

3. Divine access to stand firm (Ephesians 6:18-20)

Weakness expressed = strength received

If we decide to ignore prayer then we not only despise an amazing gift but we'll find the armor we have on is *not* the armor of God!

Love the Gospel, Live the Gospel, Advance the Gospel

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- Eph. 6:10 tells us to, “*Be strong in the LORD and in His mighty power*”. Did you know this was your calling? How does the “resurrection power” of Eph. 1:19-23 help us?
- Why are we told to “*put on the armor of God*”?
- What kind of distractions and dangers are in your life right now as you fight to “stand firm”?
- What happens when we stop trusting in Christ’s work and stop believing the good news that He accepts us?
- Why is it important to be aware of our enemy’s schemes? Can you name any?
- Read Isaiah 11:4-5; 59:17; 52:7. How does the armor in Isaiah relate to the armor in Eph. 6?
- Consider the armor given in Eph. 6:14-17. Since each piece describes a facet of the gospel, pick *one* piece and describe it out loud. How can you apply it to your life today?
- What part does prayer have in fighting and standing

Stand Firm!

Battle Plans for the Helpless, Dependent and Weak

Ephesians 6:10-20

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Epic battle scene speeches involve:

- a reminder of what they’re up against
- an identification of who the real enemy is
- a challenge to stand for what they know is right
- an unflinching resolve to fight this enemy with the all the strength and all the power they can gather together

Ephesians 6:10-20

Standing firm against the attacks of our real life enemy is what this passage is all about.

It’s given to *enable* us to stand strong when the attacks come!

1. Divine strength to stand firm (Ephesians 6:10-13)

What does this look like?

NO confidence in your own ability

Doing what God actually says in His Word and believing He’s got your back!

It involves action on your part.

The “mighty power” available to us in verse 10 is described in **Eph 1:19-23**.

“...*take your stand against the devil’s schemes.*”

2 Corinthians 2:11 – don’t let Satan outwit you!

2. Divine protection to stand firm (Ephesians 6:13-17)

This military metaphor is drawn from the Roman soldiers surrounding Paul – but also from the prophet Isaiah's imagery of Yahweh the Divine Warrior.

Isaiah 11:4-5; 59:17; 52:7

*Repent of any attempts at fighting this fight in our own strength – and **believe** that each part of this divine protection can resist the assaults of Satan just as God has promised!*

Milton Vincent (A Gospel Primer): *“Putting on the armor is another way of getting “inside the gospel...”*

Each piece of this divine armor describes a facet of what God has done for us in Christ.

The belt of truth (v.14)

The breastplate of righteousness (v.14)

The justice and goodness of God, and the status that Christians

have of already being in the right before Him is like a breastplate, protecting our vital organs!

BUT what happens when we stop trusting in Christ's work and stop believing the good news that he accepts us?

Feet fitted with the gospel of peace as a firm footing (v.15)

The shield of faith (v.16)

The helmet of salvation (v.17)

The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God
(v.17)

Acts 26:17-18