

Making A Stand

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Introduction

Eph 6:10-13 *"A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armour so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armour so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm."*

One of the most preached sections of the Bible, the Armour of God!

- a. it equips the saints for every good work,
- b. full of imagery that transcends time and culture.

Instantly visualize a soldier, typically a knight, dressed in his armour ready to go into battle.

1. The time to take a stand is now! - for country, state, community, the church, our church, our families!
2. To declare breakthrough over depression and addiction.
3. To speak truth over the lies and deceit that has defiled our lives!

Right time for sermon (not earlier even though election yesterday)-

"A wizard is never late, nor is he early. He arrives precisely when he is meant to!"

Trust that

- a. God's got this
- b. He knows precisely when this word is meant to be spoken.

Take a stand. Defensive posture not aggressive.

Imagery military.

Never Alone

Matt experience in army - As a recruit instructor, when the recruits first arrived, we separated them. They were scared, for most it is the first time away from home and their normal comforts. We try to keep them at this point until we can start building on the attributes that will make them good and effective soldiers. We would walk them to their rooms telling them to step with the foot we call out, Left, Left, Left Right Left... No one said to talk, Do you think I'm being funny recruit. As we arrive at the barracks block, we would tell them that when there

name is called they will move to their room place their bags in the room and then stand outside their rooms at the attention position, heels together and arms by their side, there would be more yelling from instructors inside we knew they would be talking and trying to check things out. We would jump on it straight away. Now it was time for introductions, I am CPL Klefisch, you will address me as CPL this is...

1. Mate ship / Comradery

- Look to your left, look to your right, this is now your mate, your time here will be hard you will want to quit, they will get you through. Together you will shed sweat blood and tears! In the first hour after getting off the bus they learnt who is boss, do what you are told as and when you are told and, most importantly you are not alone, your mate is everything. From this foundation we build soldiers. Men and woman that are so loyal that they would give up their lives for each other in order to complete the mission. They would make a stand if it was required.

2. Arm in Arm - Two volunteers – arms linked

- When we work together, arm in arm, we won't be pulled down.

3. Tall poppies (get cut down first!)

- Inevitably someone gets head strong and tries to overreach and run out ahead. Some do ok but most get cut down unless supported by others.

4. Isolation!

- If you are isolated, you will get yourself into trouble, you cannot do it alone!

PPPPP - Prior preparation prevents poor performance

Army - repetition & practice key.

- The more you practiced the better you got. In Afghanistan we practiced for if we were under attack. One day, just as I was getting ready for lunch Bang! There was an explosion... What we had been training for and took us 30 min with mistakes we successfully completed in less than 15min with no mistakes and lives were saved that day!

The Devil's Schemes

Eph 6:11 *"11 Put on all of God's armour so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil."*

1 Pe 5:8-11 *"8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen."*

- A lion prowls, looking for the weak and isolated.
- When the prey feels like it is safe and lets down its guard the lion will cut it off and go in for the attack!
 - We need to be careful that we don't just rely on our feelings.
 - It's not our feelings that will set us free, but the Truth!
 - We are all going to suffer at times, Jesus actually told us that because we love Him the world will hate us!
 - Remember - we are not alone in this.
 - If we step when He tells us to step, if we carry his yoke and take up His burden then He will restore us. He will make us strong, firm and steadfast!

Know Your Enemy

Eph 6:12 *"For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places"*

- When we suffer or are rejected for speaking the truth it hurts and we would not be human if we wanted to react in what some would call righteous fury.
- But there is nothing righteous about Attacking the innocent.
- Innocent does not mean without sin but slaves (as we once were.)
- Our fight is with the one who holds them (when Adam ate of the fruit, as the Head of humanity he handed that authority to the deceiver and swore fealty to him.)
- This kingdom belongs to the devil and he has placed governors throughout it to trap and keep as many in bondage as he can.
- He knows how the story ends but he is in denial and wants to drag as many down with him as he can. (Like a petulant child if I cant have it than neither can you!)
- His fruit tastes good at first but it leaves a bitter after taste.
- His music comes across as sweet and very alluring but quickly it traps you in the rhythm of his beat and you are saying and doing the things that you know you ort not do!
- Most people have never stopped to think about what it is they are saying and will reject the gospel message because of what they have been told or seen people in the church do!
- In an age where anyone can post something on the internet without it being reviewed or fact checked and 5.5 billion people may have seen it and decided to follow that narrative there has never been a more important time than now to stand on the Truth!

1 Pe 3:15 *"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect"***

- But we must do it with gentleness!

- The fact is that there are some who do not want to know and it is wise to just leave them with a pebble in their shoe and move on.
- Sometimes we are so worried about hitting a six that we leave the stumps wide open and end not only the innings but the whole match.

Eph 6:13 *“Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armour so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.”*

Prepare for War

2 Tim 4:3 *“For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will reject the truth and chase after myths.”*

- We have just had an election, the US is well into their election, look at the items on the agenda.
- Most of it is matters of morality - Gender rights, reproductive rights, equal employment opportunities in our schools, gender pay gap.
- Look through the fog of war and you can see what is happening.
- Phrased in such a way that if you object to them you are stealing people’s rights and oppressing people.
- Most claims unsupported but simply allow people to follow their own desires.
- We may not be at war yet but I can here the drums of the enemy coming!

Defeat the Darkness

Eph 6:10 *“A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.”*

Light Defeats Darkness

“For we elves have forgotten that it is not strength that overcomes darkness, but light. Armies will rise, hearts may fail, yet still, light endures, and is mightier than strength. For in its presence darkness must flee.” Celebrimbor – Rings of Power (Silmarillion by J.R.R. Tolkien)

- Behind every question is a questioner.
- When Jesus gave us his last command he said go and make disciples not converts.
- By coming along side people and demonstrating the love and grace of Jesus to them, regardless of who they are or what they have done, they will want to know more, they will start asking questions.
- *It’s not by power nor by might but by my spirit says the Lord. (Zech 4:6)*
- *It’s our love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal 5:22&3) that will convince them of the truth.*