

## FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT | “Stand Against the Schemes of the Devil”

Ephesians 6:10-20

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**Big Idea:** We stand against the schemes of the Devil with God’s power, God’s armor, and prayer.

### I. Be strong in the Lord (6:10)

- **We have Christ’s unrivaled power in His resurrection, ascension, and exaltation.**

**Eph. 1:19-20** 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places

**2 Timothy 2:1** You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,

- **We must acknowledge our weakness and depend on God’s unlimited power.**

### II. Put on the whole armor of God (6:11-17)

#### A. Why do we need God’s armor (vv. 11-13)?

##### 1. Because the Devil is a schemer (v. 11)

- **The Bible describes Satan’s wicked character.**

He is a schemer (Eph. 6:11), an opportunist (Eph. 5:26), a tempter (Matt. 4:3), a deceiver (2 Cor. 11:3, 13-15; Rev. 12:9), cunning (2 Cor. 11:3), an accuser (Rev. 12:10), an adversary (1 Pet. 5:8), a liar and murder (Jn. 8:44), and a sinner (1 Jn. 3:8).

**2 Corinthians 11:3** But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

##### 2. Because we do not wrestle against flesh and blood (vv. 12) The nature of our battle

**2 Corinthians 10:4** For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

##### 3. Because we want to be able to withstand in the evil day (v. 13)

**Eph. 5:15-16** 15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

## B. How are we to stand strong (vv. 14-17)?

### 1. Fasten on the belt of truth (v. 14a)

- Truth about God (1:2-3; 4:24; 5:9)
- Truth revealed in the gospel (1:13; 4:15, 21, 24)
- Truth worked out in the lives of believers (4:25; 5:9)

### 2. Put on the breastplate of righteousness (v. 14b)

#### 2 aspects:

(1) Imputed righteousness - God's own righteousness imputed to us through Christ.

(2) Ethical righteousness – How we live before God and man. Living in accordance with God's word.

> It is living like the "new self" (Eph. 4:24).

*"to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness"*

### 3. Tie on the gospel shoes (v. 15)

**Isa. 52:7** How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

### 4. Take up the shield of faith (v. 16)

- Faith is appropriating the promises of God, confident that He will protect us in the midst of the battle.

**Eph. 3:12** In Him we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him.

### 5. Take the helmet of salvation (v. 17a)

#### Salvation in three tenses:

##### (1) Past – What God has already done for us in Christ's work (Eph. 2).

**Ephesians 2:4–7** 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

##### (2) Present – What God is doing to conform us to Christ's image (4:17-32; 5:1-2).

**Ephesians 4:20–24** 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!— 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

**(3) Future – How God will reward us when Christ returns (1:13-14).**

**Ephesians 1:13–14** 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

**6. Take up the sword of the Spirit (v. 17b)**

▪ **We wield the Sword:**

- Against Satan (Matt. 4:1-11)
- In evangelism (1 Thess. 1:2-10)
- To strengthen fellow soldiers (Rom. 15:14; Eph. 4:15; 6:12; Thess. 5:11)
- To fortify our faith (Rom. 10:17)
- In worship (Eph. 5:18-21; Col. 3:16)

**III. Pray at all times in the Spirit (6:18-20)**

**A. Pray with urgency (v. 18)**

**Col. 4:2** Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

**B. Pray for others (v. 19-20)**

**Col. 4:2-4** Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving **3** At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—