

## ***We Are At War***

Why do people loved by God, chosen by Him, saved by His grace, sealed by His Spirit, and destined for glory — why do Christians still struggle? The answer is simple: **because we're at war.**

The Bible never calls life a playground. But rather, it likens life to a **battleground**. Every believer has been enlisted into an invisible fight, both in our hearts and in our world.

Jesus said, *“In this world you will have trouble.”* Paul told Timothy that everyone who desires to live godly in Christ will suffer persecution. Christians go through pain, hardship, and heartache.

Why do Christians struggle? Because when you have Christ, you also have a **target on your back**. The moment you believed, you entered a war. And here's the key truth we learn from this text today:

**CHRISTIANS ARE AT WAR, AND GOD CALLS US TO STAND FIRM FOR HIM.**

Three times in these verses Paul says, “Stand.” He doesn't say, “Sit back and watch others fight.” He

doesn't say, "Hide until the war is over." He says, **"Stand firm."**

But the question is **how?** How can we stand firm in this spiritual war? **I want to show you five ways** to stand firm in this constant war.

### **Way #1 – Know Your Strength (Ephesians 6:10)**

And let me say it plainly — **your strength is not in yourself.** It's not found in your personality, your hard work, your intelligence, or your experience. It's found **in the Lord.**

Verse 10 says, *"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might."*

*Jesus said, "Apart from Me, you can do nothing." (John 15:5).* On your own, you are weak, but Isaiah taught us, *"They who wait for the Lord will renew their strength."* Paul said in 2 Corinthians 12:10, *"When I am weak, then I am strong."* Strength in the Lord begins when we realize we're weak without Him.

### **Way #2 – Know Your Enemy (Ephesians 6:11–12)**

Do you know who your enemy really is? It's easy to give the right answer on a Sunday morning. But what about on Thursday night, when a relationship feels like it's falling apart? What about when someone makes you out to be the bad guy for standing firm on God's Word? What about when you're sharing the gospel and the person you're speaking to gets angry—even though you're trying to share grace?

In those moments, it's easy to think the other person is the enemy. But Paul says that's not the case.

Through every temptation, every setback, every hardship, there is a real enemy working behind the scenes to frustrate the plans of God and hinder the people of God. Satan is clever. Cunning. Cruel. Stronger, smarter, and more experienced than any of us. But **he is not stronger than God**. That's why John reminds us, "*He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. (1 John 4:4)*"

### **Way #3 – Know Your Armor (Ephesians 6:13–17)**

God has given every believer the armor we need to stand.

#### **1. The Belt of Truth**

The belt holds everything together. So in life, truth

will keep everything intact. Lies will entangle you, but Jesus said truth will set you free. A Christian who hides behind secrets or lives a double life of lies is an easy target for the enemy, and when the truth finally comes out, they're exposed and embarrassed. But integrity will keep your life together. Being a truthful person will make you ready for battle.

## **2. The Breastplate of Righteousness**

A breastplate protects the heart, and righteousness will guard your heart. The enemy wants to fill your heart with guilt, shame, and regret. He tempts you, then condemns you when you give in. A righteous life spares you from so much unnecessary heartache.

## **3. The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace**

Laced up and ready to walk across enemy lines. Why? To share the best news ever told - that sinners can be at **peace with God through faith in Jesus Christ** (Rom. 5:1).

## **4. The Shield of Faith**

Faith is being confident in God's promises even when you can't see them yet. The Christian life is walking by faith, not by sight. When today looks dark, faith believes God is still working a good plan.

## 5. The Helmet of Salvation

Most spiritual battles begin in the mind. But the helmet protects your thoughts. Nothing stabilizes the mind like the assurance of salvation. Knowing that, because you have believed in Jesus, He has saved you, gives stability in rejection, persecution, or even death.

## 6. The Sword of the Spirit – the Word of God

The Word is our weapon. God's Word cuts through lies and pierces hearts. We must learn it, memorize it, and proclaim it. Proclaim first to ourselves. Then to others. *“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ (Rom. 10:17).”*

## Way #4 – Know Your Commander (Ephesians 6:18–20)

In Luke 18, Jesus told a parable *“to the effect that we ought always to pray and not lose heart.”* Our Commander calls us first to **report to Him**. When threats come, when doubts and discouragements hit, we don't take matters into our own hands—we talk to Him.

Paul tells us to **pray always, about everything, and for everyone.**

## **Way #5 – Know Your Army (Ephesians 6:21–24)**

There are no lone rangers in the army of God. We need each other. Gathering together on Sunday mornings isn't just tradition, and it's not just what Christians are supposed to do; it's something you need. God designed His people to stand **together**.