

Summer Survival Kit  
Ephesians 6:10-12



“Yellow vest” not to be confused with the yellow jersey worn by the Tour de France leader  
Why are they called that???

- Part of an auto preparedness kit

What about spiritually? Do you have a spiritual preparedness or survival kit?

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Eph 6

Tim Challies – Survival Kit

<https://www.challies.com/articles/a-spiritual-first-aid-kit/>

Bible

Psalms set to music

Written Prayers

A comforting book

Favorite Songs

<https://www.challies.com/book-reviews/book-review-10-questions-to-diagnose-your-spiritual-health/>

**Ten Questions To Diagnose Your Spiritual Health**, this book presents the reader with ten criteria that can point towards spiritual health. The crux of the matter, the theme that flows throughout the book, is this: is your character becoming more like Christ’s? Here are the ten questions the reader faces:

Do you thirst for God?

Are you governed increasingly by God’s Word?

Are you more loving?

Are you more sensitive to God’s presence?

Do you have a growing concern for the spiritual and temporal needs of others?

Do you delight in the bride of Christ?

Are the spiritual disciplines increasingly important to you?

Do you still grieve over sin?

Are you a quicker forgiver?

Do you yearn for heaven and to be with Jesus?

Those are great questions for summertime reflection. But what do we need in our Summer Spiritual Survival Kit?

The flesh never takes a day off, and it always remains flesh. It doesn’t get better.

EX: family finds a lost dog on the beach and take it home – wash it, groom it, feed it and leave it food and water as they leave the house the next day. They come home and find their cat is deceased and the culprit was the new pet. The visit to the vet the next day revealed that the “dog” was actually an African Rat which probably fell off of a cargo vessel in the ocean.

A rat is a rat. The flesh is flesh. The family cared for the new pet but couldn't change its nature.

God cares for us, redeems us, adopts us into His family, but he goes beyond that. The Christian life is a supernatural life because we have been given a new nature with New Covenant Gospel Provisions. These are the provision for our SUMMER SPIRITUAL SURVIVAL KIT. (Dwight Edwards calls them...

A New Purity

A New Identity

A New Disposition

A New Power

In the OT God promises to give a new heart – a heart of flesh, not of stone. In that context “flesh” is a positive – it means soft and alive, not hard and dead like stone. What does this new nature look like?

A New Purity

1 Pet 1

22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, 23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God.

2 Pet 1

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

Believing in the reality of this new purity is important because it shapes how we think God relates to us.

If you were to imagine God's facial expression when he looks at you, what would it be?

A frown, a scowl, sadness, anger, disappointment? Is He yawning?

To often we walk around like there is a cloud of a frowning God hanging over us. It is a cloud of guilt or displeasure. It's like floating guilt.

We live with certain vague feelings of - *I feel like God must be continually judging me, and I'm in danger of Hell even though I'm a Christian. Many non-Christians seem like they must be more righteous in God's sight than I am because they are more morally upright than I am. Even though I'm justified, I don't feel very righteous.*

*I'm plagued by a sense of floating guilt and God is angry with me.*

What is the biblical truth for us in Christ?

Rom 8:1 – no condemnation

Col 3:3-4

3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

We are hidden in Christ, so when God looks at us, He sees Jesus. He rejoices over us with singing. This doesn't mean that God ignores our sinful actions and attitudes – He loves us too much to leave us as we are – but toward our person, God is moving toward us in grace.

God is aware of our sin, but he does not count that against us. It does not define us.

*Knowing our new purity means that on my worst Day, I'm still loved by God, covered by the righteousness of Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit and fully accepted.*

The Chinese word for righteousness is a combination of two pictures – a lamb on top and underneath is a person. That will preach. In Christ, we are hidden by the righteousness of the Lamb of God.

This new purity means forgiveness of our sins.

One of the things that will sink us spiritually is forgetting our forgiveness. Satan is the accuser and he loves to create that cloud of floating guilt.

EX: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Sherlock Holmes fame) did a practical joke on friends. He sent an anonymous note to each which said, “Flee at once...all is discovered”. Within 24 hours all 12 people had fled the country.

Do you ever live in fear that “all will be discovered”?

The gospel tells us that all has been discovered and then covered by the work of Christ.

In Christ we have a new purity that includes forgiveness.

VoV Self-noughting <https://banneroftruth.org/us/devotional/self-noughting/>

Grant that I may never trust my heart,  
depend upon any past experiences,  
magnify any present resolutions,  
but be strong in the grace of Jesus:  
that I may know how to obtain relief  
from a guilty conscience  
without feeling reconciled to my imperfections.

Put that in your survival kit this summer.

## A New Identity

16 Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer. 17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is a new creature*; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18 Now all *these things* are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Martin Luther – The moment I consider Christ and myself as two, I am gone.

In Christ, we are a new creation and we are identified with Him.

We move from being guilty before a Holy God to being fully forgiven and pardoned.

We move from being on death row to being adopted into the household and family of God.

We move from being dominated by a deceitful nature as children of wrath to being renewed and made new according to the image of the one who created us.

The dominion of sin is broken, and it no longer defines us. We are given a new nature, purity, disposition, and identity.

We have a new identity as “saints” – those who are set apart for God. It is not just a change judicially before God, but a change in our inner condition. We are partakers of the divine nature and have the Holy Spirit living inside us.

Saintliness is our status as well as our condition before God. Though sin is still resident in us, it is no longer the dominant power.

As many have said over the years, “The Christian life is simply the process of becoming who we are.”

**“We don’t change our living to become godly; we change our living because we’ve already been made godly.” Dwight Edwards**

Living out of the gospel resources won’t guarantee that we never sin, but they help keep us on the path of a walk of repentant faith.

Our new identity is Christ saturated and Christ-sufficient. Everything we need for life and godliness is supplied to us in Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

### **A New Disposition**

Growing up my mom would make liver and onions from time to time. Not a family favorite. No matter how much ketchup or steak sauce you put on it, the liver flavor was still stronger. For me to enjoy liver one of two things must happen – I must lose all sense of taste or I need a tongue transplant so that I get new taste buds. If that happens then liver would move from “yuck” to “yea” at mealtime.

Guess what? God has changed our spiritual taste buds. One aspect of the new heart and new creation is that we have a new disposition. **This means that the Holy Spirit gives us new desires and longings. He takes away the heart of stone, a heart at enmity with God, and he replaces it with a new heart with new desires.**

One of the first things that changed in my life after coming to Christ 45 years ago was a desire to read the Bible. Other changes were also evident as God was doing a heart makeover.

The flesh is still there, and it wars with the Spirit. In those times we can remind ourselves that the real “me”, made anew in Christ has different desires. It’s not automatic, so we must move in faith toward God so that the actions or attitudes don’t find a welcome within our hearts. This is part of the process of “putting to death” the flesh and its works.

The flesh is saying, “Leave a light on for me”.

When we walk by the spirit, we are putting to death the flesh and its lusts.

**24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.**

When the flesh raises up, get out your Survival Kit and remember that as a new creature in Jesus at your core you desire the things of God more than the things of the flesh. Take it by faith, walk in it by faith. Appropriate it by faith – the new desires are already ours in Christ. Lean into it by faith as you call on God. Go to the throne of grace to find mercy and grace in the time of need.

The Christian life isn’t “stop it” or “just say no”.

It’s “I’m a new person with new desires. I don’t have to live as a slave to sin any longer. God’s grace has given me a new purity, new identity and a new disposition.”

**“The motivation of grace will always bear greater fruit than the coercion of demand.”**

— John Lynch, On My Worst Day: Cheesecake, Evil, Sandy Koufax, and Jesus

### **A New Power**

EX. Scottish Philosopher Thomas Carlyle – “If I were a preacher, I’d make short work of it. I would go behind the pulpit and say ‘you good people know what you should be doing. Now go home and do it’” (let’s close in prayer)

His godly mother responded, “Aye, Thomas, but would ye tell them ‘ow?”

It's not enough to have a new purity, identity and disposition. We need a new POWER, to carry out the wants of a new life in Christ, and God has given it to us.

Acts 1:8

Rom 1:16-17

Eph 5

Gal 5

Our problem isn't so much that we don't want to trust God per se, but that we want to get in on the action, so we get to share in the glory. We don't want to walk into situations or conflicts where we really have to depend on God.

We plan out our agenda and response rather than asking, "What would be the response that can only be explained by the Holy Spirit?"

I don't preach as one who does this perfectly, or even all that well.

I'm a sheep like you and I need the same survival kit that you do.

The new purity, new identity, new disposition and new power are a person we meet before they are a way of life.

They are His way of Life, and we are called to walk with Him.

Once we've met him, we must keep leaning on Him.

Dependence, not Independence, is the pathway of Christian maturity.

Here's a glimpse of what A heart of repentant faith sounds like...

<https://banneroftruth.org/us/devotional/continual-repentance/>

VoV Continual Repentance:

I am always going into the far country,  
and always returning home as a prodigal,  
always saying, Father, forgive me,  
and thou art always bringing forth  
the best robe.

Every morning let me wear it,  
every evening return in it,  
go out to the day's work in it,  
be married in it,  
be wound in death in it,  
stand before the great white throne in it,  
enter heaven in it shining as the sun.

Grant me never to lose sight of  
the exceeding sinfulness of sin,  
the exceeding righteousness of salvation,  
the exceeding glory of Christ,  
the exceeding beauty of holiness,  
the exceeding wonder of grace.

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