

#1



Abiding in Christ: The Resilience of the Vine

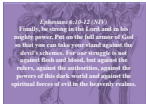
Each of the more than 5,000 varieties of grape vines has varying degrees of resilience to the various things that can destroy them, or negatively affect them.

- Some grape vines prosper in very limited climate changes.
- Other vines are hardy and produce fruit in almost any climate or circumstance.

As Christians, we are going to be exposed to many varied situations, temptations, test, and personal attacks.

Ephesians warns us of external attacks that come from many diverse places.

#2



Ephesians 6:10-12 (NIV) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

#3



To be an Overcoming Christian we must live victoriously over everything the enemy sends against us.

Satan will come against us in many various ways. He will use every scheme and device he can.

We are in warfare.

The Battle is constantly and consistently raging.

This is not something you must consciously enter.

The battle is on...

You don't have to initiate this.

The enemy has already initiated a concerted attack against the body of Christ.

Satan is out to steal, kill, and destroy everything that takes the Name of Jesus.

#4



1 Peter 5:8(NLT) Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour.

This Christian life is not free from trials, difficulties, and temptations.

If we are going to overcome we must constantly draw strength from the Lord.

Satan is aggressively on the attack.

He will oppose you.

He is going to attempt to make your life difficult.

#5



Here is the good news, through Jesus Christ we are more than conquerors.

To maintain a resilient overcoming life we must be strengthened "in the Lord and in the power of His might". (Ephesians 6:10)

Consider the implications of the position we are in.

In Christ, we are going from victory to victory.

God has called us into victory.

We are standing as victors in Christ.

#6



Paul told the Ephesians to Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil. ***Ephesians 6:11(NLT)***

What are Satan's wiles, strategies and tricks?

μεθοδεία [methodeia /meth·od·i·ah/]- A cunning device, craft, deceit, or trick.

These wiles are Satan's craft of deceit.

They are Satan's methods of warfare.

Satan has many schemes.

He uses anything he can.

He brings up anything that will mislead and destroy.

God has given us strong defense in the armor of God.

Paul was referring to his own personal struggle in Romans 7:14-25.

He said his flesh was not strong enough to overcome the attacks he faced.

He was weak and failed to do what was right.

He said he wanted to do the right thing, but struggled in his mind to do the right things.

Have you been there?

Paul said the only way he could live victoriously was through Jesus Christ our Lord!

1 Peter 5:8(NLT) Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour.

How are we going to remain resilient when there are so many attacks?

We have to live in victory that Christ has gained through the Cross and by conquering death and the grave.

In Christ Jesus, we have the victory over Satan.

#7



#8



Through Christ Jesus you have the authority and power to trample down the devil.

You have the name of Jesus in you and you possess the power to trample Satan.

You have power to resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Jesus Christ has become our victory.

Everyone who abides in Jesus Christ must put on the whole armor of God.

Much thought must go into putting on the armor of God.

According to Paul, the armor is not applied automatically.

You are not born with this armor on.

You must put on the armor of God

This is your protection against every wile of Satan.

Every method of Satan will be quenched with the armor.

With the armor intact, you will conquer the attack of the enemy.

*We are looking at the resilience
of the branch and the vine.*

How can we resist the attack of Satan?

#9



There are two illustrations that help us to see how we can become resilient against the attack of Satan.

First the position of abiding in Christ

Second the covering of the armor of God.

When we accept Christ and abide in Him, we receive a natural resilience, hardiness, or toughness that is associated with the vine.

*It is Christ in you that is your hope of glory.
It is Christ in you that is your victory.
It is Christ in you that is your power.*

What then is this “Putting on the Armor”?

This is the second phase of developing resilience against the attack of Satan.

These things sound like a natural and normal aspect of the Christian life.

They are characteristics of the Christian life.

We are to have our Loins Girded with Truth

What is the Truth?

The truth is not relative.

The truth is not situational.

The truth is definite.

John 14:6(NKJV) Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 8:32(NKJV) And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

We must put on and wear truth.

Jesus Christ is the Truth

The Truth frees us from Sin

#10



#11



We are to have on the Breastplate of Righteousness

2 Corinthians 5:21(NKJV) For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

#12



Romans 3:22(NKJV) ²²even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

This is a conscious decision to walk in righteousness.

This is living, as we ought to.

This is forsaking what is evil and choosing what is right.

This is living in a condition that is acceptable to God.

#13



Have your Feet Shod with the Gospel of Peace

Romans 5:1(NKJV) Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Philippians 4:7(NKJV) the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

#14



#15



We must hold up the Shield of Faith

2 Chronicles 20:15(NKJV) Thus says the LORD to you: ‘Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle *is* not yours, but God’s.

#16



Galatians 2:20(NKJV) ²⁰I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Our faith is in the One who is able.

#17



We must wear the Helmet of Salvation

2 Peter 1:10(NKJV) Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

#18



Take up the Sword of the Spirit

Psalms 119:9(NKJV) How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

#19



Psalms 119:11(NKJV) Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

#20



When you have on the armor and abide in Christ, you can conquer all of the enemy's territory.

This is the resilience of the Christian.

The Victory is yours.

In Christ Jesus, you have the victory.

2 Chronicles 20:17(NLT) But you will not even need to fight. Take your positions; then stand still and watch the LORD's victory. He is with you, O people of Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Go out there tomorrow, for the LORD is with you!"

#21



You need to adopt this as a lifestyle.

Get up in the morning with victory on your mind.

Get up and know that the Lord is with you.

Get up and know that you are in a right relationship with Christ.

Romans 8:31(NKJV) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

#22



If God is for us who can be against us?

You need to see how strong you are in this.

Be strong in this...

Jesus told Peter in Matthew 16:18 (NLT) Upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

God is building a strong resilient Church.