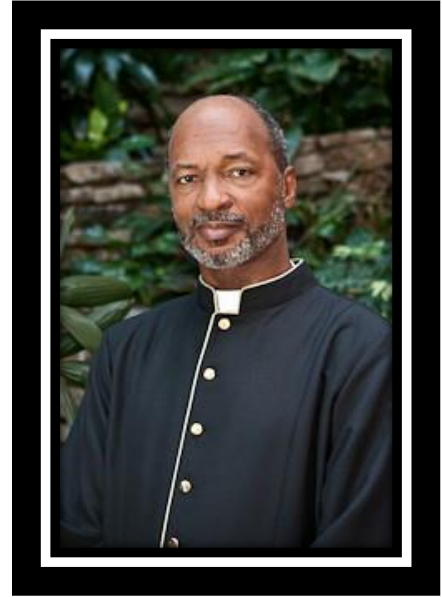


The Bishop's Corner

Put on the whole armour of God

Praise the Lord Saints,

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Praying always with all prayers and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints: And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel. For which I am an ambassador in bonds, that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak” (Ephesians 6:10-20).



Apostle Paul comes to this conclusion in Ephesians 6:10 after he has given us instructions in Ephesians Chapters 4-6 of how to live and have the mind of Christ. These chapters tell us what our character should be and how we should respond to others. They tell us how to treat our wives, husbands, children, employees, employers and one another. In Ephesians 6:10, Paul says, “finally”—now we are able to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might after we have done all the things in Ephesians 4-6. We must let our strength be in what God has said in His word. The power of God’s might is not in rebuking the people, but in His grace, love, mercy, kindness and peace.

The “wiles of the devil” is the devil’s wisdom. Do not let the devil win. When the devil comes with his wiles, he intends to win. Be strong in the Lord—His word and Spirit. If we are not strong, we will not be able to stand and will fall into the devil’s temptation and become so angry that we do something that we regret. We need to put on the whole armour of God so we can rebuke the devil when our quick temper rises up so we can withstand (let things bounce off us).

If we are going to stand with God, we must have truth, righteousness and the Word of God. The fiery darts are doubts that the devil shoots at us to cause us to give up and not have faith. The shield of faith quenches or stops the fiery darts. We cannot put on the whole armour of God without praying always. The armour of God will not work if we are not praying in the Spirit.

People are watching us, and when they look at our life, it should teach sinners God’s way and they should be converted. We must stop trying to act out these scriptures, but instead let God’s character become our character. People should be able to see our character through the Word of God.

God bless all of you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction