

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil on the heavenly realms.” (Ephesians 6:10-12)

RAIN OR SNOW

Over the past year or so, Kim and I have written a few times about putting on the spiritual armor (Ephesians 6:10-17). Our desire is for all of us to be as prepared as possible for “life” and what comes along as a result of it, not to mention the things the enemy throws at us constantly. Once again last week I was thinking about the process of putting on the armor that God provides for us. Every day, Dennis and I take our dog, Maggie for a 2 mile walk. Even when we don’t want to, she is insistent and is big enough to bug us so much we go. This morning, in particular, it was pouring down rain and the wind was gusting causing debris to whirl through the air: Definitely a day for staying in the house and drinking a cup of something hot. We know we have to go, though, so we prepare as much as possible. We know we’re going to get wet but we can’t let that stop us. If it’s cold, there is another whole dimension to be considered; keeping warm. We always check the thermometer for the temperature. If it is 40 degrees or above, I just wear my raincoat over sweatshirt plus a hat and my gloves. If it is less than 40 degrees, I wear my fleece plus other things to keep warm. So many preparations for a walk that takes about 45 minutes! Once a year I have to buy new walking shoes because I wear holes in the soles (that’s about 730 miles a year!). Shoes, hats, gloves, raincoats, pants.....all things to protect us on our walk. Now, it would be really nice if all those clothes we put on would cause the rain, wind, snow and ice to just stop so we could walk in relative comfort. That would be pretty amazing and soooo welcome. But, despite the weather and sometimes downright discomfort, we walk. (Oh! That dog!)

In the same way, the armor God provides protects us from a lot of things being thrown but doesn’t stop them from coming. We have prepared as much as possible, put on the right clothes (armor) and walked into the storm (life). The storm doesn’t stop just because we have on the right clothes but at the end of our walk we do get to come back into the house and dry off feeling somewhat prepared for the day. Day in and day out, walking, in spite of the weather or storms of life, in spite of trials and temptations, our desire is to walk on. Every one of us, going out into life every day, have to be prepared: we have to wear the right clothes. I wouldn’t be near as prepared for the weather if I wore my pajamas instead

of my raincoat. We can't see our spiritual armor like we can hats, gloves, and raincoats but it is even more important. Be prepared! The wind and rain aren't going to stop but with your armor on you will have protection. You will get wet, you will be buffeted by the wind, you will slip on the ice, but you will come home, dry off, and have a cup of something hot before you head back out again. No matter how drenched you may feel Monday is a great day to get your armor on again and start the habit of putting it on every morning.

Towel, anyone?

Blessings on your week!

Georgia