



# The "Oh Yeah!"

## Letter

### Take Up The Armor

by Tim Loper

*Ephesians 6:10-11 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.*

Life in America is usually pretty good. The trials we face are often trivial when we compare our circumstances to those of our Christian brothers and sisters in other parts of the world. We acknowledge that there are places in the world full of spiritual oppression: India, Haiti, the 10-40 window. But in America, in the midst of our blessings, we easily forget that God was speaking to all of us in Eph 6:10-11.

We all face spiritual battles. Satan is out to "steal, and kill, and destroy" (John 10:10). If we have a strong family - he is out to destroy it. If we have Godly children - he is out to steal them. If we have a loving marriage - he is out to kill that trusting relationship. It takes work for us to protect what the Lord has given us. We have to recognize the attack and fight back spiritually through prayer and by applying the Word of God.

**Protecting our Children:** In GKGW, we learned many truths that we can live by to build a spiritual fortress around our children. By reaching their hearts with the truth of His Word and living our lives to represent Jesus, it gives us the hope that our children will always serve Him and be in right relationship with each other. It is spiritual warfare to put the reason why into our little children to fill their moral warehouse. It is spiritual warfare to teach them discipline and character. It is spiritual warfare to recognize the efforts of the world to draw them into apathy or rebellion and to then fall on our knees in prayer that our children would not forsake the Word we put into their hearts. It is spiritual warfare to talk with our children about the various ways the enemy tries to sneak into their hearts. We are the experienced warriors that must train our children to be the wise ones able to defuse the enemy.

**Protecting our Family:** The relationships we share with our children are a battle ground that we must fight for. The effort the parents make toward developing that relationship as the children grow through the middle years is a battle with serious spiritual consequences. As we prioritize our lives in ways to create family identity and develop individual relationships with our children, we are putting on the armor that will protect each member of the family as they grow up and spend time in the battlefields of school and work. Praying together as a family, studying the Word together, being together in church are all things that strap on

(cont. on back)



\* Father's Mandate #8 is "Build Trust on God's Word." We must have the integrity of a life built on the Word in order to pass the truth on to our children.

\* Remember to transition from obedience out of duty to submission out of devotion with your Middle Years child. (GKGW ch 6)

\* Don't negotiate in conflict! There's danger in settling for 90% obedience. (GKGW ch. 9)



### Marriage

Marriage is the priority relationship of infinite value. Maintaining that relationship is a responsibility, a necessity and a choice.

When we were parents of little ones, we thought it was the hardest stage to keep that priority in its place. In some ways it was little ones require so much energy and moment by moment involvement. Fortunately, we were blessed to have GKGW, which helped us set boundaries on those needs! Was there ever a more glorious revival as the day when bedtimes came back into a parent's repertoire?

When our children were in the middle years, we found new freedom. They took care of themselves more and still had reasonable bedtimes. We could have long dates and even get away for a weekend if the grandparents were willing.

We thought it was smooth sailing from there on out. After all, older teenagers can put themselves to bed, right?

Well, I'm here to tell you that it didn't quite work out that way! Seventeen year olds don't go to bed at 7:30 anymore! They are up late and, if you've cultivated a relationship, they don't just hang out by themselves in their corner of the house! They are with you in your corner! And they talk! Oh my, how they talk! And they always get really talkative at about 10:30 PM! Though you relish and rejoice in it, it is a mental expenditure when you're already pretty well spent!

It becomes time to get creative and adjust. Don't let your marriage go on hold, but don't lose those last few years of deepening relationship with your child either. This is a tall order! You're going to have to be flexible, maybe even more than when they were babies! Try lunch dates instead of frequent nights out. Try taking time off while the kids are in school. Don't forget faithful couchtime - it will be even more of an oasis than ever. Just never let go of your grip on each other. Cleaving is still the name of the game!



### A Parenting Treasure From The Word

"Job would send and have (his sons and daughters) purified. Early in the morning, he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each one of them saying, 'Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.' This was Job's regular custom." Job 1:5 How much of a role are you taking in the spiritual purity of your children?



### FUN Idea OF the Quarter

YEAH CHRISTMAS IS COMING! IF YOU ASK MY KIDS, they WILL tell you one thing for sure - MOM IS CRAZY about CHRISTMAS! I LOVE the WHOLE THING - every last bit! ONE OF our FAMILY'S Favorites is getting out all the TRIMMINGS and decking the HALLS! I KNOW that to MANY THIS is the drudgery part of the HOLIDAY, but WHY NOT turn it into a FAMILY party and BUILD traditions?

THIS year, WHILE your HUBBY is BRINGING IN all the BOXES, have the KIDS help you pop SOME popcorn, BREW some HOT cocoa and order IN pizza! TURN ON the CHEERiest CHRISTMAS TUNES and SING together! Play games AS you go ALONG. We LIKE to see IF We can remember WHAT CHRISTMAS SONG comes NEXT ON the CD or see IF everyone can remember WHERE We ALWAYS put certain TRINKETS or GUESS WHICH WISE MAN MOM WILL PULL out of the BOX NEXT. Make a day of it!

### Quotes Worth Remembering

"The best way for a child to learn to fear God is to know a real Christian. The best way for a child to learn to pray is to live with a father and mother who know a few of friendship with God and who truly pray."  
- Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi

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the armor of the Lord.

**Protecting Our Marriage:** Your marriage is the primary relationship. It is under attack. Satan spies on us to know our weaknesses. He seeks to exploit the weaknesses of a husband in order to hurt the wife, to drive a wedge, to separate. He does the same with the wife, using her past hurts or hang ups to disrupt the trust of marriage. The husband must stand in the gap for his wife by learning the places where she is vulnerable and then actively protecting her in prayer and in action from the attacks of satan. As priest in the home, the man must become the spiritual leader, gaining wisdom and insight from his wife but being the one who provides the armor that protects the marriage.

**Multi Pronged Attack:** Be aware that when satan decides to start an attack, he often attacks on multiple fronts. If the husband is struggling in some regard, the chances are that the children are also feeling the pressures of the world and the wife may be facing an extra dose of discouragement.



If we know that satan works this way, then we can recognize the overall plan of attack and set up our defenses accordingly. It is critical that the family is communicating consistently about life and their spiritual condition. This communication allows the parents to take the pulse of each family member so we can come along side the family member being tempted, challenged or discouraged and provide the spiritual cover for the battle. Often the Mom is the sensitive one and may have more time with the children, so with communication and parental team work, the father can put the armor on daily for the sake of his family.


**Build and Fight:** Raising a family is a lot of work, from providing for the family, to praying for the family, we are like the Israelites in Nehemiah's time, we are called to build with one hand and to fight with the other. *Nehemiah 4:17 (KJV)* "Those that carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other."



### Books we love...

There are many wonderful books out there to aid parents in praying for their children, but my favorite is, "The Power of a Praying Parent" by Stormie Omartian.

This wonderful book has 30 chapters (one for each day of the month) with a prayer at the end of each chapter. You will completely cover your child spiritually. Chapter topics include everything from "Developing a Hunger for the Things of God" to "Having the Motivation for Proper Body Care" to "Identifying God-Given Gifts and Talents."

This is a great way to make sure you're not missing anything and to keep yourself on track in praying for what God wants for your children. 

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