

经节：因我们并不是与属血气的争战，乃是与那些执政的、掌权的、管辖这幽暗世界的，以及天空属灵气的恶魔争战。（以弗所书六章12节）

在战场上，认出敌人是非常重要的事。如果你不晓得攻击的方位，你很难防守自己。保罗有许多敌人。有些人厌恶他，其他一些人憎恨他，还有一些人想杀他。有些人本来该与他站在同一阵线，却想要伤害他和他的事工（使徒行传九：23；腓立比书一：17；提摩太后书一：15，四：14；提摩太前书一：20）。虽然，他面对许多迫害，保罗从未忘掉他真正的敌人。保罗小心谨慎地防御撒但。当人们攻击他的时候，他知道他们并不是自己真正的敌人，他们只是不知不觉地成为属灵黑暗势力的工具。

当你的信心遭遇敌对势力的时候，第一个反应可能是愤怒。这个反应可能使你对冲突背后更深的属灵层面，分散了注意力。你的敌手可能无助地被罪捆绑。你应该诚挚地立即为此人代祷，而不是报复此人。你对手的敌对行为是一张邀请函，邀请你加入救赎之工，把他或她由属灵的捆绑中释放出来。

要做醒注意你身边的属灵战争。这场战争是真实存在的，它可能会摧毁你及你所关心的人。认识你真正的敌人，可以保护你不致心怀苦毒及不饶恕。你的希望是根源于一个真理：[那在你里面的比那在世界上的更大。]（约翰一书四：4）不要将自己的希望寄托于人性，要坚决地相信至高者已经完全击败你的仇敌。

Spiritual Enemies

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12

In a battle, it is imperative to identify your enemy. If you are not aware of the point of your attack, you are vulnerable. Paul had many enemies. Some resented him, others hated him, and others wanted to kill him. Some, who were supposedly on his side, sought to harm him and his ministry (Acts 9:23; Phil. 1:17; 2 Tim. 1:15; 1 Tim. 1:20; 2 Tim. 4:14). In spite of the persecution he faced, Paul never lost sight of his real enemy. Paul was wary of Satan. When people attacked him, he knew they were not his real opponents. They were simply unwitting instruments of the spiritual forces of darkness.

When you meet opposition to your faith, your first reaction may be anger toward your antagonist. This may divert your attention from the deeper, spiritual dimensions of your conflict. Your adversary may be hopelessly in to sin. Rather than retaliating, you should immediately and earnestly intercede for that person. Your opponent's hostility is your invitation to become involved in God's redemptive work to free him or her from spiritual.

Be alert to the spiritual warfare around you. It is real and potentially destructive to you and those you care about. Knowing your real foe will protect you from bitterness and unforgiveness. Your hope lies in the reality that "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). Do not place your hope in humanity, but steadfastly trust in the One who has already defeated your enemy.

10月31日（星期一）－标题：**被击败的敌人**

经文：既将一切执政的、掌权的掳来，明显给众人看，就伏着十字架夸胜。

（歌罗西书二章15节）

基督徒的呼召并不是去击败撒但，因为神已经在基督里战胜撒但！我们的任务也不是去[捆绑]撒但，因为耶稣已经限制了撒但的活动范围和时间。撒但——我们古老的仇敌——已经被基督十字架的牺牲及复活彻底打败。对于撒但，我们的任务是：信任基督已得胜利，并且每日举起撒但已被打败的真理抵挡牠，诚如耶稣所做的一样。

撒但是说谎人之父和说谎者（约翰福音八：44）。倘若你被牠说服，认为神并没有击败牠，你就无法体验到耶稣的胜利。你会发现你仍在打那场基督早已得胜的战争！你会惧怕撒但，虽然牠已经被彻底地打败。事实上，你的责任是去抵挡魔鬼，牠就会落荒而逃（雅各书四：7）。当你抵挡牠的时候，你知道耶稣已经战胜牠，并且你也战胜牠想掀起的影响。神已经赐给你属灵的军装，足以抵御撒但任何的攻击（以弗所书六：10—20）。

基督徒可能全心注意与撒但争战。如此一来，他们被欺骗，把时间及精力投资在基督已经做过的事。如果撒但使你分心，去打一场牠早被打败、早就结束的战役，牠会除去神要给你的效率。畏惧撒但，就如惧怕一个被囚的战俘一样。你根本没有需要或呼召去击败撒但；你只需将基督的胜利应用在生活每个层面，过得胜基督徒的生活。当你与其他人分享福音的信息时，撒但与牠的军团正面对一个事实，就是在每个属神国度的生命中，牠们早被打败了。

A Defeated Enemy

Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. Colossians 2:15

Christians are not called to defeat Satan. God has already done that in Christ! Nor is it our mandate to “bind” Satan. Jesus has already set limits on the extent and duration of Satan’s freedom. Satan, “our ancient foe,” was decisively and completely defeated by Christ’s sacrifice on the cross and in His resurrection. With regard to Satan, our assignment is to trust in the victory that Christ already achieved and daily resist him with the truth of his defeat, as Jesus did.

Satan is the father of lies and a master deceiver (John 8:44). If he can convince you that God has not defeated him, then you will not experience Jesus’ victory. You will find yourself fighting battles that Christ has already won! You will fear Satan though he has already been utterly and humiliatingly defeated. Your responsibility is to resist Satan, and he will flee from you (James 4:7). When you resist him, you are acknowledging that Jesus has defeated him and given you victory over his influence. God has provided you with spiritual armor that is more than sufficient to withstand any assault by Satan (Eph. 6:10-20).

Christians can become preoccupied with battling Satan. This deceives them to invest their time and energy attempting to do something that Christ has already done for them. If Satan can divert you to wage a warfare that has already ended in surrender, he will have eliminated your effectiveness where God wants you. Fearing Satan is fearing a prisoner of war. You have no need or calling to defeat Satan, you need only to apply Christ’s victory in every area of your life and to live the victorious Christian life. As you go about sharing the gospel message with others, Satan and his forces face the reality of their defeat in each life that is claimed by the kingdom of God (Luke 10:17-20).

11月5日（星期六）－标题：**智慧的判断**

经文：但智慧之子都以智慧为是。（路加福音七章35节）

这世界充满各类的「专家」，要以个人的智慧说服你接受他们的看法。但神说，不是那些大声喧嚷其主张的人，是最有智慧的人，而是那些经得起时间考验的人，才是真有智慧。

你不能够以争执或辩论来证明智慧。智慧需要经过时间的考验。有些人固执地认为自己的意见一定是最好的，不管这些人的观点多具说服力，时间是最好的判断工具。不是谁的声音大，谁就是对的，乃是事情的果效证明他们是否有智慧。当你顺服神的旨意时，有时会遇见反对势力及一些不同意你智慧行动的批评。你的第一个反应很可能是为自己辩解，然而，如果耐心等待，时间比辩解更能显露你行动的智慧。

神话语的智慧已经过历世历代的考验，证实它是真理。以圣经来判断你的所见所闻，是很重要的。心理学与哲学的趋势会变来变去，但神的话语不因时间而有所改变。当你在辅导人时，要确定你的意见是源自圣经，不是你个人最佳的意见。只要你人生的抉择是基于神的话语，时间会是你最好的辩护者，会证实你所选择的智慧。如果一段时间后，你看到自己显然是错的，求神赦免你，并且在圣经中寻求神话语的指示。然后，顺服那句话，观看神如何将祂的智慧运行在你的生活当中。

Wisdom Justified

But wisdom is justified by all her children. Luke 7:35

The world is full of “experts.” There are people everywhere who want to convince you of the wisdom of their opinion. Yet God says that it is not the one who declares his viewpoint the most loudly or vociferously who is the wisest, but the one who is vindicated over time.

Wisdom is not proven by argument or debate. Wisdom is proven over time. Some people adamantly proclaim that their opinion is best. Regardless of how convincingly these people defend their viewpoint, time is the best judge of their wisdom. The result of a practice proves its validity, not how loudly it is promoted. When you seek to obey what God has told you, you will sometimes meet resistance and criticism from others who disagree with the wisdom of your actions. Your immediate response may be the urge to vindicate yourself. However, if you wait patiently, time will reveal the wisdom of your actions far better than you could through argument.

Through the ages, the wisdom found in God’s Word has been tested and proven true. It is critical that you measure everything you hear against the Scriptures. Trends in psychology and philosophy come and go, but God’s Word is timeless. Whenever you share an opinion in counseling someone else, make sure that it comes from the Scripture and not merely from your best thinking. As long as you base your life choices on the Word of God, time will be your defender and will validate the wisdom of your choices. If, over time, you clearly see you are wrong, ask God’s forgiveness and seek a fresh word from God through the Scripture. Then obey that word and watch to see God confirm His wisdom in your life.

11月4日（星期五）- 标题：**不要叫人小看你**

经文：不可叫人小看你年轻，总要在言语、行为、爱心、信心、清洁上，都作信徒的榜样。（提摩太前书四章12节）

提摩太是一位诚实正直的年轻人，他热切地要事奉主。然而，他生命中有某些弱点，使得他无法满怀信心事奉神。提摩太是个非常年轻的宗教领袖，但很明显地，有人质疑他的能力。提摩太的个性温和，身体不是很好（提摩太前书五：23）。他很不幸地生于一个福音受逼迫的时代，且身为一位年轻的牧者！

保罗鼓励提摩太，不要让自己的年轻、没安全感，阻拦了事奉神的热心与忠诚。保罗教导提摩太，不要与那些批评自己的人争辩，而要在生活上有敬虔的榜样。保罗建议提摩太，要在生活中的言语、行为、爱心、信心、清洁上没有瑕疵，作教会信徒的好榜样。提摩太的生命足以证明神对他的呼召。神看提摩太的时候，是超越他的年轻、害羞、肉体的软弱，而看到他诚挚的心。

当你寻求神的旨意时，你可能觉得自己和提摩太一样。你也许有某项弱点，使你觉得没有资格服事主。你可能因为自己是初信者，或因为自己罪恶的过去，而自觉没有资格服事；也许你的学历很低、生活穷困，或社会地位卑微；也许你在过去事奉神的时候，曾经失败跌倒。不要让这些事阻拦你遵行神的旨意。你生命的软弱可以成为神展示祂大能的契机（哥林多后书十二：9）。接受神的呼召，容许祂改变你的生命，成为敬虔的榜样。

Let No One Look down on You

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12

Timothy was a sincere young man who earnestly desired to serve the Lord. Yet certain weaknesses in Timothy's life hindered him from serving God confidently. Timothy was very young to be a religious leader, and apparently some doubted his abilities. Timothy had a tender nature and was sickly (1 Tim. 5:23). His was an inauspicious beginning for a young minister of the gospel in an age of persecution!

Paul urged Timothy not to allow his youthful insecurity to blunt his zeal and faithfulness in doing what God had told him. Rather than arguing with those who criticized Timothy, Paul urged him to live as an example of godliness. Paul advised Timothy to live a life that was so spotless in word, conduct, love, spirit, faith, and purity that his life could serve as a model for others in the church to follow. Timothy's life was to be the evidence that God had called him. God looked beyond Timothy's youth, timidity, and physical weakness and saw his sincere heart.

As you seek to follow God's will, you may identify with Timothy. Perhaps some things about you seem to disqualify you from serving the Lord effectively. You may be sensitive because you are a new Christian or because you come from a sinful past. Perhaps you have little education or money or social status. You may have previously experienced failure in your service for God. Don't allow this to intimidate you from following God's will. Your area of weakness may be God's means of demonstrating His strength (2 Cor. 12:9). Allow God to demonstrate His call upon you by transforming your life into a model of godliness.

11月1日（星期二）- 标题：**恩惠、怜悯、平安**

经文：写信给那因信主作我真儿子的提摩太。愿恩惠、怜悯、平安从父神和我们主基督耶稣归与你！（提摩太前书一章2节）

为家人及朋友祷告，是非常重要的。再也没有比仿效圣经的榜样来为你所爱的人祷告更好的。保罗常为他所关心的人，祈求明确的恩赐。他为提摩太求恩惠、怜悯与平安。

恩惠不是我们赚得的，是神白白授予祂儿女的礼物。恩惠是神与我们相亲的惟一途径。我们本该灭亡，是祂的恩惠救赎了我们（以弗所书二：8）。祂的恩惠带来天堂的丰盛，在我们遭遇痛苦时带来平安。在每日生活中，祂的恩惠带来各样的美事。

神除去在我们身上当受的惩罚乃是怜悯。我们犯罪的代价是死亡，然而，耶稣已经为我们付上救赎的代价（罗马书六：23）。神有长久的忍耐，祂延迟我们受公义审判的时间，给我们许多悔改的机会，接受祂的救恩（彼得后书三：9）。

平安是当我们相信神的恩典及怜悯时，所存的心灵及意志状态。平安是在危难中，仍确信神的恩惠（腓立比书四：7）。神应许我们，即使得罪祂，祂仍会怜悯我们。这个保证带给我们平安。

神所赐的平安与世界所给予的大不相同（约翰福音十四：27）。世界教我们接受交谈、药物或短暂娱乐以脱离困境，而神所赐的平安，是直接切入灵魂的深处，平静我们的心灵及意志。

你是如何为你所爱的祷告呢？最好的祈祷便是求神赐予丰盛的恩惠，怜悯与平安。

Grace, Mercy, and Peace

To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Timothy 1:2

How you pray for your family members and friends is important. There is no better way to pray for someone you love than by following the example found in Scripture. Paul often asked for specific gifts from God for those He cared about. On Timothy's behalf, Paul requested grace, mercy, and peace.

Grace is the unearned gifts the Father bestows on His children. The Lord relates to us only by His grace. His grace provided salvation though we deserved destruction (Eph. 2:8). His grace blesses us with the riches of heaven. His grace brings us peace in troublesome times. His grace brings us good things every day (1 Tim. 1:14).

Mercy is God withholding the punishment we deserve because of our sinfulness. The consequences of our sin is death, yet Jesus paid this penalty for us (Rom. 6:23). God is long-suffering and will delay giving us our just punishment in order for us to have every opportunity to repent and to receive His gift of salvation (2 Pet. 3:9).

Peace is the state of mind and heart we experience when we are confident of God's grace and mercy toward us. Peace comes in knowing that God's grace will sustain us, even in our most difficult crises (Phil. 4:7). God assures us that even when we fail miserably in our commitments to Him, He will show mercy upon us. This assurance gives us peace. The peace God gives is fundamentally different from the peace the world offers (John 14:27). The world seeks to sedate us from the problems we face through counseling or drugs or temporary pleasures. The peace that God gives goes right to the soul, relieving the heart and mind.

How are you praying for your loved ones? There could be no better request than asking the Lord to give them an abundance of His grace, His mercy, and His peace.

11月2日（星期三）－标题：**照你所知的去行**

经节：人若知道行善，却不去行，这就是他的罪了。（雅各书四章17节）

知道神的旨意却不去做，绝对不是一件小事。神称这种行为是罪。我们可以为自己的不顺服找借口，说：「我还没有预备好」、「等会儿再做」，或说：「我不认为这样做有何分别」、「我做不到」……。我们常为自己的借口合理化，或拖延没有行动。在神眼中，合理化或拖延都是不顺服。有时候，我们自己骗自己，以为好的动机等于顺服的行动。不，这种想法是错误的。当我们与神相遇，祂给我们生命的方向。单单把日期写在灵修笔记上，或甚至把自己的「决定」告诉朋友及教会，都是不够的。神对我们的呼召，不是要我们「作决定」，而是要我们顺服！决定顺服并不等于顺服（马太福音廿一：28~31）！大声肯定顺服的必要性，并不等于顺服（路加福音六：46）。在公开场合决志奉献，并不等于顺服我们的主。就算自己努力的好成果，也不可能替代顺服。

神要扫罗王等候，直到先知撒母耳到来，但扫罗等不及就自己献祭了。扫罗十分讶异，他发现，看似很敬虔的行动也无法替代神清楚的命令（撒母耳记上十五：22）。就像对扫罗一样，神期待你完全照着祂向你所说的话顺服祂。唯有顺服才能够满足神对顺服的要求！

Have You Done What You Know to Do?

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

James 4:17

It is never a minor thing to know God's will and not do it. God calls this sin. We can make excuses for our lack of obedience: "I'm just not ready yet" or "I'll do it later!" or "I don't think it will make a difference" or "I can't afford to!" We rationalize, we procrastinate; yet, in God's eyes, rationalization and procrastination are nothing more than disobedience. At times we deceive ourselves into thinking that good intentions equal obedient actions. They do not. A good intention without corresponding activity is disobedience. When we encounter God and He gives us a direction, it is not enough to write down the date in our spiritual journal, or even to tell our friends and church of our "decision." God's call is not to "make a decision" but to obey! Deciding to obey is not equal to obeying! (Matt. 21:28-31). Loudly affirming the necessity of obedience is not the same as obeying (Luke 6:46). Making commitments, even publicly, is not the same as obeying our Lord. Substituting our own good works is not the same as obeying.

God told King Saul to wait until the prophet Samuel arrived. Instead of waiting, Saul took matters into his own hands and offered a sacrifice. Saul discovered, to his deep dismay, that other acts of supposed piety do not take the place of obeying a clear command from God (1 Sam. 15:22). As with Saul, God expects you to obey everything exactly as He tells you. Only obedience satisfies God's desire for obedience!

11月3日（星期四）－标题：**有忠心**

经节：我感谢那给我力量的我们主基督耶稣，因祂以我有忠心，派我服事祂。

（提摩太前书一章12节）

以人类属世的角度来看，保罗过去大肆逼迫基督徒，应该没有资格服事神。他过去是「罪人中的罪魁」，亵渎神、逼迫人，并且是暴力的挑衅者（提摩太前书一：13—15）。当神拯救了保罗，每一件事都改变了。保罗以同于过去逼迫基督徒的热心，来拥抱基督徒的生命。保罗在神交给他的每件任务上，无论是大事或小事都忠心。最后，因为他的忠心，神托付给他一个任务，就是成为推动福音的先锋。

保罗了解，为神的国度所完成的每一件事，都是出于神的大能。他并没有自欺，以为是凭着自己的智慧或个人的努力达成神的旨意。他反而为每个试炼的机会感谢神，无论神所交付的任务是大或小，他都能忠心。

你事奉神的能力不是基于你的过去，而是基于你今日的忠心。如果你忠心去做神所交托的任务，神会给你足够的力量完成它。不要计较神所交付的任务大小不同。保罗把每个任务视为自己服事神的殊荣，不是自己应得的。神是否要你为某人祷告、帮助某个有需要的人、带领一个研经的聚会，或是关心病人，你要忠心。当你事奉祂的时候，你会经历祂的大能。如果你在小事上忠心，神会交付给你更大的任务。你也会像保罗一样赞美神，因为神以你有忠心，而派你服事祂（路加福音十六：10）。

Counted Faithful

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry. 1 Timothy 1:12

From a human perspective, the apostle Paul's record as a zealous persecutor of Christians should have precluded him from being used in God's service. Paul was known as the "chief of sinners," a blasphemer, persecutor, and violent aggressor (1 Tim. 1:13-15). Everything changed when God saved Paul. He embraced the Christian life with the same fervency in which he had opposed it. Paul labored to be faithful in every assignment, no matter how small or large. Ultimately, because of Paul's faithfulness, God entrusted him to be one of His foremost promoters of the gospel. Paul understood that everything he ever accomplished for God's kingdom was due to the enabling power of God. He was not deceived into thinking that his own intelligence or personal drive brought about God's will. Rather, Paul was grateful for the opportunity to be tested and found faithful in any assignment, regardless of its size. Your ability to serve God is not based on your past, but on your faithfulness today. If you are faithful with the task God entrusts to you, God will enable you to accomplish it. Don't distinguish between big and small assignments from God. Paul saw every one as a privilege he did not deserve. Whether God has asked you to pray for someone, to minister to a person in need, to lead a Bible study, or to care for those who are sick, strive to be faithful. You will experience His enabling as you serve Him. If you are faithful in a little, God will entrust you with more. You will be able to join Paul in praising God for having counted you faithful, putting you into His service (Luke 16:10).