I want you to turn with me in your Bible tonight to the book of Genesis again, Genesis chapter number 3, Genesis chapter 3, good to see everybody here. It may not be the best illustration, but I've eaten at many of y'all's house before, and most of the time, nearly every time, there's so much food there, you can't get some of everything that you want, not as much, just of one thing, I messed up on the chocolate cake today, I just was, it got gone before I could get to it, but many times, there's more stuff there than you've got room on your plate to put, especially over in this part of the world. The Bibles can be the same way, too, when it comes to preaching, and you just realize there's no way to cover and look at everything that's worthy of studying and preaching on in one particular message, I want to feel led tonight to begin reading in chapter 3, I want to continue on the theme of what we looked at this morning, of how to manage well, but I read two verses this morning that I did not comment on, and I want to very briefly touch on those before we jump into the message tonight, so go to Genesis chapter 1, verse 26 and 27, this is really important, and there may be, especially anybody here of any age that has struggled with what does this mean, what is God talking about here, but in verse 1 to 26, and God said, let us make man in our image, that phrase, the image of God, let us make man in our image and after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the cattle of the air, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the sea, verse 27 says, so God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them, what does the image of God, or made in the likeness of God mean, what is he referring to, first of all, we need to understand what it doesn't mean, it does not mean that God is anything like us, God is in a class by himself, he has no equals, he's all knowing, he's all powerful, he's all holy, it does not mean in any shape, size, form, or fashion that God is like man, nor does it mean that we are little gods, that

we are just somehow a miniature replica of
who God is, that there's a false theology that
teaches that in the prosperity gospel of little
gods, you make your own world, and all of these
things come to pass, that's not what this means
at all, but it's very important that we understand
something about it, I heard a good definition,
sort of a working definition, when I was taking
classes years ago, the professor said that the
image and likeness of God in man refers to every
way in action and being in which man is like
God, not that God is like man, but it's referred to
every way in our action and our being, in our thoughts
and who we are, that man is like God, well what way
in all is a man like God? Well number one, man is an
eternal creature, his body will perish, this skin won't
last, the bones won't last, but what makes man who he is,
is that God breathed into his nostrils and he became a living
soul, that man is an eternal creature, his spirit, his soul
will exist eternally, either with God or separated from
God, man is like God in a sense, that man has been given
the ability to comprehend and love and fellowship
and understand in a way that is absolutely unique
from all of creation. Folks, man is different than the
animals, you're different than a cow, you're different
than a dog, you're different than a cat, you're different
than a bird that flies, God made all these things and
behold, they were very, very good, but on this last
day, the sixth day, God created Adam and he made him
an eternal creature with the ability to fellowship
and commune and comprehend in a way that no other
creature has. But there's a third way that's really,
really important, that Adam and Eve were created
unfallen. What do I mean by that? This seems to be a
strong term or a strong word that in a sense, Adam and Eve
were created sinless. They were pure.
They were innocent. They were holy. There was no sin in them that
disrupted the fellowship with God. There was no sin
in them that disrupted their walk with God.
They could commune with God. And folks, at the fall of man, what
the fall of man means is the moment that Adam and
Eve were going to look at tonight, that Adam and Eve
sinned, man fell from that state that he had with
God at creation. We fell so far, we don't even
really understand it, but that image of God wasn't
eradicated at the fall. It wasn't completely gone.
As a matter of fact, number one and number two are still

intact. Man is still an eternal creature.
Man is still going to exist forever, either with God
or separated from God. Man still has the ability
to comprehend and understand and fellowship in a
way that no one else does. Why is this so important?
Because every child born into this world, whether
it's a mansion in Beverly Hills or the slums in Port
of Prince Haiti is an image bearer of our great God.
That makes every individual, no matter their
shortcomings or their deformities or what
what may appear to be wrong with them, they are image bearers of God.
But folks, number three exists no more.
After the fall, that innocence, that purity, that
estate that man could walk and commune with God
as he was no more exists no more.
And that is why we have the gospel, is that Christ came
to restore to man that privilege, that peace, that
state where man could again commune with God and
fellowship with God. I just felt led this afternoon
to touch on that very briefly. But let's go now to
chapter three, verses number one through six.
Don't ever tell me that somebody ain't worth nothing,
something's wrong with them, we're going to get rid of this one.
They are an image bearer of our great God.
Intentional, purposeful. But we've got to know that
that image has been permanently and absolutely marred.
I was thinking about this on the way home the other day.
Let me finish my thought. Don't ever tell somebody
that they are perfect just as you. You are perfect just as you are.
The furthest thing could be from the truth.
I'm loved just as I am. I'm invited just as I
am. But when it comes to my standing with God,
I'm not perfect just as I are. I need God to
do something in my life. Genesis chapter three,
verse number one. The Bible says, "Now the serpent
was more subtle than any beast of the field which the
Lord God had made." And he said unto the woman, "Yea,
hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden.
" And the woman said unto the serpent,
"We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden,
but of the tree which is in the midst of the
garden, God has said, you shall not eat of it,
neither shall you touch it, lest ye die.
" And the serpent said unto the woman, "Ye shall not surely die."
Red flag number one. Anytime, anybody, anyone, anything
says something that is a direct contradiction to
what God has said. By the way, I saw a great

quote the other day. It was a meme or something.
God told me is no substitute for God hath said. Think about that for a minute. Huh?
God told me. There's no substitute for God hath said.
You have a lot of people, "Well, God told me.
Well, God hath already said." So God had already said.
Mitzi made a point where he was at the gas station.
She wasn't giving Eve an excuse, but she made sure her
preacher husband understood that Eve wasn't there
when he got those, when Adam got those instructions
from the Lord in chapter two. And she's right.
But was Eve ignorant? No. She says to Satan, the
serpent, "I know." Whether God told her at a later date
or it was passed down through Adam, she was under
no misunderstanding at all what was allowed,
what wasn't allowed. So we find in verse number
three, "But of the fruit of the tree which is in the
midst of the garden, God has said you shall not eat of
it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.
" And the serpent said unto the woman, "Ye shall not surely die.
" For God doth know that in a day ye eat thereof,
then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be
as gods, knowing good and evil." Lastly, verse six,
"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for
food, and it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree
to be desired to make one wise, she took of the
fruit thereof and did eat, and gave also unto her
her husband with her, and he did eat." Let's pray.
God, I come to you tonight, Lord, asking you that you would strengthen my mind.
Lord, give me your words to say that your word is divided correctly and accurately.
Lord, what great privilege you have given us as your created children,
men and women who were made in your image and your likeness.
Lord, help us study this scene,
this account, this record. The Lord, indeed, one of the darkest days in history.
Lord, then take it and learn from it. Lord, that we
as your people may learn to manage our own lives.
Lord, in Jesus' sweet name we pray. Amen. Amen.
This morning, shared with them the thought of how to manage well,
we look where God created everything in six literal days, in evening and morning,
where the first day and the sixth day he created man.
God looks at the assessment of his work and says,
"Behold, this is very good. God gave the instructions.
You are to subdue it. You are to have dominion over it."
He took Adam and he placed him in the garden.
He said, "You are to keep it and take care of it."
In other words, Adam was given the responsibility,
the privilege, the role of being a steward.
It didn't belong to him. It belonged to the Lord,

but it is his job to manage and to take care of it.
Then God makes, I believe, the most beautiful
creation ever made. He takes a rib from Adam.
He says, "It's not good.
" After God said, "Behold, it's very good." He looked at
Adam and said, "It's not good that man should be alone."
I'm going to make a suitable help meet for him.
I want to make a suitable helper for him,
not someone to be below him, not someone to be above him, but one to stand next to him,
to aid him and to guide him and to fellowship with
him and to walk with him and to help him in this role
of managing God's creation. The things we looked
at this morning, how we're going to manage well,
we must understand that all things are God's things. Nothing is truly our thing.
Our lives, our wives, our children, our money, our Mondays, our Tuesdays.
Nothing is truly our thing, all things.
All things belong to God. To manage well, we must understand
that there's a great gain when it is managed well,
but there's great loss when it's managed poorly.
We looked at that parable of the talents.
Listen, I believe God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek after him.
God is a good God. He's a gracious God.
Now, many things I got from God, I didn't earn them.
God's just being God and he's being good, but
God is a rewarder of those who handle their lives well.
They handle his things well, but there's also great loss when we don't.
We see that in the scripture and we see it in life.
When we don't manage ourselves, when we don't
manage God's things, great loss comes.
We also look that to manage well, we must submit to God's rule.
God gave Adam and Eve strict, strict for their own good, by the way.
That was something that was hard for me to
get passed as a young child. You ever viewed
rules as simply hindrances? Some of you young
people may view them that way. That rules and
guidelines or I'm glad brother Mike's here tonight.
We got a police officer and a half. These rules that
we have in society that you are paid to enforce,
it's not simply to keep people just to suck the joy
out of their lives. They're there to keep people safe.
They're there so we have a right working society so
things run the way that they ought to run.
God lays down these guidelines and these rules not to hurt them,
not to restrict them, but to help them and to lead and guide them.
And if we ever get to the place that we
think we can manage things outside of the rule of God,
we are destined for failure. As husbands and fathers

and mothers and grand and mothers, I mean all these
instructions that we have, it's God saying here's
how it ought to be done. And we didn't have time to
look at this morning, but I want to look at it tonight.
There's a fourth thing. The folks, if we're going to manage well,
man has got to learn to manage himself, himself,
not just the things that he has in his possession,
not just the things around him, but manage his very own life.
But tonight to this very familiar
scene, this record of Adam and Eve, primarily Eve
here, I want to look at some areas that have got to be
managed well in our life. You say they got to,
preacher, I'm saying they got to. And the reason
they got to, it was a failure to manage these three
things that led to spiritual death in their life and
all of humanity. These three things right here are
absolutely critical and crucial in the Christian life.
All right, let's look at verse number one.
First thing that we've got to learn to manage
is our attitude. And when I say our attitudes, I
mean our emotions, I mean our thoughts, the things
that we think on, the things that we dwell on, the
things that we listen to that affect our attitude.
Look at verse number one in chapter three.
The Bible says, "Now the serpent was more subtle than any
of the beasts of the field which the Lord God had made.
" And he said unto the woman, "Yea,
hath God said, you shall not eat of every tree of the garden.
" And the woman said unto the serpent,
"We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden,
but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of
the garden, God has said, you shall not eat of it,
neither shall you touch it, lest you die." And the serpent
said unto the woman, "You shall not surely die, for God
doth know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes
shall be opened and you shall be as God's knowing good and evil.
" There is a process to what takes place in
chapter number six. And I want you to follow this with me.
Prior to a sinful appetite being grown
in Eve, prior to sinful actions being taken in
her life, wrong thoughts, wrong emotions and wrong
attitudes were conceived. In her case, Satan planted the seed.
If you'll allow me to paraphrase this,
God is holding out. God is keeping you from this.
God doesn't want you to be like him. God is holding out on you.
And so he began to work in her mind.
And that things could somehow be better. Things could

somehow be different, which would lead to your exaltation.
So he began to work in her mind and
plant these thoughts to begin to affect her attitude
and now the way that she views things. And I think
we've hit on this a lot on Wednesday night that the
older I get, the more convinced I become, is that
one of the things that we have got to rule, we must
rule, and it must be the first thing that rules,
we must learn to rule and manage our minds.
It is the wrong thoughts, the wrong actions, the wrong
attitude is what led to the wrong appetite.
And it was the wrong appetite that led to the wrong actions.
2 Corinthians chapter 10, verse number 3.
Paul writes this, he says, "Though we walk in the flesh,
we do not war after the flesh." For this war, this
battle, we've been on this a lot in Ephesians.
Paul says, "For we wrestle not against the flesh of blood, but against principalities,
against powers, against the rulers of darkness of
this world, that this Christian life isn't a cakewalk,
it isn't just an easy day, it is warfare, it is a battle.
" Paul talks about this war that we're in.
"We do not war after the flesh, for the weapons
of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through
God, to the pulling down of strongholds, casting
down," listen to this one, "casting down imaginations
and every high thing that exalted itself against
the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity
every thought to the obedience of Christ.
" This was the first thing that did not happen in Eve's life.
That's when Satan planted the idea that stood
in direct contradiction to what God had said.
That wasn't taken captive. It wasn't discarded.
We know what happened. It was massaged.
It was entertained. It was received. And the more she thought
upon this thing, and the more she looked at this
thing, the more she began to desire this thing.
The attitude wasn't managed, but now we see the appetite. Look at verse 6.
"And the woman saw that the tree was good for
food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes,
and a tree desired to make one wise." There's some
words in here that we just need to look at. What has
happened this far, Nicky? Satan has planted the seed. He's planted the seed.
Nicky, things could be different, and things could be better.
Now, I know you think you know what God has
said, but just entertain me here. And so that has taken place.
So now she looks, and it doesn't seem to be all a lie.
She saw. She looked. She said, "Hey, this

is good for food. It's pleasant to the eyes.
It's desire to make one wise, and go, this actually looks tempting.
This actually looks enjoyable.
This actually looks like something that I might benefit from.
" You say, "Preacher, what happened?"
The more she saw, the more she looked, and the
more her appetite for that forbidden fruit grew.
Amen. Anybody ever been there? You've heard it
said that the longer you do without something,
the more likely you are not to miss it.
And folks, that's partially true, but it's not entirely true.
At times, the exact opposite is true, especially
if we continue to gaze upon something and surround
ourselves with something that God says you are not to have.
And this is what has taken place.
And she's enamored by this. She begins to look
at it and think about it. And as she does it,
she becomes more attracted to it. And this appetite
for going the wrong direction grows in her life.
Tell me, if you would, the book of James.
James chapter one. I want us to see all of this, how all of this fits together.
Folks, this entire Bible, this entire Bible, I'm telling you,
it all fits for the same story. It all fits into the same theme.
I don't care if you're in Haggai,
Zechariah, or the book of Revelations.
It's all about the glory of God and the power of God and the
love of God and the grace of God and changing man.
And all of these things fit together. What we see here
in Genesis chapter three, James writes about in James chapter one. Look at verse 14.
Verse 13. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God.
For God cannot be tempted with evil,
neither tempteth he any man. But every man is tempted
when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed.
That when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin,
and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death.
Do not err, my beloved brethren, every good and every perfect gift is from above,
and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom
there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.
I love this passage in James because it speaks to
the progression of sin. It doesn't start in the action.
It starts in the mind. We look and we see, and that appetite begins to grow.
But I love one of the reasons I love this passage.
Now, we also said do not err.
Do not err, my beloved brethren. We're going to get there in just a minute.
Every good and perfect gift comes from God.
But also do not err. When lust hath conceived,
it bringeth forth sin, and sin when it is finished,

forth death. And there is never, ever, ever, ever, ever
any productivity or any good from going contrary to God.
But what I like about this, James teaches us that the best way to curb our appetite
isn't simply doing without the bad. It's to fill ourselves with the good.
He said do not err, my beloved brethren.
I think I need to get that through my thick head.
I think the church needs to get it through our thick head.
The world needs to see it through their thick head.
All good things, anything that is good, those things come from the Lord.
Satan does not bring those into our life.
No matter how flashy they may look, no matter how enticing they
may look, I think about these things. I used to tell
Missy all the time. I'm going to ramble for just a
minute. It seems like a Sunday night message and
not really a Sunday morning message. She said,
what in the world is the difference between a Sunday
night message and a Sunday morning message. I used
to say, well, this is more like a message for the
young people, not really the old people.
But the older I get, I'm beginning to realize I'm still
a young person in my mind. It all fits the same thing.
This just ain't about teenagers staying
away out of the backseat of a car. Now, old people,
older people, our minds, man, we can entertain things
that don't need to be entertained. We don't listen to
thoughts we don't need to entertain. And before we
know it, our appetite for something other than God
begins to grow. This happened with Eve in paradise.
In paradise. It can happen today. It does happen today in our lives.
But it's not just the things that Satan
brings, but that every good and perfect gift,
those things come from the Lord. To fill ourselves with the good.
But listen, Jesus said there's times
that more than just filling ourselves with the good,
even more drastic measures may need to be taken.
Jesus said, if the right eye offend thee, pluck it out.
It's better to be without your eye than the whole
body to be cast in hell. If the right hand offend
thee, cut it off. Does he want us to go around maiming ourselves?
No. But what he is saying, that whatever
necessity is taken, whatever measure is necessary
to keep us from entertaining these things where
our attitudes get wrong, our thoughts get wrong,
our minds get wrong, and now we begin to desire
things that aren't of God, that's going to lead to our
death of our testimony, death of the church,
death of our families. Cut it off! Cut it off,

but also, where do the blessings come from, Ronnie?
Where do they come from? That these things come from God.
So we see the attitude, we see the appetite, but now
we see the actions in chapter six, I mean verse six.
And when the woman saw that the tree was good for
food and it was pleasant to the eyes and the tree
desired to make one wise, she took the fruit thereof
and did eat and gave also unto her husband with her
and he did eat. By the way, don't, isn't this how it works?
Isn't this exactly how it works in our lives?
That it starts here.
We think differently than what God has said.
We listen to things differently than what God has said.
So we begin to desire the things that God says that's
forbidden, that's not good for you, but it looks so good.
It looks so fitting.
So now we get to the actions. The finally, final
deadly result when we fail to manage our attitude
and manage our appetite. The final unavoidable result are sinful actions.
I want to hit on this for just a minute.
I think most of you know, there's a term
that we use in church called sanctification.
Preacher, what does that mean?
I've heard that term. What does it mean, sanctification?
Well, first of all, we understand what it means to be sanctified.
Sanctified in the Bible means to be holy and set aside.
When a Christian is saved, Ricky, that individual
becomes holy by the work of Christ on the cross.
That individual is sanctified. He is set apart now for the holy purposes of God.
It is initial, but it is also progressive.
And that every day that I live, I'm striving
by yielding to the word of God and in prayer
and to the message of God and the work of the Holy Spirit in my life.
Though I'm saved, I have not arrived.
We are constantly going up, hopefully up the escalator.
Sometimes we go up and sometimes we go back.
We are growing and we are being sanctified as we walk to this life.
We are being made conformed to the image of Christ.
The scripture says, one day we will be glorified.
You say, preacher, why did you say all that?
I'm going to tell you in my heart.
I don't think sinless perfection in this world is truly attainable.
You know anybody other than the Lord Jesus has pulled it off.
But I'm going to tell you what else I believe just as strongly.
Adam and Eve didn't have to eat.
They weren't made to eat.
They weren't forced to eat.

They did not have to partake.
They made the choice to go contrary to God.
And here is what we must understand.
That the new man who was made under the work of God
is to be under the rule of God
has the obligation, has the duty,
has the power to manage his life
per the instructions of God.
That old nonsense, I forgot to skip somebody,
that the devil made me do it.
It's a bunch of garbage.
It's a bunch of garbage.
They did have a choice.
They didn't have to.
And I say that to me and I say it to you.
We all can do so much better than we think we can.
Miss Donna mentioned it the other day.
And this may get on some people.
Y'all know that song, I'm just a sinner saved by grace.
You know what that song needs to go?
I was a sinner saved by grace.
I'm not a sinner anymore.
In other words, I don't walk in that lifestyle anymore.
I don't live in that lifestyle anymore.
You're a perfect preacher.
No, I'm not perfect.
Not at all.
But I've come to understand,
there's things that I don't have to do.
But when the thoughts are wrong and attitudes wrong and appetite grows,
the final result are these sinful actions that we see in their life.
You say, preacher, you got New Testament for a little bit of that?
Yeah, I do.
1 Corinthians chapter 9.
Turn with me.
1 Corinthians chapter 9.
I want you to look at a verse here.
1 Corinthians chapter 9.
I want to read just one verse.
I want to read it all in context.
Look what Paul says in verse number 24.
Chapter 9.
He says, Know ye not that they which run in a race run all,
but one receiveth the prize.
So run that you may obtain.
That's a good enough verse all by itself.
Paul says,

they had games back then.
They had like Olympic games and those types of things.
We know something about athletics.
Everybody's running, but ain't nobody going to win.
Sister Sherry, run like you want to win.
Run like you want to get the trophy.
But he's talking about the Christian life.
And look what he says here.
And every man that strives for the mastery is tempered in all things.
Now they do it to attain a corruptible crown,
but we're in an incorruptible crown.
I therefore so run, not as uncertainly,
so fight I, not as one that beateth the air.
But look what he says in verse number 27.
Some people use this as a verse to prove that a man can lose his salvation.
That ain't what this is about at all.
I promise you, brother,
for any of us that are saved,
if we could lose it, we would already.
Every one of us in here.
No, if Paul is talking about the Christian life,
and this term castaway literally means not approved or disqualified.
He said this is important.
So I take my body
and I bring it into subjection.
I train and I work
and I strive and I struggle
because I do not want to be disqualified.
I do not want to be set aside.
I do not want to be set aside.
Do you know?
This is when God saves a man.
He saves a man.
He holds him in his hand.
But we can run so poorly
that our testimony
is disqualified.
That our influence
has been cast away.
Paul said, I don't want to get to the place where I preach to others that I myself
have been cast away.
Say, Preacher,
how in the world
would an enemy
so subtle,
so wicked,
so powerful,

so cunning,
so crafty,
how do we live in this world when there's so many thoughts
coming into our mind
that want to distract us from who God is,
so many things being thrown at us and our appetite for these things grow.
How do we keep these things from translating in our life to wrong actions?
Folks, we do it.
Y'all know the answer.
You've been studying here on Wednesday night.
I'm going to be upset if you don't.
We do it in the book of Ephesians through the power
of God's might.
David,
you don't pull up your belt buckle.
You don't just,
I mean, you just don't man up.
No,
we do it through the power
of God.
We can do it through the power of God.
Paul talks about that in Ephesians chapter 5.
That our loins are girded about with truth.
Truth.
The absolute standard whereby reality is measured.
God's truth.
That is what surrounds me.
Not Satan's lies.
But God's truth.
This armor that we have on the breastplate of righteousness.
Nikki,
that though you've been saved once, you can only be saved once
that every single day it protects your vitals.
This front and this back that you strive to the power of God
because you're surrounded by truth to live a life
that displays the righteousness of God in our lives.
We're talking about
protecting our mind and our appetites and our actions.
That we preach the gospel of peace to ourselves.
Feet shod
with the preparation of the gospel of peace.
That we take the shield of faith
that we might
sort away
the fiery darts of the wicked one.
Folks,
man, I hope y'all are all seeing how real all of this is.

Paul writes that we take the helmet
of salvation.
That's become one of my favorite ones.
It protects us right here, Robert.
It protects this mind of ours.
What protects the mind of ours?
The truth of God.
The truth of God.
Paul says those are defensive things.
But you also take with you your sword of God's word.
You say, preacher,
I'm not Jesus.
I'm not Jesus either.
None of us are.
But when Satan was tempted
for 40 days
in the wilderness,
what was his offensive weapon?
What was it?
There's a sword.
There's a word.
Here's what God said.
Now you've twisted this, Satan.
You've taken scripture.
And by the way, people do it all the time.
You've taken this and you've moved it out of context.
But here's, man shall not live by bread alone, but
every word which proceedeth out of the mouth of God.
It'll keep us walking right.
It'll keep us on our knees.
It'll keep us humble.
That's a sword.
The word of God is a sword to which we go.
And there's one last thing.
And we're not going to talk about it tonight,
but God will and we will Wednesday night.
You know there's one more piece of armor.
Paul says praying
always
with all prayer
and supplication.
Folks,
if we got here
on Sunday nights
and Sunday morning
and Wednesday nights
and we realized

number one,
Shane, that everything you got 40 years with that sweet lady,
she's God's.
She's God's.
And you'll have to reckon with God one day on how he handled his daughter.
but that there is an enemy
who is seeking
our demise,
who wants us to be cast away,
unprofitable,
no good,
who plants our lives.
I tell you what we would do,
this house truly would be called
a house of prayer.
I mean, we would pray
and we would pray
and we would pray and it wouldn't just be all about
somebody's bad toe or somebody's heart condition
or any of these things.
It would be God,
we're wrestling against the power
that's not flesh and blood.
We're wrestling against wickedness in high places
and we need the power
of your might
to gird this truth, to save our children,
to heal our marriages,
to keep us moving along.
And that final piece of the armor is what holds all these things together.
How do we keep
from falling
into this?
Child of God,
it is through yielding to the Spirit of God within you.
And when you do,
that's when the fruit of the Spirit begins to flow.
And we can manage our attitudes,
we can manage our appetites.
And praise God, we can even manage our actions.
Dear Heavenly Father,
thank you for your word.
Thank you for your truth
that we are not helpless,
we are not weaklings,
but that through your power and your strength and your word and your might,
we indeed can be more than conquerors through you that loved us.

Dear God, may we learn
from the great examples in your word,
from the men and women who stood tall.
But dear God, may we never,
ever,
ever
lose sight of the fact,
Lord, of how our enemy works.
And Lord, that we manage
these areas
that he so easily
and consistently attacks.
Help us,
dear God,
in this great endeavor.
In Jesus' name I pray.
Amen.
Let's stand.