

Get Real (a “what” or a “who”)

#32 in our series from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians

Ephesians 6:10-13

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Prayer

Father, help us to preach, in Jesus’ name, through the power of your Spirit.

Message

So Paul sits in a jail cell somewhere, in chains that someone with flesh and blood wrapped around his ankles and locked with a key; then Paul writes...

Ephesians 6:10-13

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual (hosts) forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

According to Paul, we’re in some sort of struggle or battle, and that’s kind of a relief because it does kind of feel like we’re under attack. You watch the news and see murder, rape, crime; it feels like we’re in a battle: Murder, rape, and crime on the outside and hatred, lust, and greed on the inside—darkness and death.

You see the news, and at least a bit of your own heart. It feels like we’re under attack, and maybe you’ve come to realize...you’re not equipped for the battle, you’re insufficient for these things, you’re incomplete, so you could use a covering; you need some armor.

[A clip from the movie *Iron Man* is shown, in which Tony Stark, AKA Iron Man, is being ensconced in his armor. We see some of the most sophisticated and highly developed armor man can imagine being placed over a simple man’s body.]

Yes! We could use some of that! Maybe that’s what we need...armor.

That is why we build houses with doors that lock.

That is why we spend 680 billion dollars a year funding the world’s greatest military.

That is why we pass legislation and employ police officers and judges to enforce that legislation.

That is why we elect rulers and authorities to govern our principalities and deliver us from evil.

We make armor to protect ourselves from evil, evil *people*. The only problem is, it doesn’t work. And Paul says, “It’s not people that we battle.” The armor we make is for doing battle with flesh and blood, but we don’t battle against flesh and blood, against people. So what do we battle, and what do we battle with?

A few years ago, I read about a criminal that broke into a curio shop on South Broadway. As he was taking the money and snatching up valuables, he noticed a photo on the wall. It was so powerful that he put all the money and the stolen goods back. Then he wrote an apology letter leaving it on the counter, for the owner of the store to see the next day. Just think: what the US military, the government of Colorado, and the Denver Police department could not do...what Iron Man could not do...this photo on the wall did do.

So what do we battle, and what do we battle with? What are the “cosmic powers over this present darkness?” What is the “armor of God?” That’s what we’ll be discussing the next several weeks. And, in order to understand Ephesians 6, we’ll begin by looking at Acts 19. In Acts 19, Paul arrives in Ephesus for the first time and finds some disciples. Yet, these disciples had never heard of the Holy Spirit. So, Paul baptizes them in the name of Jesus, and they receive the Holy Spirit. Not just a book or a program...but a Spirit...Christ’s Spirit.

There were twelve of them, like the twelve tribes and twelve apostles, like the twelve gates and the twelve foundation stones of the New Jerusalem. Paul then reasoned in the synagogue for three months and two years, daily, in the Hall of Tyrannus, and scripture records that all the residents of Asia Minor heard the Word of the Lord. (And that would include the seven churches to whom John would send the Revelation in a few decades.) In verse 11, we read the following:

And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.

Now, scripture *doesn’t* say that they got these magic prayer cloths for sending a donation to “Saint Paul Worldwide Evangelism Ministries.” It *does* however say, demons were cast out and the sick were healed by means of these pieces of fabric. And we “modern,” “enlightened” people want to say, “Get real!” That’s not the real world. That can’t happen!

Many would argue that the Modern Era began with René Descartes when he said, “*Cognito ergo sum*” or “I think, therefore I am.”

So, modern man thinks that thinking begins with himself.

So man is the measure of all things.

So the only things that are real things are *things* that man can comprehend, control, and measure.

So when man measures a thing, it must necessarily become a thing that man can measure.

And when man measures himself, he must also become a thing, not a “who” but a “what.”

Isaac Newton, the Enlightenment, and Scientific Revolution followed Descartes. Isaac Newton certainly called himself a “Christian,” but he pictured a God we couldn’t know, but could only know about, a God who created the universe like a watchmaker makes a watch. So the universe isn’t actively governed by God’s presence, His Word; mechanical and physical laws that God created long ago govern it.

By the end of the 18th century, the dominant religion in Western Europe and Colonial America really wasn’t Christianity but Deism. That’s why our Declaration of Independence talks about “nature’s laws,” and “nature’s god.” You see, even God is defined by nature that submits to human reason. In France, for a time, they even outlawed Christianity and began to worship “reason,” human reason—our own ability to comprehend and control—our own ability to take knowledge.

In 1799, Friedrich Schleiermacher, the father of modern liberal theology, wrote his seminal work: *Speeches on the Gospel to its Cultural Despisers*. He did it to make scripture palatable to the modern mind; for the modern mind believes that the only things that are truly real, and really true are things that can be verified by the scientific method, in a controlled environment. That is: Matter and energy that are measured in our space and our time. So God is very distant; miracles can’t happen, and things like faith, hope, and love are basically chemicals in our bodies, so meaning, is something that we create.

In the 20th century, in America, the Fundamentalists reacted to the modernists. And so conservative Christians argued: “The Bible is literally true.” But by “literally true” they meant scientifically true, according to Newton’s laws governing matter, space, and time. “Literally true” meant modernistically

and materialistically true. So even though the Bible says, "Do not forget this one fact: 'With the Lord, a day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day,'" they'd say, "No, a day is literally a day, as we measure a day, and a thousand years is literally a thousand years. So you must believe our version of the millennial reign of Christ, and you must believe the world was created in seven days, seven of our days, as we measure time." They would argue that people can really be healed by prayer cloths; they just wouldn't bother to ask: "What does it mean?" Because, *meaning* is not matter and therefore, *meaning* doesn't matter...not really.

So now modern Christians, whether liberal or conservative, will get to Acts 19 and spend all their time arguing over fabric, and entirely miss the meaning. And when we talk about the armor of God, we spend all our time trying to learn some new technique or technology and entirely miss the meaning because the meaning isn't matter, and so it doesn't matter.

Modern man knows billions and trillions of facts but doesn't know what any of them mean.
Modern Christians know billions and trillions of facts but seem to have forgotten what they mean.
Modern science gave birth to technology, and technology moves matter.
Modern religion gave birth to religious technology, yet we no longer cast out many demons.

Well, anyway...they cast out demons and healed the sick with pieces of cloth that had just touched Paul's skin. When I was chewing on this, I remembered another piece of fabric. I think it changed my life and maybe even drove out demons:

Late one night, about twenty years ago, I found my favorite old blue shirt just lying in the grass just inside the back gate at our home in California. I always came home that way from work at the church. Susan was still awake, so I said, "What's my favorite old blue shirt doing lying in the grass?" She said, "Oh, I really wanted to tell you...Elizabeth really missed you today." (She was two at the time...and you may remember from a few weeks ago...she was my strong willed child that I found so difficult to control.)

Susan continued, "Elizabeth asked me, 'When is Daddy gonna be home?' I told her, 'Not for a long time,' she said, 'Well, I wait for Daddy.' I said, 'Honey, it'll be a long time,' and she said, 'Well, I wait for Daddy.' And then, Peter, I watched her. She went to the dirty clothes and pulled out your dirty old blue shirt. She carried it out to the back gate and just waited. She'd stare through the cracks in the fence, then sit down and stare at the gate, then look through the crack of the fence, lie on her back holding your shirt, then stare at the gate and do it all over again. She wouldn't come in for snacks, so I took some out to her. She waited for hours...until it got dark and I made her come in."

As Susan told me the story, I stared at that piece of fabric in my hand and I thought to myself: "I don't care what it costs, but I will always wait for Elizabeth." It changed me, and I think it changed her: In years to come, (I have reason to believe) it saved her from some powerful demons. But you see; it wasn't the fabric; it was the meaning in the fabric, perhaps even a Spirit in the fabric.

It wouldn't have worked for someone else, but it did for Elizabeth because she knew me. And that's something to think about. She was two years old and knew very little about me. You probably know more about me. You might know my background, my degrees, my accomplishments, what my body is made of, my species and genus. But, if you had asked me back then: "Peter, who knows you?" I would've said, "My bride, my three-year-old son Jon, and my two-year-old daughter Elizabeth."

Deep calls to deep. My spirit had touched her spirit; she knew me...not what but who—the person.

You know, when the kids were little, I was surprised by something; As soon as they learned to talk, they talked to everything, to rocks, trees, spoons, pieces of cloth. They'd watch cartoon about talking

animals and even talking toasters made perfect sense to them. It was as if they expected everything to be alive and personal, and it wasn't. It was as if the world should be alive, but it was dead, as if the trees should clap their hands and the stars should sing together, and all creation should be talking and praising something. Now, I can guess what you may be thinking: "Come on Peter; get real!"

Well, as I was saying earlier...this thief down on Broadway was taking the money and taking the collectables; he was taking the good...when suddenly...he noticed something on the wall. It was a picture. It must've looked something like this: [Image of Blinky the Clown]

Suddenly, he realized that the entire curio shop belonged to Russel Scott, whom every kid in Colorado used to know as "Blinky the Clown." Everyday, on channel two, I watched *Blinky's Fun Club*. I even got to attend a Birthday Party on the show and helped him sing, "Happy Birf-a-day to you."

Well this thief, suddenly, realized that everything he took had been touched by Blinky. Suddenly, he was a child, and whatever voices had been telling him, "Take, take, take," were silenced, and another Spirit said, "Give, give, give." He put all the goods back and wrote an apology. It said, "I sat on your lap when I was five years old. I couldn't rob you; you sang "Happy Birf-a-day" to me.

Deep called to deep; Spirit touched spirit. Now that Spirit spoke to him from every particle of man in the curio shop. I think the Spirit said, "Happy Birthday. I see you, and I observe you. I know you; I love you." One day all creation will be filled with the glory of the Lord—the life of Jesus—the Spirit of God—the Spirit of Love, and all creation will tell of His glory...the glory of His Love. And now...you may say, "Oh come on; you're just being sentimental." Well, maybe reality *is* sentimental because *God* is sentimental—God is Love. Or do you not believe His Word?

Well anyway...with these cloths that had touched Paul's skin, they drove out demons and healed the sick. Luke wants to make it clear that it wasn't fabric; it was something else, or I should say *Someone* else:

Acts 19:13

Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaim." Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this.

They were into religious science and technology. You see, science and technology didn't begin with Isaac Newton, and modern thinking didn't start when René Descartes said, "I think, therefore I am." Actually, "I AM that I AM"—*Yahweh*, I AM is God's name.

In Paul's day, there were wondering itinerant Jewish exorcists and magicians that would use the name of God to make money. At that time, in the Greco-Roman world, they venerated the unspeakable name of God that only the Jewish high priest would speak in the inner sanctuary on the Day of Atonement...and of course these traveling Jewish magicians. So these itinerant Jewish exorcists, that at least called themselves the seven sons of the high priest, saw that there was power in the name of Jesus, and so, they decided to use the name of Jesus. They were magicians.

The great anthropologist, Bronislaw Malenowski defined magic this way: "Magic is a system through which people try to get gods to conform to their own will," whereas Biblical faith is submitting your own will to God's will.

Faith is trust in a Person.

Magic is using knowledge to *control* a person.
Magic is religious technology.

And that began long before the Modern Era and long before Acts chapter 19. That practice goes all the way back to the garden when a snake spoke, "Take the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and of evil. Use it to make yourself in the image of God." So the first Adam and Eve took "the knowledge of good" and knew...that they were naked, and so began to cover themselves in leaves from the tree. They began to make armor and ever since, from the age we begin to take the knowledge of good, we all try to complete ourselves and cover ourselves with good deeds and works of the flesh, human righteousness and religious technology. It is sorcery and magic. It's all an effort to redeem ourselves, save ourselves, and create ourselves with the "knowledge of good," and scripture says, "God is good." The good is God.

Now, I love science; with science we can know things, but God is not a thing. With science, I can know about my wife, but it's something quite different to *know* my wife. At two years old, Elizabeth really knew nothing *about* me, and yet she *knew* me.

It was the religious leaders that wanted to know about the Good, that took the Good to control and comprehend the Good, and so nailed the Good to a tree. Therefore, they knew *about* Him but didn't *know* Him; for they had killed Him.

With science we can know *things* but God is not a thing. He is the creator of all things. That means...He thinks and René Descartes is. So it's not "I think, therefore I am," rather, "I AM thinks, therefore René Descartes is." So what is truly real is not what man can comprehend but the One who comprehends man, not a "what" but a "Who."

Well, anyway, these seven sons of the false high priest Sceva saw Jesus was good, and so they tried to use the good to make themselves good.

Acts 19:14

Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver.

(Which is roughly 8 million dollars. We'll talk about this next time, but that had to have messed with the economy of Ephesus—the systems, the principalities and powers that be.)

The seven sons of Sceva fled out of the house, stripped naked of their "fig leaves," of their "religious technology," of their knowledge of good and evil; they were naked of their armor. The evil spirit said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?" Kind of like: It's not "what" you know but "Who" you know, and they had thought: "It's not 'who' you know, but 'what' you know; for matter, energy, space and time are what's real, and anything else is just an illusion, so it's not 'who' you know but 'what,' and all the 'whos' are not actually 'whats;' all persons are actually machines, not who...but what...because matter...matters."

However, around 1920, Max Plank, Werner Heisenberg, and Albert Einstein began saying, "This is utterly bizarre and totally unexpected but matter doesn't matter because it's not what...but who. If

you're not familiar with Quantum Mechanics and you're at all interested in science. I encourage you to google "double slit experiment." or copy these links:

The Double Slit Experiment:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfPeprQ7oGc>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9tKncAdlHQ>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LW6Mq352f0E>

Schrodinger's cat:

Who's observing the cat? Who's observing us?

How can we all be in one universe?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOYyCHGWJq4>

I wanted to show you these YouTube videos but it's too much, but I hope some of you watch them; for I find it utterly amazing and delightful. The data is no longer in question. Scientists have been validating these findings for one hundred years. The data is rock solid, but they're just going crazy trying to figure out "what" it means or "Who" it means. They've decided that subatomic particles (the building blocks of all matter) can behave as a particle or a wave. To be more precise, they're not actually there, only potentially there...until they are observed, and it gets even weirder; for they have to be consciously observed. So it can't be a machine that observes; it must be a person.

So, for matter to exist, it must be consciously observed by a person. And here's the rub for a scientist: What's a person? That is, "Who am I?" Scientists have plumbed the very depths of matter and found there's something more real than matter and that is the scientist observing the matter. So now, the most challenging question for every scientist is, "What's an observer?" that is... "Who am I?" It's just like the demon said to the seven sons of Sceva: "Who are you?" and it's not just: "Who am I" but... "Who are we?" and... "Who is observing us?"

You see, if all the particles in all the matter have to be observed to exist, someone must be observing me. And for you to exist and me to exist, in the same universe, there must be one Person observing us both and observing all creation. If you wanted to be the master of your own universe, you'd have to hide from that one Observer. But of course, to hide from that Observer would be to uncreate and desecrate yourself.

If you didn't follow that, that's fine. I'm just saying the biggest questions in contemporary science are: "Who am I? Who is observing us, and how can we all exist in one reality?" In other words: "Who am I? Who is God and how can we all get to Heaven?" And I'm also pointing out that science seems to agree with scripture when it says, *"In the beginning was the Logos—the meaning, the Word, and the Logos was with God, and the Logos was God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made."*

In other words, all of reality is continually dependent upon a Person and His Word, and His meaning...who is also a Person. That is...all reality is deeply personal. So to "get real" is to get personal. And you are personal; for in your beginning, God breathed His Spirit into some clay and you became a living soul—a person, and you are still becoming a person; for God is still filling you with His Spirit.

Paul writes, "Put on the whole armor of God that you may stand against the schemes of the devil." And you see, I don't think the devil is a person...not the way God is a Person and you are a person. I don't think Satan contains the breath of God, that is the Spirit of God. I don't think he has a soul. Jesus said, "There is no truth in him." He lies according to his nature.

I can't tell you the entire story, but years ago, in prayer, while my friend was receiving a vision, I had her ask Jesus this question: "Jesus, is Satan a somebody?" My friend heard Jesus answer, "No, he is a nobody." This is very challenging to explain, but I think he is a nobody that hates all somebodies. He has schemes and designs. He rules over fallen spirits and the principalities and powers of the present darkness, but evil himself...evil itself...is not a presence but an absence, not light but dark, not truth but lies, not life but death, not creation but desecration...not reality.

And so you see, the devil does *not* want you to get real.

He doesn't want you to be created in the image of God.

He doesn't want you to become a person...a finished and complete person.

He doesn't want you to look like Jesus.

He doesn't want you to live in God's reality called Heaven.

He wants you trapped in your own reality called Hell.

So to battle him is ultimately not a matter of "what" you know...but "Who."

This is still weird for me, but I actually have quite a bit of experience praying against evil spirits and Satan himself. Several years ago, when it was all relatively new, I found myself at the house of a friend who had been ritually abused and was now oppressed by spirits that would sometimes speak through her mouth and seize control of her body.

My associate Aram Haroutian was with me and we'd been praying for hours, and Jesus had done some utterly amazing and astounding things, but there was this demon that would manifest and we couldn't seem to control; ironically it's name was "control," and it gave our friend the ability to act like a respectable religious woman. It would curse at us through her mouth. Then it began to choke her. (Maybe some of you have felt or seen things like that at 3am or some strange time in the morning.)

At one point things got really intense. I remember, our friend gasped for air, made some gurgling noises and then fell down as if dead. I remember, I bent down and I put my ear up to her mouth; she wasn't breathing at all. I freaked out, and Aram freaked out. I started saying everything I'd ever learned in any book I'd ever read on the subject. I tried every prayer and every formula I could think of: "In the name of Jesus under the authority of the new and eternal blood of the covenant, by the power of the cross and the blood, I adjure you... I command you etc. Meanwhile, Aram was thinking about every Bible verse he could think of. This went on for a long time. You know, a body can only go without oxygen for so long.

I bent down and she still wasn't breathing. I sat up and I looked at Aram and said, "She's dead, and we're dead," two grown men in the house of a single woman at 2am; the cops are not going to believe our story, and not only that, what about all this Jesus stuff? Why didn't this Jesus stuff work?

You see at that moment, I was stripped naked. I was stripped naked of my control; I was stripped naked of my ego, of my religious technology. I was stripped naked of my knowledge of good and evil. Then, from somewhere deep within my soul, even without thinking, I muttered a prayer. I call it a prayer to the flannel-graph Jesus. I mean the Jesus that I knew when I knew Blinky, the Jesus I knew in my mom and dad, the Jesus I knew when I was two or three years old...that Jesus.

I was a child, and I just muttered: "Jesus help us." Suddenly, all at once, she gasped, she was back, and Jesus used us, and even our knowledge, to drive out this demon, to set her free, and help her believe. But I don't ever want to forget what He taught me that night: "Peter, all these books you read,

all those things you know...they're good, and I'll use them, but never forget, it's not what you know but Who. It's Me and you know Me. I see you. I know you. I love you."

Now, why am I telling you that story? Because I want to freak you out? I don't know maybe...I've got that in me. I hope that's not the reason. Why did Luke tell the story of the seven sons of Sceva. It's not because I expect you to have an experience just like that one day. It's because you already experience that everyday.

Saint Paul writes, "We wrestle." You do wrestle and struggle don't you? You think it's against people but Paul says, "No, it's not; it's against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places. They may never gain control of your physical body the way they gained control over my friend's physical body, and yet, we all battle them. I even believe that Blinky the clown battled them whenever he sang "Happy Birf-a-day" to little kids and his eyes said, "I see you. I observe you. I know you. I love you."

Scripture says, "*He who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God; God is love.*" God is a Who. Do you realize all that armor is also a Who? That is why Paul says, "Be strong in the strength of His might.

So this is *NOT* our armor.

[Image of Iron Man's armor]

This is our armor:

[Image of Jesus on the cross followed by the resurrected Christ!]

Jesus Christ, Him crucified... AND risen from the dead.

Paul says it in Colossians: It was on the cross that God disarmed the principalities and powers and triumphed over them in Jesus, raising Him from the dead and raising us in Him, hidden in Him.

Baxter Kruger says, "It's not that we receive Him into our lives; the gospel is that Christ Jesus has received us into His life." "*You were chosen in Him from the foundation of the world,*" says Paul, at the start of his letter to the Ephesians. Putting on the armor is not putting on a "what" but a "Who."

He is the truth, with which we gird our loins.
He is the righteousness that covers your heart.
He is the peace in which we walk.
He is the faith that we exercise against evil.
He is our salvation; we have the mind of Christ.

He is the Word of God, living and active—the Sword we wield.

In Romans Paul says, “Put on the armor of light,” and Jesus is the Light.
Jesus is our clothing.

Jesus completes us.

Jesus finishes us in the image of God.

Jesus makes us real.

It’s not “what” you know but “Who.”

How do we get to know Him? Jesus said, “Seek and you will find. So ask questions; read your Bible; learn His story—seek Him to *know Him*, not just about Him, and talk to Him all the time. Live your life conscious of His presence. Get to know Him, but *even more*, let Him observe you. When He observes you, when He looks at you, He makes you real.

So surrender your fig leaves—lose your earthly armor, confess your sins, surrender your shame. Let Him know you, and know that He knows you. He says, “Happy Birf-a-day to you; I see you; I observe you.” “I know you, and I love you, and I make you real.” Get real and the gates of *Hell* cannot prevail against you.

It’s not “what” you know, but the *One*... who knows you.

Communion

So, on that night, He took bread and He broke it. The Logos, the Logic, the Word took it saying this is my body given to you, and in the same way He took the cup and said this cup is the eternal covenant in blood, poured out for the forgiveness of sins; take and eat. I want you to do this. Take, eat, do this in remembrance of me. I think it was along the time of Rene Descartes that we started arguing over this, going to war over this. The modern mind said, “That’s just bread from the grocery store, and that’s just wine from Tippy’s.”

Listen closely; it’s not “what” but “Who!”

You see, I think He’s calling you to touch Him, as He touches you, to touch His presence. In Jesus’ name, know Him and worship Him.

Prayer

Father, I really do feel insecure; I really do feel weak. I confess my armor and sins, all that I hang on to, to cover myself and complete myself; I surrender them to you. Lord Jesus, I invite you to touch me...to pour out your Spirit upon me, to fill me, to commune with me. I want to become human—the person that you intend me to be. Father, please create me in your own image—the image of Jesus. Amen.

Benediction

We will continue to talk about Spiritual warfare, there’s a lot of “stuff” to know, but I want you to remember, it’s a lot of *stuff* about Someone whom you already *do* know. Flannel-graph Jesus turns out to be the Ruler of the Universe, and He knows you.

If you’re feeling naked or weak...I feel that all the time. I think God puts us in those situations where we feel stripped. If you don’t feel stripped...well...get stripped; confess your weakness; take off your armor. He puts us in those places so we will clothe ourselves with Him because He is the armor. He *does* send us into battle but I think He really enjoys it when we get dressed with Him.

Last night, I had a picture in my mind of when I used to take the children camping when they were little. We would go out into the darkness. They would feel helpless in the darkness with all the scary sounds. Then we’d lie in the tent. They would cuddle up so closely to me, as if they wanted to put me on. I’d wrap my arms around them, and I would be their strength.

You have a Father in Heaven who wants to be your strength. You have a Bridegroom who wants to be your strength, and they have a Spirit that wants to inhabit you forevermore.
Believe the gospel, in Jesus' name. Amen

Disclaimer: This document is a draft and has not been edited by the author. Therefore, there may be discrepancies. Some discrepancies may be minor; some may have to do with theology. When in doubt, please refer to the audio or video version of the sermon on this website and don't be shy about informing us of errors.