



## The Power of Spiritual Armor

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### Introduction:

We have talked about the power of the tongue, the power of the gospel, and the power of prayer, today we want to talk about the power of our stand for God and the weapons we have been given - the tools of spiritual armor.

We are engaged in a war. It is a war of good and evil, a war of righteousness and sin, it is a war of death and life, and we have powerful tools that God has given us to be victorious over the things that would defeat us.

We must understand that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God, to the pulling down of strongholds. We must be casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Jesus Christ.

**TEXT: Ephesians 6:10** – "...we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers and the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Take the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand."

### I. Strength comes from the Lord - not the weapons

It is important that we understand that the weapons mentioned in our text are tools but the strength to stand with the weapons comes from the Lord.

*Be strong in the Lord.* The word "strong" here means to be empowered, to increase in strength. When we unite with Christ and the power of His might, no matter how weak we think we are, or how frail, Jesus in all His might and power and strength is there to fortify us powerfully.

And "in the power of His might" means the vigor of His forcefulness. When you take a stand for God, when you take a stand for righteousness and God's plan is being accomplished in your life, there *will* be a fight.

When you take a stand in a battle, the line is drawn. We see that in the war in Iraq. There is certain

ground that has been taken, and our troops and the allies have taken a stand not to give it back. It is territory that is no longer under the domination of Saddam Hussein.

When God has given you victory in your life over the flesh, don't give the territory back. Take a stand in the strength of the Lord.

Jesus overcame the temptations that were brought against Him by using the WORD of God. It is written. He used the truth to combat the deceit and lies of the tempter. The word of God is light, it is truth, and it is powerful. It is one of the weapons that we are given – the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.

In Revelation 12:10-11 we read that the believers overcame the accuser of the brethren by the word of their testimony and the blood of the Lamb.

In our text I notice that we are told to stand. All too often we want to go after the foe. We want to pursue the enemy. All we are told to do here is to stand with the full armor on. The armor is available to us for our protection.

The word stand means to abide, continue, covenant, establish, hold up, stay still. God's word indicates here that we are to stand even when evil is all around us.

In our text, Paul also uses the word picture of wrestling. This is not the kind of wrestling that we know today. In his day, this was more the gladiator type of wrestling, and it was to the death. These are life and death matters that we discuss, when we look at the armor of God, and the stand we take for Christ and righteousness.

## **II. The weapons have been given to protect the Life of Christ within us in the day of evil**

There is protection for every part of our spiritual being. The various parts of the armor protect areas of our being that may otherwise be vulnerable to the attacks of our enemy. Let's look at what we are given to stand with firmness in evil times.

- A. Truth** – We live in a post modern world. People today look at things in terms of being relative. There are very few absolutes. It seems as though there is not much black and white anymore.

Really there is great deception all around us today. One deception is that "there can be many ways to get to God." There are people today who believe that Christians, Buddhists, Muslims, and Hindus all pray to the same god. There are many gods, but there is only one true God - JEHOVAH, The Lord God almighty.

Jesus tells us in His word – you will know the truth and the truth will make you free. You will be free from deceit, and from deception.

People get deceived about their own goodness. The only good that can come from us is because of Christ within us. When we look at the reality of sin, and the true nature of our own hearts, we realize the truth that apart from Christ we can do nothing, and we need His grace to even live.

- B. Righteousness** – The word actually means to be innocent or holy or just. We are called to be a holy people - a people who are justified. You and I are not righteous in our own power. Our righteousness is as filthy rags when it comes to God.

A forensic term, the word "justified" has the opposite meaning of being condemned. It is the judicial act of God, by which He pardons all the sins of those who believe in Christ, and accounts, accepts, and treats them as just and pure in the eye of the law, i.e., as conformed to all its demands. In addition to the pardon of sin, being justified declares that all the claims of the law are satisfied in respect of the justified. It is the act of a judge and not of a sovereign. The law is not relaxed or set aside, but is declared to be fulfilled in the strictest sense; and so the person justified is declared to be entitled to all the advantages and rewards arising from perfect obedience to the law.

Righteousness comes as a result of faith and obedience.

### **Deut. 6:25**

And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us that will be our righteousness.

### **Romans 4:13**

It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

### **2 Tim. 2:22**

Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

- C. Peace** – It is important that we stand in peace. The gospel is the message of peace. When there is a war going on, it takes great strength to stand in peace. We can stand in the peace of God.

### **Romans 5:1**

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Peace comes from the relationship that I have with God through Jesus Christ. I am able to stand by faith

in peace because I have been justified through Jesus Christ.

### **Romans 8:6**

The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace,

Peace is a gift. It is the prosperity of rest and tranquility. Even in the middle of battle, the peace of Christ that surpasses all understanding can keep our heart and mind.

### **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.**

There is a little statement that sometimes helps me when I'm feeling distressed. *"Lord, help me to remember that nothing can happen to me today that you and I can't handle."*

I like the thought that this armor is on our feet. When walking through the battlefield of life, we can have peace. No matter where our feet find place to stand, we can be blessed with this piece of armor.

**D. Faith** – Faith is a shield. It is by faith that we extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Faith has to do with the assurance of the truth of the gospel. The shield here referred to is door sized and shaped. This is a huge part of the armor which we use to stand firm. It is through this armor that the anger, grief, and lust which are flaming spears, arrows, or darts, are made to be useless.

This shield will be tested. Your faith will be tried. Those trials only cause us to develop perseverance in our lives.

### **James 1:3**

...because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

Victory of overcoming the world is found in faith. We are not to be overcome with evil, but we are to be overcomers. We are to live in that place of faith that overcomes.

### **1 John 5:4**

...for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

One may ask "Where does faith come from?" It comes from hearing the word of God. Now faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God.

**E. Salvation** - This word depicts the deliverance of the Israelites from the Egyptians (Exodus 14:13), and of deliverance generally from evil or danger. In the New Testament it is specially used with reference to the great deliverance from the guilt and the pollution of sin through Jesus Christ.

Here the armor is placed as a helmet which was a defensive piece of armor to encircle and protect the head.

Without our head, we don't live. Without salvation we don't live spiritually. Salvation encircles us. Each one has to have his or her own personal helmet. My helmet will not save you and your helmet will not save me. Each soldier in Iraq has been issued a helmet. It is personal, and when one is in warfare, they better be wearing their helmet. Shrapnel and bullets fly around.

So it is with salvation. It is personal. It is an integral part of the covering and armor of those who follow Christ.

**F. The Word of God** - referred to as the sword of the spirit. The sword was used for several reasons; for defense, to defeat an enemy, to punish criminals.

This piece of armor is so vital when it comes to defeating the enemy and standing for truth. Since the word of God is truth, it is important that we use that truth to protect and defend the life of Christ within us.

### **Hebrews 4:12**

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

## **G. Prayer**

The last part of the armor that is mentioned in verse 18 of our text has to do with prayer. We talked about

the power of prayer last week. Pray in the Spirit on all occasions, with all kinds of prayers and requests. This piece of our armor is powerful. We can stand in the battle and pray.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Regardless of the places of war that you are engaged with in your own spiritual life, there is armor to protect you from the schemes of the devil. Take the whole armor of God and stand to defend your commitment to Christ.