

130 - STAND!

Let me begin tonight by giving a quick report of the last couple of days. We left New England yesterday around 1:00pm and drove through Hurricane Sandy, across Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and into Pennsylvania. A trip that should have taken just over 5 hours ended up taking over 12 hours. Along the way, we had to clear downed trees and power lines, either by literally clearing them out of the way, or by driving over them. Literally, within 100 feet of the driveway to our hotel, we had to guide our car *under* a downed tree and a downed power line. Today, we had to start over again, because our hotel decided to close since they had no power or phone service. Finally, at 3:00pm this afternoon, we settled into a hotel with everything we needed and fully powered up.

I share all this with you, because what the Lord showed me, as we cleared the last obstacles to reach our destination was that each of us has had to clear away, drive around, drive through perhaps, or climb over or under, many obstacles to learn whatever we had to learn -- or may yet have to learn -- to live *in* the presence of God *in* peace, with the assurance that we have gone through every struggle successfully and are standing on a hill with our enemies running from us or lying dead around us.

The Lord said that we need to revisit the Panoply of God tonight from a higher perspective than we had before. Before we look at the Panoply, thought, let's look together at the source of trouble...of opposition...of satan, if you will.

As we read these scriptures, I pray that given the experiences we have shared together over the past several days, and, for that matter, over the past year, we will each have a much deeper recognition of the significance these scriptures have in our lives. I also pray that we would see a new depth of the Father's love for you and me, the attention He pays to every detail of our lives, and how kind, affectionate, and sweet He is to us as we sometimes seem to bump along this journey in Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-5:21 and I'm going to read this from the CLNT, using the grammatical marks and leaving out some of the light face words that were added for readability. I think you'll see why as you follow along in your own CLNT:

11 And the same One ***[we're talking about Christ here]*** gives the, indeed, apostles, yet the prophets, yet the evangelists, yet the pastors and teachers,

12 toward the adjusting of the saints into the work of dispensing, into the upbuilding of the body of [the] Christ,

13 unto the end that we should all attain [in]to the unity of the faith and of the realization of the son of [the] God, into a mature man, into the measure of the stature of the complement of the Christ,

14 that we may by no means still be minors, surging hither and thither and being carried about by every wind of [the] teaching, [in] human [the] caprice, [in] craftiness toward the systematizing of the deception.

15 Now, being true, in love we should be making [the] all grow into Him, Who is the Head -- [the] Christ --

16 out of Whom the entire body, being articulated together and united through every assimilation of the supply, in accord with the operation in measure of each one's part, is making for the growth of the body, into the upbuilding of itself in love.

17 This, then, I am saying and attesting in the Lord: By no means are you still to be walking according as the nations also are walking, in vanity of their mind,

18 the comprehension being darkened, being estranged from the life of [the] God because the ignorance is in them, because the callousness of their hearts,

19 who, being past feeling, in greed give themselves up with the wantonness into every uncleanness as a vocation.

20 Now you did not thus learn the Christ,

21 since, surely, Him you hear, and in Him were taught (according as truth is in [the] Jesus),

22 to put off from you, as former behavior, the old human, [the one] corrupted, according the seductive [the] desires,
23 yet to be rejuvenated in the spirit of your [the] mind,
24 and to put on the new human, [the one] according God, being created in righteousness and benignity of the truth.
25 Wherefore, putting off the false, each be speaking truth with his [the] associate, for we are members of one another.

26 Are you indignant, and not sinning? Do not let the sun be sinking on your vexation,

27 **nor yet be giving place to the Adversary.**

28 Let him who steals by no means still be stealing: yet rather let him be toiling, working the hands at the good, that he may have to share with one who has need.

29 Let no tainted word ever be issuing out of your [the] mouth, but if any good toward the need for edification, that it may be giving grace to the hearing.

30 And don't be sorrowing the holy [the] spirit of [the] God in which you are sealed into a day of deliverance.

31 Let every bitterness and fury and anger and clamor and calumny be taken away from you together with every malice,

32 yet become kind into one another, tenderly compassionate, gracing yourselves, according as [the] God also, in Christ, graces you.

Chapter 5

1 Become, then, imitators of [the] God, as beloved children,

2 and be walking in love, according as [the] Christ also loves you, and gives Himself up for the sake of us, an approach present and a sacrifice to [the] God, into a fragrant odor.

3 Now, every prostitution and uncleanness or greed -- let it not yet even be named among you, according as is becoming saints --

4 and vileness and stupid speaking or insinuation, which are not proper, but rather *thanksgiving*. [as in one another]

5 For this you perceive, knowing that no paramour at all or unclean or

greedy person, who is an idolater, has enjoyment of allotment in the kingdom of [the] Christ and of God.

6 Let no one be seducing you with empty words, for because of these the indignation of [the] God is coming on the sons of [the] stubbornness.

7 Do not, then, become joint partakers with them,

8 for you were once darkness, yet now you are light in the Lord. *[not IN darkness or part of the darkness...just you were once darkness, and now are light IN the Lord -- not outside of Him, mind you, but IN Him. Also, notice that no mention is made of the darkness being a function of, or influenced by anything other than ourselves outside of Christ. In other words, we are safe to ourselves and others only so long as we remain IN Him, moment by moment, because then, and only then are we Light, and otherwise we aren't just putting out darkness; we ARE darkness.]*

9 As children of light be walking (for the fruit of the light is in every goodness and righteousness and truth),

10 testing what is well pleasing to the Lord.

11 And be not joint participants in the unfruitful [the] acts of [the] darkness, yet rather be exposing also,

12 for it is shame even to say the hidens occurring by them.

13 Now all that which is being exposed, by the light is manifest, for everything which is making manifest is light.

14 Wherefore He is saying, 'Rouse! The drowsy, and rise out from among the dead, and [the] Christ shall dawn upon you!'

15 Be observing accurately, then, brethren, how you are walking, not as unwise, but as wise,

16 reclaiming the era, for the days are wicked.

17 Therefore become not imprudent, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

18 And be not drunk with wine, in which is profligacy, but be filled full in spirit,

19 speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and playing in your [the] hearts to the Lord,

20 giving thanks always for the sake of all, in the name of our [the] Lord, Jesus Christ,
21 to [the] God and Father, being subject to one another in fear of Christ.

The rest of Chapter 5 and the beginning of Chapter 6, is very important for husbands, wives, children (especially those living at home), and for employees of others, whether they be believers or not. This section, which I will encourage you to study on your own, establishes the standard by which any one of us can measure the most important relationships in our lives.

Ephesians 6:10-17

10 For the rest, brethren mine, be invigorated in the Lord and in the might of His [the] strength.

11 Put on the panoply of [the] God, toward abling you to stand toward the stratagems of the Adversary,

12 that it is not ours...the wrestling toward blood and flesh, but toward the sovereignties, toward the authorities, toward the world-mights **(system-holder)** of this [the] darkness, with the spirits of [the] wickedness among the celestials.

13 Therefore take up the panoply of [the] God that you may be enabled to withstand in the wicked [the] day, and having effected all, to stand.

14 Stand, then, girded about your [the] loins in truth, with the cuirass of righteousness put on,

15 and your feet sandaled with the readiness of the evangel of peace;

16 with all taking up the large shield of faith, by which you will be able to extinguish all the fiery arrows of the wicked one.

17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is a declaration of God.