

# Speaking to the soul



## Equipped

**Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with**

## **joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit. Hebrews 13:17**

As this amazing letter comes towards its end, the writer prays a blessing upon his readers. He has written the letter to bring them encouragement and this simple prayer oozes with just that. He reminds them that God is a God of peace. We sense that there was a good deal of tension and difficulty within this church. The believers had not progressed in the way that the writer would have hoped and there were people bringing in unhelpful teaching, which was undermining the church and its leadership. The writer reminds them to keep their eyes fixed on God, who is the source of peace.

Although there may be many challenges ahead, the writer is confident that God will always equip his people perfectly. This is a major theme throughout the New Testament. When, at the end of his life, Jesus sent out his disciples to the end of the earth, he promised to be with them and to empower them with his Spirit (Matthew 28:19-20). And when the apostle Paul declared that every Christian is involved in a spiritual battle: “against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12), he assures them that God has provided them with a full set of armour so that, however fierce the battle, they will be able to stand.

Whatever challenge you are facing, be encouraged! God knows precisely what you are up against and will always equip you with the gifts and protection you need to be able to serve him effectively.

## **QUESTION**

In what ways are you looking to the Lord to equip you at the moment?

## **PRAYER**

Loving God, thank you that you will never ask me to do a job without equipping me to do it. Amen

*Photograph - View of Hereford Cathedral and statue of Sir Edward Elgar*

