

“YOU ARE STANDING”

Text: Ephesians 6:10-18

Subject: “How Not To Be A Spiritual Casualty” (And Be Standing When Its All Said and Done)

Introduction

In chapter 1, you are “**accepted**”. (How God gives us right standing because of the cross of His Son)

In chapter 2, you are “**quickened**” (How we are made alive spiritually when we experience salvation)

In chapter 3, you are “**strengthened**” (To the degree that God calls the shots in your life and you offer Him your obedience).

In chapter 4, you are “**renewed**” (In the spirit of your mind, by giving God wholesome thoughts to put off the old man and put on the new man)

In chapter 5, you are “**empowered**” (By staying full of the Spirit through an attitude of worship, gratitude and humility).

(In chapter 6, you are “*Standing*”)

◆ (Verse 11), “**Stand** against the wiles (methods) of sin”

◆ (Verse 13), “**And** having done all, to **stand**”.

Question: How many of you want to be able to withstand every fiery dart that attempts to bring you down?

Question: What are the wiles (or methods) the enemy of your soul uses against you?

Answer: There are 7 major ways that are listed by Paul – (and 7 pieces of armor to protect you).

Question: What is the truth from God to help us in our journey?

Question: What is it, exactly, that enables you to stand when it’s all said and done?

I. We Have An “Exhortation” (Vs. 10, 11)

(Verse 10), Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might”.

(Verse 11), “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles (or methods) of the devil”.

Question: What is the exhortation?

Answer: “Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might” (Which means:)

◆ To receive strength and power from someone outside of ourselves. (and)

◆ To place ourselves in the place, where the Lord can pour His strength into us.

Question: Why is this so important?

Answer: (V. 11), “So that you may be able to stand”.

Question: What does it mean to “Stand”?

The word stand is a military term, (Which means:)

◆ “To hold your position while under attack” (And)

◆ “To stand firm when assaulted in battle”.

Question: How many of you want to be able to stand firm when under attack?

(#1 – God Reveals To Us Our Exhortation To Stand)

II. We Have An “Enemy” (V. 12)

(Verse 12 is clear and simple and out in the open)

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood”, but against (what?)

◆ ...Principalities

◆ ...Rulers of the darkness of this world

◆ ...Powers

◆ ...Spiritual wickedness in high places

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Question: Why be strong in the Lord?

Answer: Because we have an enemy, are in a battle, and it's a fight for your present joy and eternal destiny.

Question: What do we wrestle against?

Question: Who is it that is behind the lie of temptation, sin, alcohol, abortion, murder, rape, stealing, lying, war, abuse, and destruction?

Question: Who is it that is working and scheming to rob you of your divine potential?

Question: Who is behind the lies and deception that is ruining the lives of millions of people?

(God Is Very Clear)

#1. "**Principalities**" (Which are:)

◆ Rulers (or leaders) of evil powers in the unseen world.

#2. "**Powers**" (Which are:)

◆ Demons of satan in the lower atmosphere.

#3. "**Rulers of the darkness of this world**" (Which are:)

◆ Demon powers in control of political systems.

#4. "**Spiritual wickedness in high places**" (Which are:)

◆ Demonic forces organized to promote wickedness, rebellion, satan worship, sexual perversion, and hard hearts that are anti-God, anti-family, anti-church, and anti-government.

Question: Pastor, what's our hope against powers like these?

Answer: Our hope is, the armor of God that exposes and defeats everyone.

III. We Have An "**Enablement**" (Vs. 13-18)

Question: Pastor, what's my armor that will allow me to stand when under attack?

Question: What's your armor that protects you in the field of battle?

#1. The *belt of truth*.

#2. The *breastplate of righteousness*.

#3. The *gospel of peace*.

#4. The *shield of faith*.

#5. The *helmet of salvation*.

#6. The *sword of the Spirit*.

#7. The *Spirit of prayer*.

Question: Why are these so important?

Answer: Because each one overcomes a corresponding fiery dart attempting to bring you down.

◆ And each one offers practical help on a daily basis to enable you to be strong in the Lord!

(Why Am I So Optimistic For You?)

#1. **The Belt of Truth**

(Verse 14), "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth"

Question: What is girdle of truth?

Answer: The girdle of truth is:

◆ An attitude of truthfulness and integrity.

◆ It is the opposite of pretense, hypocrisy and phoniness.

◆ It is a pure heart and the power of a clear conscience.

(Remember Now:)

◆ The girdle of the Roman soldier held all the other garments in place.

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(In Other Words)

- ◆ If we become loose with the belt of truthfulness and integrity (everything else begins to fall apart), and unravel!

Question: How does this help you in battle?

Answer: Proverbs 4:23, "Guard your heart, for that is the place God speaks to you and that is where you get direction from God"

- ◆ So the belt of truthfulness will protect you from being deceived by the lie and temptation of sin.

#2. The Breastplate of Righteousness

(Verse 14), "And having on the breastplate of righteousness"

Question: What is the breastplate of righteousness?

Answer: The breastplate of righteousness is:

- ◆ The righteousness of Jesus we receive at salvation,
- ◆ It is the breastplate of right standing before God.
- ◆ It is the armor that silences the accuser of the brethren (who says guilty, unworthy, too far, too bad, too long, you can't return).

(In Other Words)

- ◆ This armor is reminding all believers that they are free from all guilt and all condemnation.
- ◆ This armor is an awareness that God's grace cleared you upon true repentance.

Question: How does this armor help you in battle?

Answer: It quenches the fiery darts of satan to keep you looking back to your past.

- ◆ It understands fully Romans 8:1 – "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus".

#3. The Gospel of Peace

(Verse 15), "And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace".

Question: What is the gospel of peace?

Answer: The gospel of peace is:

- ◆ The calm and tranquility in your inner man.
- ◆ It is that order, rest and harmony on the inside.
- ◆ It is the fruit of God's presence in your life.
- ◆ It is the guard against turmoil and agitation and unrest and discontentment.
- ◆ It is a God-given assurance that comes to anyone surrendered to the Holy Spirit.

Question: How does this protect you in battle?

Answer: It enables you to stay cool and calm where circumstances, or people, or disappointments seek to rob you!

(In Other Words)

- ◆ It guards you when all around you is in a whirlwind.
- ◆ It's the gospel of peace, or that peace that comes from hiding the Word in your heart.
- ◆ Psalm 119:165 "Great peace have they which love thy law, and nothing shall offend them".

#4. The Shield of Faith

(Verse 16), "Above all, taking the shield of faith"

Question: What is the shield of faith?

Answer: The shield of faith is not saving faith.

- ◆ The shield of faith is trusting daily in what God has promised.

- ◆ It is faith in the Lord when you are tested.
- ◆ It is confidence in God regardless of what you visibly see.

Question: Why is it so important?

Answer: Because it will quench all the fiery darts of the wicked (or):

- ◆ It extinguishes the missiles and darts of discouragement from the evil one.
- ◆ It knows that God makes no mistakes and reverses the devils intention.

Question: How does this protect you in battle?

Answer: As a shield repels arrows...

- ◆ Faith repels the lies of hopelessness and depression.
- ◆ Faith embraces God when your feelings break down.
- ◆ Faith trusts the Lord when questions have no answers.
- ◆ Faith sees beyond the present to a glorious answer to believing prayer.

#5. The Helmet of Salvation

(Verse 17), "And take the helmet of salvation"

Question: What is the helmet of salvation?

Answer: The helmet of salvation is:

- ◆ That gift from God to protect your mind.
- ◆ That assurance of salvation based on truth.
- ◆ That guard for the center of your thought life.
- ◆ That armor of hope that knows your salvation is complete.

#1. Your past (is justified)

#2. Your present (is being sanctified)

#3. Your future (will be glorified)

- ◆ The helmet of salvation is knowing...

#1... That God can keep you from falling.

#2... That God has grace all sufficient.

#3... That God has life beyond the grave.

#4... That God has a plan for your life.

#5... That God has given you a guaranteed future of eternal life.

Question: Why is the helmet of salvation so important?

Answer: Because without personal salvation, you are without hope far beyond the grave (and live with only now in mind).

#6. The Sword of The Spirit

(Verse 17), "The sword of the spirit, which is the Word of God"

Question: What is the Sword of the spirit?

Answer: The sword of the spirit is:

- ◆ The Word of God which is effectively working in your life.
- ◆ It is God's change agent that gets under our skin and changes us.
- ◆ It is (like a sword) able to cut away everything that opposes God's will in your life.

Question: Why is this so important in battle?

Answer: Because the devil says to you...

- ◆ ... "You will never be changed"
- ◆ ... "You will never be forgiven"
- ◆ ... "You will never get on track"

- ◆ ... “You will never be free from habits”
- ◆ ... “You will never overcome addictions”
- ◆ ... “You will never be victorious over present sins”

(But the Sword of the Word says – God is able to cut through whatever, and set you free)

#7. The Spirit of Prayer

(Verse 18), “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit”

Question: What is praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit?

Answer: It is praying with a continual spirit of prayer and communion with God.

- ◆ It is a “mind set” stayed on the Lord.
- ◆ It is (always) being in the place where you can pray anytime with a clear conscience.
- ◆ It is praying with the help of the Holy Spirit.

In Pilgrim’s Progress, John Bunyan spoke of prayer as working when all else failed. He refers to the Christian in the Valley Of The Shadow. In the middle of that valley, the Christian finds what he perceives to be the mouth of hell. Bunyan writes:

- ◆ “The flame and smoke come out in abundance with sparks and hideous noise.
(Things unafraid of Christian’s Swords)
- ◆ Christian was forced to put his sword and betake himself to another weapon called “All Prayer”.
- ◆ Thus, when Christian wielded this mighty weapon, the fiends of hell gave back and came no farther.
- ◆ God drove them back through the power of believing prayer.

Question: How does the armor of prayer protect you in battle?

Answer: It overcomes enemy resistance and enforces God’s will on the earth!

Question: Has the devil been lying to you?

Question: Have you experienced the wiles (or methods) of deception lately?

(Things Like:)

- ◆ “Condemnation over past sin”
- ◆ “Worry over present circumstances”
- ◆ “Disenchantment because of unfulfilled expectations”
- ◆ “Fear and panic attacks”
- ◆ “Stagnation in spiritual growth”
- ◆ “Feelings of poor self-worth and self-esteem”
- ◆ “A wounded spirit you think will never be healed”

Question: What’s the answer?

Answer: (V. 13), “Take unto you the armor of God, (Why?) that you may be able to stand, and having done all to stand”.

AMEN!
Bill Kirk, Pastor