

## Standing Firm

Eph 6:

### 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, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

### EPHESIANS 6:14

“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness.”

Ephesians was addressed to the believers in the city of Ephesus, a prominent center of trade and culture in Asia Minor (present-day Turkey).

There were many cultural, ethnic, and social barriers in Ephesus. Many teething problems for these new gentile converts (And so do we in our day). Paul writes the message of Ephesians to encourage unity and harmony in the church.

Because of Jesus, both Jews and Gentiles are now one body, the Church.

Chapter 6 the final chapter of Ephesians addresses the spiritual warfare believers face. Paul encourages us to put on the Armor of God and stand firm against the schemes of the enemy. He emphasizes the power of prayer, relying on God's strength, and the importance of living out one's faith with courage and perseverance.

## **STAND**

We know sometimes in our life we all must make a stand. We may have to stand up for ourselves our property.

Sometimes we may have to stand up for our family.

Illustration. Stand at Aore.

In our text, verses 10-14 stand is mentioned three times.

- We need to stand against Satan and his hosts
- It's important we stand against him because he is the enemy of the church.
- Satan wants to discredit God and everyone who follows him. 1 Pet. 5:8 say, "The devil walks about like a roaring lion seek whom he may devour."

Satan isn't flesh and blood like you and me. He is a spiritual being. You can't see him.

The Alcoholic is not the enemy, Drug user, the noisy neighbor, the arrogant boss at work.... it's the invisible being behind them

The scripture describes our fight in **verse 12** like this

“We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, and in order to stand we must put on the whole Armour of God that we may stand in that evil day.

What does it mean to stand against Satan?

- I believe that James 4:7 “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

It’s through allowing God to lead us in our life that we can make a stand against Satan.

- Ephesians also challenges us to live a life that reflects the transformative power of Christ within us.
- It calls us to walk in a manner worthy of our calling, demonstrating virtues such as humility, gentleness, patience, and love. The letter encourages us to align our thoughts, words, and actions with the values of the Kingdom of God.

## **Have your waist girded about with truth**

### **The Belt for the Soldier**

Everybody knows what a belt is. It is a long strip of leather or fabric, usually with a buckle on one end, which we fasten around the waist to keep our pants up.

illustration

I have memories of the belt hanging from Headmaster Harvey’s office and hanging in dad’s room.

My parents worked hard for my education. I went to private Christian school.... there were rules...I rebelled....

But the belt of the Roman soldier served a critical function in the overall purpose of their armor.

Though it may seem like a small insignificant part, but it play an important role in the life of the soldier. It was the girdle that held his weapons together.

If you were a bowman, he would hang a belt across the chest and hang the quiver for arrows.

If you were in the infantry, he would secure the sheath, which contains the sword from it at the waistline.

The soldiers also wore robes, when they had to move quickly, they would tuck the hem of the robe into the girdle to keep from tripping on it.

In today's life as we put on the whole armor of God, it's essential that we miss not one piece. It's ironic how such a small insignificant piece can have so much value to the soldier.

We know that Jesus is our Truth our 1st defense. The belt is the first mentioned. We have to put a belt on first. When we make him first his Kingdom 1st all will be added. We need to wrap him around our lives Jesus is our belt that hold our lives together. He is the source of our strength and our weapons.

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Our relationships, work, family etc. Without that belt without Jesus' things will fall apart we cannot do it on our own.

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

## **Breastplate of righteousness**

The breastplate of righteousness refers to the righteousness purchased for us by Jesus at the cross (2 Corinthians 5:21).

At salvation, a “breastplate” is issued to each repentant sinner. It is specially designed by God to protect our heart and soul from evil and deception.

Our own righteous acts are no match for Satan’s attacks (Isaiah 64:6). The breastplate of righteousness has Christ’s name stamped on it, as though He said, “Your righteousness isn’t sufficient to protect you. Wear mine.”

I worked at Golden Circle for a number of years and one of my jobs was being the Trainer. I would go into other sections and train the team with new procedures. Most times it will mean teaching them a new work procedure. A common question I would hear is “we have been working this way for a long time and it’s the right way. I would answer just because you have been doing things in a certain way in a long time doesn’t mean it the right way.

Jesus’ righteousness is the right way it’s the only way. Jesus’ righteousness is the only thing God sees.

**John 14:6**

**Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.**

Putting on the armor of God requires a decision on our part.

To put on the breastplate of righteousness, we must first have the belt of truth firmly in place. Without truth, our righteousness will be based upon our own attempts to impress God.

This leads to legalism or self-condemnation.

Romans 8:1 state: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

There is freedom condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus We have to choose Jesus.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. Apart from Him, we can do nothing (John 15:5).

We see ourselves as "in Christ" and that, regardless of our failures, His righteousness is all we need.

We "put it on the breastplate" by seeking God first

and His righteousness above everything else (Matthew 6:33).

We make Him and His ways our dwelling place (Psalm 91:1).

We delight in His commands and desire for His ways to become our ways (Psalm 37:4; 119:24, 111; Isaiah 61:10).

When God reveals an area of change to us, we obey and allow Him to work in us.

At the point where we say "no" to God, we open a little crack in the armor where Satan's arrows can get through (Ephesians 6:16).

Wearing this breastplate creates a lifestyle of putting into practice what we believe in our hearts. As our lives become conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29), our choices become more righteous, we become closer to God, and he protects us.

## CONCLUSION

Center Jesus in your life make him your belt to hold all the important things together your marriage and relationships, family, work church friends

Live your lives Gods way not your way you may think your way is the right way, but Gods righteousness is not only the right way it's the only way. You will never get lost. He never fails.

We are fresh and weak. We are no match for the enemy who is spiritual. The devil is out to defeat us, but God will never allow us to get into a fight we can't win.

He has provided us with Amour to battle with.

When Isarael entered the promised land, 31 Kings and 7 nations had to be conquered Plus Giants! They had to take it one city at a time 1 giant at a time.

When Jesus becomes Lord of your life, he will address the surrendered areas of your life and deal with them one at a time. The battle will be harder and last longer in the stubborn areas but be encouraged God won't give up on you.

Philippians 1:6 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Satan attacks you because you are a seed capable of producing a harvest for God. That's why Satan attacks you and I. He is after the deposit of God that's in you.

So, let's keep fighting the good fight of faith knowing that by God's Grace we can't lose but be conquerors.