

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Ephesians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Ephesians 6:16-17 – The Whole Armour of God – things to take up to stand

Today's Message:

"Taking a Stand"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we continued the climax of the book – our WARFARE in Christ. Every believer is engaged in an invisible spiritual battle. The first three pieces of armor must be put on before the battle begins. Today, we will continue our study of the whole armor of God with three things we must take up to stand in the battle. Taking a stand means remaining faithful to Jesus Christ when pressure urges compromise. We are all under fire from Satan. God has provided every believer with the spiritual protection needed to stand firm in Christ when the enemy attacks. This is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text Ephesians 6:16-17

Standing is NOT passive

A Roman soldier standing in the battle was alert, disciplined, resisting, watching, defending, and fully engaged!

A. The Shield of Faith – you must take it up and trust God in all circumstances.

1. The shield of faith must be TAKEN UP to block Satan's attacks and QUENCH them!

W1828 "Quench"

*To extinguish;
to put out and
render powerless.*

- **Ephesians 6:16** – Above all, **TAKING the shield of faith**, wherewith **ye shall be able to QUENCH all the fiery darts of the wicked**.

"Above all, **taking the shield of faith**" – it complimented all armor; major risk without it!

"Wherewith **ye shall be able to quench**" – not only blocks but extinguishes the attacks!

"All the fiery darts of the wicked" – 100% can be quenched by faith! The battle is **ON!**

The Roman Shield

*Measured roughly
4 feet high, 2 ½ feet
wide, curved to protect
nearly entire body.
It had a wooden
frame covered with
leather (wetted) and
reinforced with metal.*

Comparing Scriptures

- **Psalm 91:4-5** – ... his truth **SHALL BE thy shield**... the **ARROW** that flieth by day;
- **Romans 10:17** – So then **faith cometh by hearing**... the word of God.
- **1 Peter 5:9** – Whom **RESIST steadfast in the faith**...
- **Hebrews 11** – **THROUGH FAITH**... **BY FAITH**... these all died **IN FAITH**...

The Fiery Darts – The attacks come suddenly and relentlessly. **Genesis 3:1**

- ✓ **Examples:** Doubt, fear, discouragement, temptation, pride, anxiety, false doctrine, bitterness, accusation, despair, etc. What are yours today? This week? This year?

Biblical Examples **Positive:** Abraham (Isaac sacrifice), David (Goliath battle)

- **Negative:** Eve (doubt), Wilderness (fear), Moses (anger), Sarah (laughed), Peter (water)

Personal Application [Recognize it is warfare -> Refuse to accept it -> Rejoice in Christ]

- When *fear* comes... and *discouragement* ... and *temptations*... take up the shield of faith!

Biblical Faith

*It is **not** optimism,
positive thinking, or
confidence in ourselves.
It is complete
dependence upon God
and His promises.*

"... wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

Taking a stand means trusting God when fear rises, obeying the Bible when culture disagrees and opposes you, remaining pure when temptation comes, continuing to serve when discouraged, and remaining faithful when trials feel overwhelming.

B. The Helmet of Salvation – you must take it up and put it on for protection!

2. The helmet of salvation must be **TAKEN UP** to protect your **MIND** and thoughts!

The Roman Helmet

It was one of the soldier's most valuable pieces of equipment. It was put on just before battle and was forged from bronze, iron, or layered metals. It had a thick crown and guards. Many weighed 5-8 pounds.

Take the Helmet!

*When **cancer** comes...
When **loneliness** comes...
When **bitterness** comes...
When **death** approaches...*

TAKE THE HELMET!

We know how the story ends!

- **Ephesians 6:17** – And **TAKE the helmet of salvation...**

"The helmet" – protection for your head; a wounded head does not help a body fight!

"Salvation" – Satan attacks assurance; our confidence rests in what Christ has done alone!

Comparing Scriptures

- **Isaiah 59:17** – ... *helmet of salvation upon his head...* [God Himself wears... gives us]
- **1 Thess 5:8** – ... *for an helmet, the HOPE of salvation.* [confident expectation]
- **Romans 8:31-39** – Nothing can separate us from Jesus Christ – that is certainty!
- **John 10:28-29** – ...*no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

Satan's Attack – Revelation 12:10 – ... *for the accuser of our brethren is cast down...*

- **Examples:** "You have failed too many times." "You are not really saved." "God has abandoned you." "You will never change." "There is no hope for you."

Biblical Examples

- | | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| ▪ Job | Job 19:25 – "For I know that my redeemer liveth..." | Helmet? ☐ |
| ▪ Stephen | Acts 7:59 – "... they stoned Stephen, calling up God..." | Helmet? ☐ |
| ▪ Paul | 2 Tim 1:12 – "... for I know whom I have believed..." | Helmet? ☐ |

Personal Application

- **The helmet reminds you...** your failures do not cancel grace... your circumstances do not change God's love... your future does not depend on you... it rests solely upon Jesus Christ!

C. The Sword of the Spirit – you must take up your only offensive (both) weapon!

3. The word of God is the **WEAPON** of choice for the Holy Spirit of the living God!

The Roman Sword

It was the short Roman infantry sword, which was usually 18-24 inches long, double-edged, and exceptionally sharp. It was designed for precision, close combat, speed, and required continual training. Roman soldiers practiced hours daily.

Sword Training

*Read consistently
Study carefully
Memorize intentionally
Meditate daily
Obey immediately
Teach others faithfully*

- **Ephesians 6:17** – ... *and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*

"The sword of the Spirit" – it is His sword – He inspired, illuminates, empowers us with it!

"The word of God" – He can bring specific Scriptures to bear in a specific circumstance!

Comparing Scriptures

- **Hebrews 4:12** – ... *word of God is quick... powerful... sharper... any twoedged sword*
- **Psalms 119:11** – *Thy word have I hid in mine heart...* [Prepared for future battles]
- **Joshua 1:8** – ... *thou shalt meditate... day and night...* [Meditation -> obedience]
- **John 14:26** – ...*he shall teach you all things...bring all things to your remembrance...*
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – *All scripture... the man of God... thoroughly furnished...*

Biblical Examples

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| ▪ Jesus | Mt 4:1-11 – "It is written... it is written... it is written..." | Sword? ☐ |
| ▪ Josiah | 2 Kings 23:25 – "And like unto him was there no king..." | Sword? ☐ |
| ▪ Ezra | Ezra 7:10 – "... Ezra had prepared... the law...to do it..." | Sword? ☐ |

Personal Application

- The Bible is not opinions, man's traditions, inspirational quotes or emotional experiences.

"... take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God "

Parents and leaders, lead your children and others with the Bible – it will protect them.

Husbands, lead your home with the Bible. Wives, find strength to follow in the Bible.

Young people, fill your minds with the Bible. Older saints, never stop learning the Bible.