

Sermon 29: A Full Picture of Standing in His Might: Ephesians 6:10-20

Text: Ephesians 6:10-20 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. 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. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak..."

Summary: We must prayerfully pick up and put on everything God has given us to stand in the face of Satan's attacks.

Interrogative: How do we do this?

Truth 1: Never disconnect personal responsibility from prayer: 6:20
"Praying always..."

- **Five common misconceptions about prayer:**
 - **Prayer is how we use God to get what we want: James 4:3**
"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts..."
 - **We can force God to do what we want through stubborn persistence: Matthew 6:7** "When ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking..."
 - **He must move immediately: Luke 1:13** "Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son..."
 - **He must act the way we expect: Genesis 17:17-18** "Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear? And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee..."

- **Prayer is all we need: Ephesians 6:10** "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand..."
- **God answers prayer according to His complete wisdom:**
 - His timetable is not surrendered to ours.
 - His wisdom is not held hostage to ours.
 - He determines the best means through which He will work.
 - He generally works through our obedience.
 - He cares about the journey and the process, not just the destination and the product.
- **The flow of this section:**
 - **We are commanded to stand: 6:11, 13** "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil...Take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day..."
 - **We do not stand by prayer alone:** He commands us to stand by putting on and taking up His provision:
 - **Prepare your mind to face conflict: 6:14** "Stand having your loins girt about with truth..."
 - **Live like the person you are in Christ: 6:14** "Having on the breastplate of righteousness..."
 - **Reflect on the cross that gives you peace with God: 6:15** "Your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace..."
 - **Embrace the collective strength of the church: 6:16** "Taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked..."
 - **Keep your eyes on the finish line: 6:17** "Take the helmet of salvation..."
 - **Fill your heart with scripture: 6:17** "The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God..."
 - **We also do not stand by putting on and picking up alone:**
 - **Prayer and personal responsibility work together: 6:19-20** "Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit...praying always..."

Truth 2: Understand how prayer relates to duty: 6:20 "Praying always..."

- **Paul's blends teaching, prayer, and exhortation together for a reason:**
 - **Teaching:**
 - **You were: Ephesians 2:1-3** "You...were dead in trespasses and sins...in time past ye walked according to the course of this world...we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of

the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath..."

- **You now are: Ephesians 2:19** "No more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God..."
- **You will experience:**
 - **Ephesians 2:7** "That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus..."
 - **Ephesians 5:27** "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing..."
- **Prayer:**
 - **Give your people a rich understanding of who they are in Christ: 1:15-23** "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power..."
 - **Strengthen your people as they understand who they are in Christ: 3:14-19** "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God..."
 - **Get glory through your people: 3:20-21** "Unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end..."
- **Exhortation:**
 - **Walk in a worthy manner: Ephesians 4:1** "Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called..."
 - **Put off, put on, and be renewed in your minds: Ephesians 4:22-24** "Put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your

mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness..."

- **Walk in love as Christ loved you: Ephesians 5:1-2** "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us..."
- **Walk as children of the light: Ephesians 5:8-11** "Walk as children of light...Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them..."
- **Walk in wisdom: Ephesians 5:15-18** "Walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is..."
- **Stand in the battle: 6:10-11** "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil..."
- **The relationship between prayer and my responsibility:**
 - Prayerfully prepare your mind for conflict by focusing on what is true.
 - Prayerfully remind yourself who you are in Christ and live like that person.
 - Prayerfully focus on the cross and remember that you have peace with God through that sacrifice.
 - Prayerfully embrace the collective strength of the church when your faith is tested.
 - Prayerfully fix your eyes on the finish line.
 - Prayerfully fill your heart with scripture.

Truth 3: Let prayer shape your focus: 6:18-19 "With all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints..."

- **The flow of the section:**
 - **First:** Stand
 - **Second:** By putting on the armor and picking up the sword
 - **Third:** With a constant attitude of prayer
 - **Fourth:** A specific kind of prayer
- **As you stand pray in the following way:**
 - **Pray for others: 6:18** "With all prayer and supplication..."
 - **Pray under the influence of the Spirit: 6:18** "In the Spirit..."
 - **Pray with endurance: 6:18** "And watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints..."

- **Pray for the advance of the gospel: 6:19** "And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel..."
- **Prayer will transform your focus:**
 - It takes your eyes off your enemy.
 - It takes your eyes off yourself.
 - It turns your heart toward God.
 - It turns your eyes toward the needs of others.
 - It drives you to God for others.
 - It moves your eyes from the temporal toward the eternal.

Application:

- **First: Realize that prayer alone is not enough:**
 - God gives us truth to ponder.
 - He gives us duties to perform.
 - He gives us a body to stand with.
 - He works through reflective, humble obedience.
- **Second: Put on each piece of the armor with prayer:**
 - Prayerfully prepare your mind for conflict by focusing on what is true.
 - Prayerfully remind yourself who you are in Christ and live like that person.
 - Prayerfully focus on the cross and remember that you have peace with God through that sacrifice.
 - Prayerfully embrace the collective strength of the church when your faith is tested.
 - Prayerfully fix your eyes on the finish line.
 - Prayerfully fill your heart with scripture.
- **Third: Refocus your thinking through prayer:**
 - Let prayer take your eyes off your enemy.
 - Let prayer take your eyes off yourself.
 - Let prayer turn your heart toward God.
 - Let prayer turn your eyes toward the needs of others.
 - Let prayer drive you to God for others.
 - Let prayer move your eyes from the temporal toward the eternal.