

A CALL TO STAND

⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, having belted your waist with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having strapped on your feet the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be alert with all perseverance and every request for all the saints,

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner self,
Ephesians 3:16 (NASB)

¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil

- God equips us with His armor, enabling us to stand firm against the schemes of the enemy.

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

- Paul does not call the believer to enter into spiritual warfare. He simply announces it as a fact and explains that it is not mere men you face but the wiles of the scheming devil.
- If we don't understand that we are fighting a spiritual battle, we will be reduced to fighting people.

Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm

- The evil day is the day when the enemy launches an offensive. It can also refer to any moment of spiritual attack from the enemy
- The armor of God helps us resist the temptation of the enemy and stand firm in our faith.

¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, having belted your waist with truth,

- The Roman soldier wore a belt around his waist to tie everything together. This belt was the central hanging point of every other piece of armor.
- The belt of truth represents the truth of the word of God as the foundation for our life in Christ.

"Truth is an absolute standard by which reality is measured. Truth is simply God's view on any subject. There are two answers to every question: God's answer and everybody else's. And everybody else's is wrong.

Tony Evans

"If we are committed to the truth, we may not always be politically correct. When the tide of the culture changes. When the philosophies and new ideas that they're suggesting rise to the forefront of everyone's mindset and they're legislating new ways of thinking and new ways of living, even if we have to stand alone, we will stand for the truth."

Priscilla Shire

and having put on the breastplate of righteousness

- This piece of armor protected vital organs in the heat of the battle.
- Our righteousness now comes from us believing in and receiving the completed work of Jesus Christ and what He did on the cross for us.

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB)

¹⁵ and having strapped on your feet the preparation of the gospel of peace; ;

- A Roman soldier's feet were fitted with sandals that had extremely thick soles and wrapped around the ankles perfectly and protected them from blisters. They also had spikes on the bottom that helped him to have sure footing and to stand firm wherever he was.
- Believers also have a firm foundation in the gospel. As a believer, we have peace in knowing that we are secure in what Jesus Christ has done for us.
- We are ambassadors for Christ and we have a message that brings peace with God.

How delightful on the mountains are the feet of one who brings good news. Isaiah 52:7 (NASB)

¹⁶ in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

- A Roman soldier needed a shield to protect himself against the attack of the enemy. The shield was large enough to take cover behind and it would stop and extinguish those flaming arrows.
- Faith is represented as a shield, protecting us from the fiery darts of the wicked one, those persistent efforts of demonic foes to weaken us through fear and unbelief.

For we walk by faith, not by sight
2 Corinthians 5:7 (NASB)

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation.

- *The Roman soldiers helmet was made of leather covered with bronze plates to protect his head*
- We put the helmet of salvation on by yielding our minds and saying Lord give me the mind of Christ – thinking God's thoughts. Thinking God's principles. We must intentionally feed our minds with the word of God.

We have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:16 (NASB)

⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7 (NASB)

And the Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God

- *The Greek word he uses for **word** of God is the word Rhema.*
- *Rhema – is commonly used in the NT for the Lord speaking His dynamic, living word in a believer to in-birth faith.*

¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. Romans 10:17 (NASB)

- Only the sword of the spirit is an offensive weapon. All the rest are defensive.

¹⁸ With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be alert with all perseverance and every request for all the saints,

²⁶ Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; ²⁷ and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.
Romans 8:26-27 (NASB)