

Standing In the Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-14 - The Armor of God - ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

¹² 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.

¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

¹⁴ **Stand firm then....**

I would like to remind you today that we are in a fight. We are in a fight for our life.

Revelation 12:12 - Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

I don't know where you are in your fight today but if you will allow me with the Word of God

- I would like to give you some fighting lessons.
- I don't know if you have ever been to a good fight or not.
- In fact, I am not sure there is such a thing as a good fight
- But if you have ever been to a fight –

You will hear a few things screamed out to the fighter.....

Keep your hands up or keep your guard up!

- Those words usually coming from the coach in the corner of the ring.
- He is there to remind his champion of what we all so easily forget.
- That's to keep your guard up!

A fighter cannot just fight, they must also protect themselves and if they are not careful they will get so caught up in fighting that they forget to protect themselves from the fatal blows of their opponent.

- It is when a fighter loses his head that he usually loses his head.
- **His opponent** is counting on him to fight in anger or fear
- Because then he forgets to keep his guard up.

Look out for the left - It is when a fighter *thinks he has his opponent figured out* that he usually gets the left.

Many times, **we as Christians**, get to thinking we got the Devil or Sin figured out and that is usually when we get a left. **Be ready for anything.**

1 Corinthians 10:12

¹² So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

Wear him out - *Sometimes you can wear your opponent out.*

Many fights have been won *because an opponent thought* he had the advantage of strength or mass...

- Because the other fighter kept himself guarded
- Rather than trying to match his strength
- The larger opponent wore himself out trying to knock him out.
- **It is the same for our fight and our adversary.**
- **Satan thinks** he has more power and strength.
- Do not focus on that –

Simply guard yourself and allow the enemy to wear himself out.

Revelation 12:12 - ¹² Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! *He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."*

Matthew 10:22

²² You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

The Apostle Paul gave a different illustration, but used the same principle.

Ephesians 6:13-14 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, **you may be able to stand your ground**, and after you have done everything, to stand. **14 Stand firm then**

Not so much about the fight as much as it is standing!!!

Ephesians 6:15-18 - ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

V.15-18 list 6 things used for warfare, only five of those are used for defense and only one was used to actually attack or offend.

That tells me that about 83% of our fight is defending or standing firm, and only 17% is actually about offending...

Ephesians 6:14 - Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist

TRUTH - Most everything a soldier carries is anchored on his belt.

John 14:6 - Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Ephesians 4:14-15 - Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

We must not anchor **our defense** to any other doctrine other than **Jesus Christ and him crucified.** **Many have fallen away** because **they forgot truth.**

Ephesians 6:14b - with **the breastplate of righteousness** in place,

Breastplate - guards the heart, **the center of the person** and the source of life.

What is the center of your life? Greed, hate, lust, etc.... or - ☹

Integrity and Holiness - which is, **being one with God.** ☺

Acts 13:22 - After removing Saul, he made David their king. **God testified concerning him:** 'I have found **David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart;** he will do everything I want him to do.'

Ephesians 6:15 - and with **your feet fitted** with the readiness that comes **from the gospel of peace.**

Soldiers' shoes fitted with nails, or armed with spikes, to **make the shoe hold firm** in the ground:

Peace- it's all about standing still and being calm.

John 14:27 - **Peace** I leave with you; **my peace** I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. **Do not** let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Philippians 4:7 - And **the peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, **will guard your hearts and your minds** in Christ Jesus.

Take off your running shoes and put on your standing shoes.

- **Don't run** from your problems, but **stand** before them **with peace.**
- **Many are defeated** because they **don't** have **a good stance of peace.**

Peace makers - Matthew 5:9 – Blessed are the **peacemakers,** for they will be called children of God.

- **Most of our troubles with people** are a result of **lack of peace and resolve.**
- **When you enter the picture, let your reputation be that of a peacemaker.**

Ephesians 6:16 - In addition to all this, take up **the shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Hebrews 11:6 - And **without faith** it is **impossible to please God**, because anyone who comes to him **must believe** that he exists and that **he rewards those who earnestly seek him**.

- When *everything else is attacked*, **the shield of faith** will preserve it.

When you have done **all you can do to stand** -

- And it seems as if **the fiery darts of the enemy will slay you...**
- And God is **nowhere in sight...** **Then cling to the shield of faith.**
- If you will **preserve faith**, then **faith will** preserve you.

Ephesians 6:17 - Take the **helmet of salvation** and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God.

Helmet of salvation- **guard your minds**

Romans 8:7 - The mind governed by the flesh *is hostile to God*; it **does not submit** to God's law, nor can it do so.

2 Corinthians 10:5 - We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and **we take captive every thought** to **make it obedient to Christ**.

- This scripture emphasizes spiritual warfare in the believer's mind.
- Many have been slain on **the battlefield of the mind**. - T.V., books, conversation!
- We are instructed to actively control our thoughts, bringing them into alignment **with the teachings of Jesus**.
- This involves **challenging and rejecting thoughts** that contradict God's truth and **submitting to** Christ's authority.

Sword of the Spirit a metaphor for the Word of God!

- Not a physical object, but rather The power and truth found in the BIBLE!

CLOSE: JESUS DEFEATS SATAN WITH THE WORD!!!!!!!!!!!!

Matt. 4:1-10 – Narrates the temptation of Jesus by the devil in the wilderness. After 40 days of fasting, Jesus is tempted by Satan to misuse his divine power and to compromise his relationship with God.

Matthew 4:1-10 – Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered, “**It is written**: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. **For it is written**: “‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

⁷ Jesus answered him, “**It is also written**: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! **For it is written**: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

The devil presents three specific temptations:

- 1. Turning stones into bread – Temptation of Physical needs.***
- 2. Jumping from the Temple – Temptation of pride and presumption.***
- 3. Worshipping Satan for worldly power – Temptation of worldly ambition.***

- Jesus resists each temptation by quoting scripture
- Showing his dependance on God and his commitment to His plan.

Jesus gets victory over temptation and reaffirms His faithfulness to God’s will!

FOCUS OUR MINDS NOW ON HOW TO DEFEAT THE ENEMY YOU BATTLE WITH.

**JESUS DEFEATS SATAN WITH THE WORD!!!!!!!!!!!! And so should we...
FOR IT IS WRITTEN!!!**