

The Bible 20/20 Week 26: “Withstand Part 2” (7-5-20)

Last week: Isaiah & Ephesians 6 - “Withstand Pt 1” (Belt Truth, Breastplate Righteousness, Gospel Shoes)

This week: “Withstand Pt 2” (Shield Faith, Helmet Salvation, Sword of Spirit - Word of God)

Introduction:

Ephesians 6:10-13 (ESV)

(10) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. (11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (13) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **withstand in the evil day**, and having done all, to stand firm.

Armor from Ephesians 6 so far. . .

Ephesians 6:14-15 (ESV)

(14) Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, (15) and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

Today - the remaining Armor from Ephesians 6 . . .

1) Shield of Faith

Ephesians 6:16 (ESV)

In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one

Note: Faith - some translations - “in all circumstances” and others - “above all else”

It is **Faith** that protects all the weak spots that the enemy wants to hit:

- The **Truth** that anchors me!
- The **Righteousness** that I don’t have on my own (you don’t measure up)
- Being a **Carrier of the Gospel** (scared, not worthy, can’t communicate it well)
- **Salvation** - that I’m his and secure now & always!
- **The Word** of God

Isaiah 28:16 (ESV)

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: **‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’**”

Note: The object of your faith is more important than the size or strength of your faith.

That reality - of the strength and sureness of Jesus the rock is meant to settle my heart!

“Be in haste” - means: to be excited, disturbed, anxious, or dismayed

Not only is Jesus the strong foundation - he is truly the shield who has taken all the hits on my behalf . . .

Isaiah 50:6-7 (ESV)

(6) I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. (7) But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

Note: He takes the hits and knows that his victory is certain. Therefore - He stands in confidence and victory!

Isaiah 50:8-9 (ESV)

(8) He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. (9) Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Note: All of our adversary's attacks will wear out, but His victory is everlasting!

Personal Study: Psalm 38 (for a guide on praying in faith through difficulty) Sometimes God's arrows correct, other times I need his protection from the enemies arrows that are only meant to harm. Faith enables me to grow from his arrows and be guarded from the enemy's!

2) Helmet of Salvation

Ephesians 6:17a (ESV)

and take the helmet of salvation . . .

Back to a passage from last week: Jesus wears the helmet of salvation!

Isaiah 59:17 (ESV)

He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a **helmet of salvation on his head**; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.

Note: Paul tells us in 1st Corinthians 2 - "we have the mind of Christ" - He is the "head" of the body

Let him lead you into salvation!

Isaiah 26:3-4 (ESV)

(3) You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he **trusts** in you. (4) Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.

Note: One of the enemies primary attacks - is the battlefield of the mind . . .

Doubt, Distraction, Insecurity, Anxiety, the list goes on and on!

The solution is Jesus and the security of our salvation in Him! That brings peace!

Isaiah 33:2, 5-6, 22 (ESV)

(2) O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm **every morning**, our salvation in the **time of trouble** . . . (5) The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness, (6) and he will be the **stability of your times**, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure . . . (22) For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; **he will save us.**

Note: Daily protection, in time of trouble is especially noted. **He is the stability of our times!**

3) Sword of the Spirit (Word of God)

Ephesians 6:17b (ESV)

. . . and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God

The only armor that is by nature designed for offense not defense. The others protect, this one is for the fight!

Isaiah 55:11 (ESV)

so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Note: God's Word is a successful tool that accomplishes its mission.

Isaiah 50:4 (ESV)

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.

Note: Morning by Morning - awaken to the sustaining Word!

The Lord gives me the tongue of those who are taught - **I can only speak The Word if I know it!**

- A sword just sitting there **accomplishes nothing** - is your Bible just a prop?
- A sword is **dangerous** in the hands of the unskilled - unjustly injuring others, or even ourselves!

1 John 1:1 (NKJV)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life

Note: The message that was passed down to us, was given by those who had real experience with it!

Hearing

Seeing

Looked Upon (a steady gaze)

Handled

Let's look at the results of being taught the Word, by our Teacher (HS) - Remember its the sword of the Spirit!

Isaiah 30:20-22 (ESV)

(20) And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. (21) And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. (22) Then you will defile your carved idols overlaid with silver and your gold-plated metal images. You will scatter them as unclean things. You will say to them, "Be gone!"

Note: Most of our real enemies, are the idols of this generation - the ones we worship in our own house.

You can't even recognize them, until you are lead by the Word of God (truth always exposes the lie)

Conclusion: We are in a battle (truth is we always are), but Jesus is the stability of our times!

So put on the Full Armor of God - that you may Withstand!

Let's Pray!