

Standing in the Evil Day

Eph 6:10-18

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;

Introduction:

1. This following story was told by Leroy Eims about the time when he was serving in the Marines in the South Pacific during World War II:
“Shortly after we hit the beach, our armored amphibious tank took two artillery shells broadside. We immediately evacuated our disabled vehicle and darted from hole to hole toward the enemy airstrip, which we were to take.
“The sergeant began to check on us to make sure that we were OK. He crawled over to me and asked, ‘You all right, Eims?’
“I answered, ‘Yeah, I’m OK, Sarge.’
“He looked at me and asked, ‘Eims, where is your helmet?’

“I felt the top of my head and answered, ‘Must be in the tank, Sarge.’

“‘Where’s your duty belt?’ Our duty belts carried ammunition for our rifles, a canteen of water, and a bayonet.

“‘Must be in the tank, Sarge.’

“‘As a matter of fact, Eims, where’s your rifle?’ He looked at me with disgust and pity. Because of our hasty departure from the amphibious tank, I was dressed about the same way that I would be dressed for a game of volleyball. And there I was, hopping from hole to hole, from tree to tree!

2. Many Christians have forgotten that the Christian life is not a playground, but a battlefield.
 - a. As a result, very few of the Lord’s people are armed, equipped and ready to wage spiritual battle.
 - b. Whether we believe it or not, we are engaged in spiritual warfare.
 - c. If we are to be successful in our work for the Lord Jesus, then we must be prepared for that battle and be ready to go to war.
3. Satan is active today because society has rejected God and embraced evil in radical ways
 - a. When evil abounds you can be sure that the devil is having a field day
 - b. Widespread pornography, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual immorality, legalized killing of the unborn and a sad redefinition of marriage.
4. This passage gives us insight about the battle that believers are engaged in and the weapons that we have with which to fight this battle
 - a. If we are to “stand” (vs 11, 13, 14) then we must prepare ourselves for this battle
 - b. We are soldiers of the cross and we are in the fight of our lives

I. OUR ENEMY IN THIS FIGHT - vs 11-12

A. Our Enemy’s Name - vs 11

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

1. Our enemy is none other than the devil
 - a) *The Greek word is diabolos - we get our word diabolical from this word*
 - b) *His name reveals his character*
 - c) *He is real*
 - (1) Jesus did battle with Satan in the wilderness
 - (2) In Jn 8:44, Jesus called him a liar and the father of lies
2. Since he first made his appearance in God's Word, the devil has been busy lying, slandering and accusing the people of God
 - a) *Gen 3:1-6*
 - b) *Job 1, 2*

B. Our Enemy's Nature - vs 11-12

- Vs 11-12 tell us two things that we need to keep in mind concerning our enemy, the devil
1. He is a Shrewd Enemy - vs 11

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

 - a) *“Wiles” tells us that the devil is crafty, sly and tricky*
 - (1) “Wiles” - the devil's schemes, tricks, traps
 - (2) His main scheme is to get you to give up ground through small compromises
 - (3) Till, little by little, he has control of your life – your testimony is ruined – and your effectiveness is gone
 - b) *Paul gives us the image of a hunter camouflaging himself in order to shoot his prey*
 - c) *What a perfect picture of our enemy*

- (1) 1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
- (2) 2Co 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

d) *Satan will do whatever he has to in order to trip us up*

2. He is a Spiritual Enemy - vs 12

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.

- a) *Sometimes church members are at odds with their fellow believers when the real enemy is the devil*
- b) *He is a master of sowing discord among the brethren*
- c) *Our battle is with an unseen army of spiritual enemies led by the devil himself*
- d) *A story from WWII is told about General George Patton. Patton's troops and tanks were engaged in a successful counterattack against German forces under General Erwin Rommel. Patton is reported to have shouted in the thick of the battle, "I read your book, Rommel! I read your book!" And that he did. In Rommel's book "Infantry Attacks," the "Desert Fox" carefully detailed his military strategy. And Patton, having read it, knew what to expect, and planned his moves accordingly. Satan has not written a book but God has fully exposed our enemy's tactics in His Holy Word. The key to defeating the devil is understanding how he works and we find out how he works by studying God's Word.*

Our Enemy in This Fight....

II. OUR ENERGY IN THIS FIGHT - VS 10

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

- Our Bible passage today makes it clear that our goal as Christian soldiers is to stand.
- To stand means that we don't waiver.
- Not only must we know our enemy, but we also must possess energy for the battle.

A. **The Source of Our Energy**

1. Vs 10 tells us that the source of our energy is not within ourselves
2. That is good to know because there are times when my energy level runs pretty low
3. It is not our strength, it is the Lord's strength. It is not our might but the Lord's might
4. "Be strong" is present tense - keep being strong in the Lord
 - a) *Your Christian life is no stronger than your weakest moment*
 - b) *In one moment of weakness we can give in to temptation*

B. **The Scope of Our Energy**

1. The Lord has all power and that power is available to His people
 2. His power becomes our power
 3. I can't run 65 mph but when I get into my car and yield to its power I have the ability to achieve speeds that I could never reach on my own
- Eph 3:20 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,

Our Energy in This Fight....

III. **OUR EQUIPMENT IN THIS FIGHT - VS 11A, 13-18**

- It has been said that no soldier is better than his equipment

- Paul has told us about our enemy and our energy and now he tells us about our equipment.
- Paul here describes the equipment of the average Roman soldier and the Ephesians would be familiar with the image
- For the soldiers to survive on the battlefield, they must be protected

A. Equipment That is Designed to Defend - vs 11a, 13-17a

- “Therefore” - Since it is true that we have a strong, smart, tricky enemy - then put on the armor

1. The Belt of Truth - vs 14

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...

- a) The soldier’s belt helped stabilize the body and protect the mid-section*
- b) The sword would hang from the belt and the belt would help hold on the breastplate*
- c) We are given God’s truth and promised that the truth could make us free - Jn 8:32*
- d) Knowing the truth will stabilize us, protect us and keep us from being tripped up on the battles of life.*
 - (1) Satan attacks through lies and error and we need to know the truth
 - (2) When Satan hits us with his lies, we are to be so saturated with God’s truth that he breaks his fist
 - (3) Do not give the devil a foothold by neglecting to be a person of truth in your language, behavior and attitude
 - (4) When you know the Person of truth, and your mind is saturated with the Word of truth, then the Spirit of truth can bring to your mind needed verses of Scripture to help you

2. The Breastplate of Righteousness - vs 14b

14b... and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

- a) *The breastplate of the Roman soldier was worn to protect the vital, tender areas of the body*
- b) *The heart needs protection in battle*
- c) *Believers depend on the righteousness of life*

(1) We are declared righteousness when we trust Jesus as Savior
2Co 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

(2) We are also commanded to practice righteousness as a habit of life

1Pe 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

(3) When we live, holy, consecrated lives before the Lord we are less prone to the attacks from the devil

3. The Shoes of the Gospel - vs 15

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

- a) *Roman soldiers wore sandals that had nails driven through the bottom to give the soldier more secure footing on the battlefield*
- b) *He didn't have to worry about his feet slipping in the heat of battle*
- c) *This reminds believers that we are to be well-grounded in the things of God*

(1) We need to be sure of our conversion

(2) We need to know what we believe and why so that we will be on solid ground when the battle comes against us

4. The Shield of Faith - vs 16

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts [fiery arrows] of the wicked.

- a) *The shield of the Roman Soldier was a large rectangular shield behind which the soldier would be safe from the arrows of the enemy*
- b) *Our shield is the shield of faith*

- (1) It is a shield that is able to quench the fiery darts of the wicked one
- (2) Faith allows us to stand in the battle
- (3) “Above all” shows us the importance of this piece of armor
- c) *These flaming arrows are lies and temptations that the devil tries to shoot into your mind*
 - (1) “I am just no good”
 - (2) “If I was really saved, I wouldn’t have done that”
 - (3) “The world would be better off without me”
 - (4) Thoughts of doubt, discouragement, bitterness, lust, self-condemnation, etc

5. The Helmet of Salvation - vs 17a

17 And take the helmet of salvation...

- a) *The helmet was needed to protect the soldier’s brain*
- b) *Regardless of how well the rest of his body was protected, a blow to the head rendered the entire soldier ineffective*
- c) *Our helmet is our salvation*
 - (1) Salvation protects our minds from the attacks of the enemy
 - (2) When we are saved we are transformed and this allows us to think right thoughts and wage holy war

B. Equipment That is Designed to Defeat - vs 17b-18

- Not all the armor was designed to protect the soldier
- Sometimes the soldier was required to take the battle to the enemy
- Offensive weapons were needed then

1. The Sword of the Spirit - vs 17b

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

- a) *This sword was the short, straight sword carried by every Roman*

soldier

b) *It was effective in hand to hand combat and was essential to the survival of the soldier*

c) *Our sword is the Word of God*

(1) *The Word of God allows us to conquer in every battle*

(2) *Every Christian needs to be proficient in the use of this weapon*

(3) *Remember that when Jesus faced the devil during the 40 days of temptation that His weapon was God's Word*

2. *The Briefing Room of the Spirit - vs 18*

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

a) *Another advantage that we have is the ability to be in direct communication with our commanding officer at all times*

(1) *We pray at all times - everywhere we can pray*

(2) *We should pray with all prayer and supplication*

(3) *We should stay alert with all perseverance*

(4) *We should pray making intercession for all saints*

b) *The greatest offensive weapon that we have is the ability to call on the Lord our God when we are in the thick of battle*

c) *Don't be guilty of neglecting the awesome power of prayer.*

Conclusion:

1. **A believers in Christ we are engaged in spiritual warfare with unseen wicked forces.**
2. **Our Commander-in-chief has already won the victory for us**
3. **All we need to do is get up, dress up in the armor, stand up and line up waiting our marching orders**

4. Let us avail ourselves of the tools that we have been given and let us learn to stand.
5. In 1858 a mighty revival swept across Philadelphia. No leader was more prominent in that move of God than a 29-year-old Episcopal minister named Dudley Tyng. He often spoke to large groups of men, encouraging them to stand firm in their faith. In April of that year, he suffered an accident while visiting a farm. His arm got caught in a corn-threshing machine, was badly mangled, and had to be amputated. An infection set in that would take his life. Knowing he was dying, he called for his family and a few close friends, exhorting them to “stand up for Jesus.” When those words were repeated at his funeral, they made an enormous impact on George Duffield, pastor of Temple Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. The following Sunday he preached a message in honor of his fallen colleague. At the end of his sermon, he recited a poem he had written based on Dudley Tyng’s final words. The poem was later printed and put to music, eventually becoming a beloved gospel song. The first verse goes like this:

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high His royal banner, it must not suffer loss.
From victory unto victory, His army shall He lead,
Till every foe is vanquished, and Christ is Lord indeed.

But it’s a line in the third verse that catches our attention. Now that you know the story, you’ll never hear it the same way again:

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, stand in His strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you—ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the gospel armor, each piece put on with prayer;
Where duty calls or danger, be never wanting there.

Then the triumphant final verse that seems to summarize our text:

Stand up! Stand up for Jesus! The strife will not be long;
This day the noise of battle, the next the victor's song.
To him that overcometh a crown of life shall be;
He with the King of Glory shall reign eternally.