must do something.

Verse 9:

9 So Saul said, "Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me." And he offered the burnt offering.

Never ever was a king to sacrifice an offering. This was the work of a priest. But panic has set in and Saul did that which he should not do.

Verse 10:

10 Now it happened, as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him.

11 And Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash,

12 "then I said, 'The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD.' Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering."

Ah yes, the evil day may be a day when we feel compelled to do something even though we know better. An evil day has come, and Saul has failed. God would have helped him

had he but trusted.

Verse 13:

13 And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.

14 "But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

So Paul says in our verse:

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

I cannot help but think of another time in Saul's life. Turn to 1 Samuel 15. You see, when Israel was in the wilderness, not long after they crossed the Red Sea, and after Israel had already murmured a few times, Amelek came to fight against them. You will remember the story. As long as Moses held up his arms, Israel was winning. But when his arms got tired and he began to lower them, Amelek began to win. So they set Moses on a stone and Aaron and Hur held up his arms and Israel won.

But in Exodus 17:14 it says this:

14 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven."

Well, when we come to 1 Samuel 15 God

remembers this promise. So we begin reading in verse 1:

1 Samuel also said to Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the LORD.

2 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt.

Let me insert here that God has a long memory. When He says something will happen, it will. And now the time has come.

Verse 3:

3 'Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.' "

4 So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Judah.

5 And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait in the valley.

6 Then Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

7 And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt.

The Lord gave Saul a great victory. Here is

a word of warning. When we have great victories, an evil day may soon follow. One must be on the lookout right after a huge victory.

Verse 8:

8 He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

9 But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

10 Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying,

11 "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night.

12 So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal."

13 Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD."

14 But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

15 And Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest

we have utterly destroyed."

Let me make another comment here. When we disobey as Saul did here, we can make great sounding arguments, but they are nothing but the flesh. We can dress up disobedience until it looks real nice.

Verse 16:

16 Then Samuel said to Saul, "Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night." And he said to him, "Speak on."

17 So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?"

18 "Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.'

19 "Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?"

20 And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

21 "But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal."

22 Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."

Well, there are many lessons in that story but what we are focusing on is the evil day. And here again, Saul fails. All these are warnings for us.

Think with me of David. He started out as a shepherd and learned to know Jehovah God and to trust him in the fields with the sheep. He became a harp player for Saul. Then later he killed Goliath, and the women began to sing of him, and Saul became jealous. Eventually David had to flee for fear of being killed by Saul. And then he spend some years on the run, always running from Saul. In all of this he was truly godly.

And then Saul and Jonathan were killed and David became ruler of Judah. And then after some more years, he became ruler of all of Israel. And when he had everything under control and he was king of all Israel an evil day came.

Then David fell into the sin of immorality. And then, to cover his tracks he eventually put the woman's husband in a dangerous part of the battle his army was fighting at that time, and this woman's husband died. An evil day had come.

Let me remind us of something. Both Peter and David were restored when they repented. I do not find Saul's repentance ever being real. Here is a word for all who have failed God.

Think of Judas. I cannot believe that the Lord Jesus chose an unbeliever as a disciple

so that he would betray Jesus so that Jesus might die. I believe he chose 12 true believers. No doubt Satan's host went to work, seeking to find someone in Jesus' own camp to help destroy Jesus. Maybe they had a round table and discussed how they might destroy Jesus before He reached too many people.

And somewhere one of them found a man, a man who was troubled with covetousness. Turn to John 12. Jesus has come from Galilee, and has come through Jericho, where Zacchaeus was saved. From there they followed the road some 2500 feet upward to Jerusalem and they are in Bethany, the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus. And there they made a great supper for Jesus. We begin in verse 1:

1 Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead.

2 There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him.

3 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

4 Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said,

5 "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"

Now let us stop a moment. Is Judas not a godly disciple? He cares for the poor. How many poor people could have been helped with this money? I understand from one of Jesus'

parables that a denarius was about a day's pay. So that would make this almost a year's pay.

But note now verse 6:

6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

Somewhere an evil day had come. Here he was, taking care of the finances of the Lord's ministry. And he would help himself to what was in the box. And here, six hundred Denari could have been added to the box!

Now you might ask what makes me think Judas was once a true disciple? When Jesus prayed that very important prayer recorded in John 17 He said in verse 12:

12 "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

God had given Judas to Jesus, just like He did the other 11 disciples. And Jesus said He had lost none of them except the son of perdition, which was Judas. He could not have lost him if He never had him.

Now Judas was the treasurer of the money that came in for Jesus ministry. Listen to Luke 8:1-3:

1 Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him,

2 and certain women who had been healed of

evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons,

We do not know how large the group was that followed Jesus from time to time. But here, we have Jesus, and the 12, and certain women as well. But listen now to verse 3:

3 and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.

So we find that the group was quite large here and it would have taken quite a lot of money to pay all the expenses. And notice that some of these provided from their own wealth for the ministry, and Judas was the treasurer. Somewhere, the evil day overtook Judas. No doubt the demons did all they could to influence him. So the demons, along with his fallen flesh, and his desire for money, the evil day overtook him and he began to steal from the treasurer's box.

Satan, now having a beachhead into Judas' life, further tempted him with thirty pieces of silver, and he went for that too. I have no doubt he thought he could get away with it and continue to rob from the box. He did not think that betraying Jesus would end in Jesus' death.

When Judas saw what would come of his betrayal, listen to Matthew 27:1-5:

1 When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death.

2 And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

3 Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He

had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!"

5 Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

The evil day ended in disaster for Judas.

Let me give you a more recent example of a couple I knew. This couple became Christians and from all indicators, they were true Christians. They were always in church. They helped in Sunday school and were involved in VBS programs. They trained up their family and they grew up following the Lord as far as I know.

And then when the children were grown, an evil day came. I do not know what happened but I know the end of the story. Somewhere an evil day came and gambling became a temptation. Then it became a practice and it led to Casinos. And then it became an addiction.

Let me put out a warning here to our young people. Never enter gambling. I trust that when it becomes a temptation you will remember this story. I have read that those addicted to gambling will sometimes wear diapers so that they will not have to give up their spot at a slot machine or table to go to the washroom. If you find that as hard to believe as I did, you can check that out on the internet.

Here is a warning, if we give in one time, this may happen to us.

Well, not only did this couple become gamblers, but they got one couple of their married children into gambling as well, until this man was trying to borrow money from various people. I don't know how long, but sometime after it became an addiction the husband died. He was a gambler to the end, as far as I know.

But the wife still gambled and she had to sponge off of other people to buy groceries. And still later she died, a gambler as well.

There comes an evil day in every person's life who becomes a gambler or an alcoholic, or any other harmful addiction. The evil day for every one of them is the day they begin to drink or gamble or do drugs. I do not know how accurate this quote is, but when I studied for the series of messages on wine and the Bible, I read this somewhere: One in ten people who takes one drink will become an alcoholic. One in ten of those alcoholics will commit suicide. If that is half right, nobody can afford to take one drink.

I now have two alcoholic brothers that have passed away. Somewhere there came an evil day in their lives. I want to warn everyone who listens to this message that the teaching of Once Saved Always Saved, and the teaching of the Perseverance of the Saints are dangerous teachings. The people of our text who are warned of an evil day are Christians. They are instructed to put on the whole armor of God because they have the potential of falling in the evil day.

CONCL: So we conclude. When we have done all to stand, when we have put on every piece of the Christian soldier's equipment, now we must stand. The call to stand does not simply mean to passively stand. Now we must seek to remain upright in the midst of the battle. When Paul was about to pass out of this world he

said, "I have fought the good fight." That is what standing is all about, fighting the good fight to the very end.

In the Christian's life there come days Paul calls an evil day. It is here that the fight reaches a climax and it does not just come once. It may come quite regularly. We have all known those who began well, and then something happened. This morning we have had reminders of those who had an evil day and they fell. Some repent and come back. Some never recover.

I have a brother that I led to the Lord many years ago. He was always a bit sickly. He was not like others his age. He would ask mom, what happens to boys when they die? Well, one day I was talking to him and several other brothers, and some of them wanted out of that room but he said, "Phil, if that says today if you hear his voice, that means me now."

Well, I was a young believer and hardly knew how to proceed. But we knelt and prayed. That could be 50 years ago. Our mom would read a paper called *The Sword of the Lord*. And he began to read that and his life changed. Slowly, over the next few years his health improved. Finally he was playing hockey like others. And then I saw him begin to leave the Lord and I talked to him a number of times. And then he got into drugs. Somewhere an evil day had entered.

And then, later, he shacked up with a woman, and to this day he lives with her, unmarried. Oh the ways of Satan. And if someone who hears this message finds he or she is slipping, today is the day to repent and turn back. One more day and it may never happen.

Wherefore, let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.