

The Courage to Stand Firm in the Battle

Eph. 6:10-18

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

video

Who and what is our enemy?

1. The schemes of the devil.

Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (11)

“schemes” – strategies; tricks; deceptions; craftiness; wiles.

Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 2 Cor. 11:14

Satan is always on the prowl seeking whom he may devour.

1 Peter 5:8

Satan – Lucifer was a chief angel that rebelled against God. (Isa.14; Ezek. 28; Rev. 12)

Jesus not only spoke about Satan

(Jn. 8:44)

Jesus spoke with Satan (Matt. 4:3-10)

Paul, Peter, James, John and the writer of Hebrews all refer to Satan.

In Scripture – We see Satan

- opposing God's work (Zech 3:1)
- perverting God's Word (Matt. 4:6)
- hindering God's servants (1 Thess. 2:18)
- blinding the world (2Cor. 4:4)

“Satan” – adversary (52 times)

“Devil” – slanderer (35 times)

“opposition is a fact: the Christian who is not conscious of being opposed had better watch himself for he is in danger. “ J. I Packer

2. The spiritual forces of darkness.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, (11)
...but against the rulers, (11)
...against the authorities,
... against the cosmic powers over this present darkness
Against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (11)
- No conscience
- No compassion
- No humility
- No sense of holiness
- No understanding of truth
A Mighty Fortress is our God.

For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great and armed with cruel hate
On earth is not His equal.

The prince of darkness grim
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo, his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him,

How can we stand firm?
We are told to stand! (11, 14)

We can stand firm against the enemy
if we stand...
1. In the power of the Lord.
Be strong in the Lord... (10)
If God is for us who can be against us? Rom 8:31
... and in the strength of His might (10)
He who is in you is greater than He who is in the world 1 Jn. 4:4

I will build my church and all the powers of Hell will not conquer it.

Matt. 16:18

... far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Eph. 1:21

And He put all things under His feet...

Eph. 1:22

2. In the protection from the Lord.

- The belt of truth (14)

... having fastened on the belt of truth.”

Sept 13 – Whatever Happened to Right and Wrong?

“Father of Lies”

Jn. 8:44

Do not lean on your own understanding. Prov. 3:5

- The breastplate of righteousness (14)

... having put on the breastplate of righteousness. (14)

- Not our righteousness

2 Cor. 5:21

“My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.”

Breastplate?

Protection for the heart

Let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Rom. 13:12

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (14)

- The shoes of the Gospel of peace (15)

... as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the Gospel of peace.

(15)

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. Rom. 16:20

The Gospel brings power, victory, hope, love, grace, forgiveness and peace.

... To open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God.. Acts 26:18

Hudson Taylor Story (1832-1905)

- founded China Inland Mission

- 20 mission stations, 849 missionaries, 700 Chinese workers

- 125,000 Chinese Christ-followers (baptized 50,000 himself)

Chinese government commissioned an author to write a biography of Hudson Taylor in order to minimize his work and discredit Christianity.

In His research of Hudson’s life and the message of Christianity he renounced atheism

and received Christ!

- The shield of faith (16)

In all circumstances take up a shield of faith (16)

“shield” – 2 ½’ wide

- 4 ½’ long

... with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one. (16)

Flaming? – intent on destruction

- intent on spreading the destruction

- intent on creating fear

Darts? – arrows; missiles; specific weapon of attack

doubts; temptations; discouragement; envy; bitterness; pride; strife; hurt feelings; jealousy; materialism; anger; guilt; hopelessness.

- The helmet of salvation (17)

You tube video

Helmet testing

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life .

1 Jn. 5:13

- The Sword of the Spirit

the Word of God (17)

The Spirit of Truth

Jn. 14:17

For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Heb. 4:12

“The Bible is an armory of heavenly weapons, a laboratory of infallible medicines, a mine of exhaustless wealth. It is a guidebook for every road, a chart for every sea, a medicine for every malady and a balm for every wound. Rob us of our Bible and our sky has lost its sun.”

Scottish pastor – Thomas Guthrie

The word of God is so powerful it transforms men from the realm of falsehood to that of truth, from the realm of darkness to that of light, and from the realm of sin and death to that of righteousness and life. It changes sadness into joy, despair into hope, stagnation into growth, childishness into maturity and failure into success.

3. In Prayer.

... praying at all times in the Spirit

(18)

... with all prayer and supplication

... to that end, keep alert with all perseverance making supplication for all the saints.

(18)

... to that end, keep alert with all perseverance making supplication for all the saints.

(18)

“Prayer and faith are Siamese twins. One heart animates them both. Faith is always praying. Prayer is always believing. Faith must have a tongue by which it can speak. Prayer is the tongue of faith. Faith must receive. Prayer is the hand of faith stretched to receive. Prayer must rise and soar. Prayer must have an audience with God. Faith opens the door and access and audience are given. Prayer asks. Faith lays its hand on the thing asked for.”
E. M. Bounds.