

Title: Still Standing

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-18

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*Ephesians 6:10: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"*

The world today is not a playground for Christians, it is a battleground.

There is nothing mentioned in the armor of God that protects our back. This is why we are to stand during the battle and be on guard. How do we stand in a spiritual warfare? If we are going to fight God's wars, we have to fight God's way.

Here's how:

1. **We have an enemy among us.** Christians are not fighting against the government, drunks, or homosexuals. We are fighting the **devil**. In 1964, Paul Harvey spoke the following words:

*If I were the Devil . . . I mean, if I were the Prince of Darkness, I would of course, want to engulf the whole earth in darkness. I would have a third of its real estate and four-fifths of its population, but I would not be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree, so I should set about however necessary to take over the United States. I would begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: "Do as you please." "Do as you please." To the young, I would whisper, "The Bible is a myth." I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what is bad is good, and what is good is "square". In the ears of the young marrieds, I would whisper that work is debasing, that cocktail parties are good for you. I would caution them not to be extreme in religion, in patriotism, in moral conduct. And the old, I would teach to pray. I would teach them to say after me: "Our Father, which art in Washington" . . . If I were the devil, I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten T.V. with dirtier movies and vice versa. And then, if I were the devil, I'd get organized. I'd infiltrate unions and urge more loafing and less work, because idle hands usually work for me. I'd peddle narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. And I'd tranquilize the rest with pills. If I were the devil, I would encourage schools to refine young intellects but neglect to discipline emotions . . . let those run wild. I would designate an atheist to front for me before the highest courts in the land and I would get preachers to say "she's right." With flattery and promises of power, I could get the courts to rule what I construe as against God and in favor of pornography, and thus, I would evict God from the courthouse, and then from the school house, and then from the houses of Congress and then, in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and I would deify science because that way men would become smart enough to create super weapons but not wise enough to control them. If I were Satan, I'd make the symbol of Easter an egg, and the symbol of Christmas, a bottle. If I were the devil, I would take from those who have and I would give to those who wanted, until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. And then, my police state would force everybody back to work. Then, I could separate families, putting children in uniform, women in coal mines, and objectors in slave camps. In other words, if I were Satan, I'd just keep on doing what he's doing."*

Satan has many names. The adversary, the beast, the deceiver, the liar, the thief, the son of perdition, and the list goes on and on. (Ephesians 4:14) Satan wants you to fall away from God. It's time that we look and really find out who our enemy is.

2. **Our vitality aka our energy:** When we are tired are we resting on our energy or someone else's? If we are going to fight God's way, we can't fight our way. It is good to know that when our strength fails during battle, Christ will be there to pick us up and will be there when we fail or get weary. We have to accept that we can't do things on our own. We have to have Christ's help. Ephesians 3:20 says "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us". When your tank is empty, where does your faith lie?
3. **Our Victory:** A soldier on the battlefield is no better than his tools. The same goes for the Christian. The verses mentioned above from Ephesians 6 say to put on the **WHOLE** armor of God. We can't be selective with our armor. We can't go out to fight a successful battle when we are missing a helmet or our belts.
  - a. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness: "having our loins girt" means to put on a belt. If we aren't tucked in with our belt of truth, we are giving Satan something to grab to pull us down. The Bible says that this belt must be truth. We need to be truthful about ourselves. Sometimes we go through situations and think we are doing everything right. This is our first mistake. We need to accept that we can't do it on our own. We don't need to give Satan any room to come in. The breastplate is body armor made to protect vital organs. If one of our vital organs gets damaged, it is an immediate serious situation. If we get hurt in the area where the breastplate is supposed to cover, we will lose the ability to stand and fight back.
  - b. And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace: The sandals that the Roman soldiers wore had cleats on the bottom allowing them to stand their ground. We need to know the gospel of Christ when we encounter others. We should be able to stand our ground when it comes to the things of God.
  - c. Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked: The shield mentioned is a large shield. The bigger the shield, the larger amount of our body that is protected. We can do nothing without faith. We can't go into battle without faith. Are we ready for the battle when the time comes? Do you have your shield ready? Many times we get overwhelmed with a battle and say "Lord, you aren't big enough." In all actuality, our shields of faith aren't big enough. It is within us that the failure lies.
  - d. And take the helmet of salvation: Until we have salvation, we aren't fighting a battle. A lost person will not understand the spiritual battles that go on in the life of someone that is saved. The head is usually the first place you want to protect during a battle. What does this helmet do? It protects our head. We need to be standing firm in our salvation. If there are weaknesses in salvation, Satan will come in and cause doubt and this could result in your death. Without salvation you have already lost.
  - e. and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: When is the last time we went to God's word and actually wanted him to show us something? Is the amount that you've read and studied about the length of a text message? A paragraph? A novel? Before going to a job, you need to know what tools are needed. Many people will say, but I know John 3:16, isn't that enough? Doesn't it cover everything? How can you use a tool without knowing what it does? How do you know what its capabilities are?
  - f. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; Once we have all of our armor and materials ready, we are to wait for our orders. We aren't supposed to be rushing into battle. We are to wait on orders from the Lord. *The tallest man on the battlefield is the man standing on his knees.* During your inspection time are your boots tied tight? Is your armor polished? Is your sword sharpened? What do you need to work on for your inspection before God before our battles?

Are we fighting our battles on the Lord's side? If we are, are we thanking Him for bringing us through those times?