

Hearts of Love

Tom & Debbie Tillman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

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Who Are You Listening To?

Hearts of Love is a non-profit ministry, dedicated to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ whenever and wherever we find open doors. Our first priority is to glorify God and lead whomever possible to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Please pray for us faithfully. We need your prayer, and we appreciate it more than we could ever say. Please consider us an extension of your ministry in this world, and support us with your prayer as such.

**May God richly
bless you!**

Tom & Debbie

What are you listening to? You only have two choices... Truth or Lies... Lies from the Kingdom of Darkness or Truth from the Kingdom of Light. Those who are born again are called 'Children of Light;' those who are not are 'in darkness' and 'of darkness.'

'Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.' 1Thes 5:5 'For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.' Eph 5:8

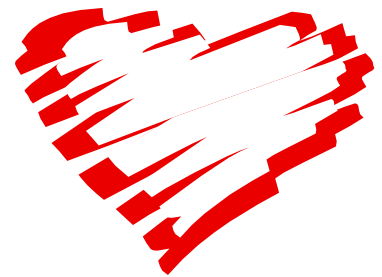
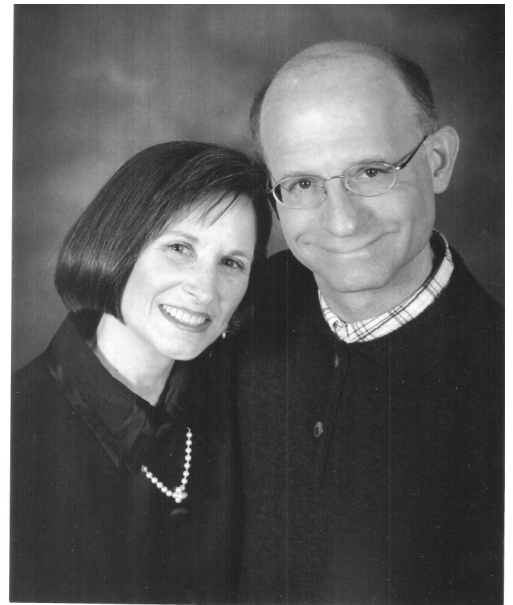
We are in a constant battle with demons lying to us, seeking to lead us to doubt, discouragement and despair and our only defense is what Paul calls 'The Armor of God,' the various pieces being: the Belt of Truth, the Breast-plate of Righteousness, the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace, the Shield of Faith, the Helmet of Salvation, the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God and Constant Prayer.

All the different pieces of the Armor of God fit together and are all based on one thing, the Word of God... the Bible and all God has revealed to us, in it, of Himself and all He has done. The Word of God is not *just one part* of the Armor of God... it is the foundation and framework of all of it... the Word of God is *every piece* of the Armor of God.

Our only defense against lies from demons is our knowledge and understanding of God's Word.

The Belt of Truth is our understanding of all of the Truth of Scripture. Without knowing the truth of Scripture, we have no defense against lies.

The Breastplate of Righteousness is our understanding of our complete righteousness before God, based only on the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed to us in Scripture, our understanding that our salvation is not based on what we do or do not do, but only on what the Lord Jesus Christ has done.



*He has committed to
us the word of
Reconciliation.
Therefore, we are
Ambassadors for Christ.*

2 Corinthians 5:19,20

This is how we combat the lies that we *are not good enough... God could never love someone like me, etc.*

The Preparation of the Gospel of Peace is our full understanding and preparation in our own hearts of the good news that we now have peace with God, that we are no longer under condemnation or judgment, because of what Jesus Christ has accomplished for us. This is not the 'Gospel' for the lost... this is the Gospel for the Children of God. Only we have real peace with God. This is to combat the lies like, 'You aren't saved... at least, not anymore... you sinned... God only saves people who are good enough... you aren't.'

The Shield of Faith is our faith in God, based on His Word, in understanding and believing His Word, the only thing that can repel all the lies, the 'flaming darts' of the enemy.

The Helmet of Salvation is our understanding of the fullness and completeness of the Salvation which God has given to us... not just that we are 'saved,' but that we are now completely new creations in Christ, that God has made us to be *Eternal Beings* with Eternal Life, that we will live forever, that He has made us His children, that we will never die, never be lost, never

be cast off and never be unaccepted or unloved by Him. The only thing left to be finished in our Salvation is when one day soon, God will create for us new, glorified eternal physical bodies, *like that of the Lord Jesus Christ*, no longer having a sin nature, in which will live forever our already eternal souls and spirits.

The Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God... this is not an offensive weapon, as some like to think... it is not for defeating the enemy (he is already defeated), or for 'taking back what the enemy has stolen,' or 'advancing the kingdom,' or any other slogan or man made idea. All of the Armor of God is *for our defense... not offense*. This is proven by the fact that Paul makes very clear that during any attack, we are to stand still... stand firm... like a tortoise in its shell.

Whose sword is it? Not ours... It's the Holy Spirit's Sword... He is the One Who uses it... not on demons... He uses it on us, in us. This is where the Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to lead, guide and direct us, to convict us of sin in our lives, to strengthen and encourage us and to draw us to Himself. He uses it to cut us to the heart, that we would always be faithful to 'rightly

judge ourselves,' that we would be faithful to 'walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which we've been called,' that we would be faithful to see in God's Word exactly who we are... if we are walking with God or walking apart from Him and that we would then be faithful to make the changes necessary in our lives. 'For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.' Heb 4:12

We are to be walking with the Lord in the light of His Word. When an attack comes... lies from the enemy that seek to lead us into doubt, discouragement and despair... we are to stop, draw near to God, stand still and stand firm, relying on the truth of God's Word. When we resist, the enemy must flee. James 4:7 Then, we resume walking with God.

The final piece, the culmination of the Armor of God and our only hope of walking in victory is **prayer**.

Prayer... when all else fails... before all else begins...

while all else is happening... Prayer.

'Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints...' Eph 6:18 It means, 'Praying always in every way at every opportunity about everything and always *in the Spirit*.'

What does 'in the Spirit' mean? What it has come to mean for too many is a kind of putting the mind in 'neutral' and beginning to prayer in an unknown language but that can't be what Paul means because he tells us to be ever 'watchful' with all perseverance. Peter tells us that we must always be watchful and alert, of sound and sober mind, because our enemy prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. In Matthew, Jesus says to always keep watch. None of these even

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hint that our minds should ever be in neutral. But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Cor 2:16

'Praying in the Spirit' is to prayer, as 'Walking in the Spirit' is to living. It means to walk or pray in harmony with the will of the Holy Spirit, praying consistently with the mind and will of the Holy Spirit. He's talking about constant communication... constant communing with God, through His Holy Spirit Who lives inside us, Who is always leading, guiding, counseling and protecting us... constant prayer... never ending prayer.

Here's an illustration to remember...

How about this... every morning, or not... but at least once in a while... you come over to your wife or husband and you say, 'Dear Earthly Wife, roses are red, violets are blue, sugar is sweet and I love you... Anyway... today, I want you to cook my food, wash my clothes, do the dishes, clean the toilet, make the bed, sweep the floors, vacuum the rugs, dust and generally keep the house running smoothly while I'm at work ... I ask all this in your name... amen. See you tomorrow for another stimulating five minutes together... gotta go ... later... I'm off to work... see you when I get home...

Now that's the foundation for a torrid love affair... right?

On the other hand... how about this...

You and your wife just got new smart

phones. They have long life batteries, great cameras... speaker phones... speed dial... and all the hundred other features that none of us old people even know about...

Every morning... you wake up, kiss your wife, say I love you and ask, 'How can I help you today?' Would you like a nice crepe for breakfast? I'll go make it... then you can make me a list of the things I can help you with around the house when I get home. Gotta go... walk me out?

Then as soon as you get in the car... you call her on your new smart phone... she's on #1 speed-dial... her picture comes up... you can see her... you put her on speakerphone and put your phone in your pocket... she does the same... and since you have new long-life batteries, you keep each other on the phone all day long... you talk about everything each other is doing... you ask advice from each other... you encourage each other... you bring each other right into all that you are doing all day long.

While you're driving... and some idiot cuts you off... you start to get angry... she calms you down and reminds you of what's really important.

Jehovah's Witnesses come to her door... you're right there with her to help her know what to say and what not to say.

When a high pressure salesman calls on the house phone you're right there to help her say no.

Back and forth... asking and answering... times of weakness... and then strengthening and encouraging each other.

Now of course, God doesn't need any strength or advice from us... but He does want our attention, love and dependency on Him.

That's the relationship God wants with us... that's the relationship God has given to us... and He's made Himself available for us... every minute of every day... and He gave us very special cell phones too... His Holy Spirit, living inside us... always available, always there, always waiting for our call, always on speaker in our pocket.

Any of us can be vulnerable to enemy attack. Only by remaining in constant communication and communion with God, by His Holy Spirit, can we walk in the victory which Jesus Christ has already won.

Are you listening to lies from demons or to the truth from God's Holy Spirit? Only by knowing the truth of God's Word can you know the difference.

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. Set your mind on the things above. Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. 1Cor 10:12, Col 3:2, Gal 5:16

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The Harvest is Great, but the laborers are few. Matt 9:38

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