

# PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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*Thus Saith the Lord*

## WAIT ON THE LORD

By Jeff Sweeten

*"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience"* (James 1:2-3). Apparently, James was not afflicted with technology. Nevertheless, *"there is nothing new under the sun"* (Ecclesiastes 1:9, ESV) and what James' generation encountered only differs from our culture in devices. In battle (Christian are spiritual soldiers, 2 Corinthians 10:4), a plan of action is essential. So, how should we look at temptation?

The defensive groundwork for a Christian begins with a soldier's armor (Ephesians 6:10-17). We cannot expect to be victorious in personal trials if we rush into a spiritual fray unarmed and unprotected. Every soldier recognizes the importance of the protective vesture and takes great care to don it before the fight, giving attention to detail, checking each piece of armor and being careful to ensure a proper fit. With Satan blasting *"fiery darts"* in debilitating barrages, aiming at every chink in our armor, having our battle attire fastened securely and fitted soundly is a must.

Further, offensively, we wield the *"sword of the Spirit"*; and we must be skilled in its use. During WWII, the Russian war machine experienced such a shortage of weapons that Russian soldiers were often sent in the second and third wave of an attack without a rifle, with the instructions to secure a gun from a fallen comrade in order to defend their position. Can you imagine running into battle without a weapon? Yet, many do just that as they meet life's trials without consulting God's Word. They have no answer for the hope that is in them. Only those who use their sword efficiently will survive this battle.

Therefore, one must *"...put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof"* (Romans 13:14). Only when we prepare for temptations will we overcome them.

Trials are a pain but battle scars are evidence that God's providential care cannot be threatened. The joy in these various trials is not in their inconvenience, it is not in the pain; it is in the conquest of self. The battle is the Lord's and our greatest challenge may be patience itself. *"Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD"* (Psalm 27:14).

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!**

**SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Bible Study**

**WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130**