



## Jason Smith - STAND

### Part 3: Stand Ready for Battle

God never called you to be a passive bystander in a spiritual war—He equips you to be prepared, alert, and armed with what you need to stand firm and fight back.

Faith, salvation, and the Word of God aren't abstract concepts or theological trophies—they're weapons for today's battles. When you live ready, you can stand confidently no matter what comes against you.

*“God, prepare me for the battles I can't see. Make me alert, grounded in Your gospel, covered by faith, secure in my salvation, and bold with Your Word. Help me stand—not scared, but ready.”*

**Scripture:** Ephesians 6:15-17

### Introduction

Over the last two weeks, we've been learning what it means to *stand firm*—not in our own strength, but in the strength that God provides.

In **Week 1**, we saw that the battle is real—but the battle belongs to the Lord. Our job isn't to win it in our own power, but to *stand firm in His*.

In **Week 2**, we looked at the first pieces of armor: the belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness. We learned that to stand strong, we

need to be *anchored in truth* and *aligned with righteousness*—because what you believe at your core shapes how you live.

But here's the thing: **God doesn't just want you protected—He wants you prepared.**

Because faith isn't just a defensive posture—it's readiness. Alertness. Expectancy.

The Christian life isn't a breakroom—it's a battlefield. And Paul paints a picture of a soldier standing at attention: alert, grounded, and ready to move... Standing, but steady.

So today, we keep building. We're going to look at what it means to stand not just in protection—but in *preparation* for the resistance that's inevitably coming.

**Read:** Ephesians 6:15-17

**<sup>15</sup> and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup> and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,**

## **I. Wear the Shoes of Readiness—Be Grounded in the Gospel**

**“...with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.” —Ephesians 6:15**

When Paul talks about footwear in this passage, he isn't just talking about comfort—he's talking about **readiness.**

Roman soldiers wore hobnailed boots—sturdy sandals with spikes driven through the soles.

Why? For traction. Stability. So when the ground got rough or the battle got intense, they wouldn't be slipping or sliding. They could stand their ground, no matter what.

In the same way, Paul is telling us: ***your footing in this spiritual battle comes from the gospel.***

The good news of Jesus isn't just the message that saved you—it's the foundation that steadies you.

Romans 5:1 says, **“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

That peace is your grip. That peace is your footing. That peace is your stability in the chaos of life.

The enemy would love to throw you off balance with fear, guilt, shame, anxiety, or distraction—but the gospel anchors your identity: **you are forgiven, justified, adopted, and empowered. You know who you are, and you know whose you are.**

Isaiah 52:7 says it like this, **“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”** Gospel-grounded people don't just stand—they go. They're not frozen in fear or wavering in doubt.

They're ready to move, ready to respond, ready to advance—not because of their strength, but because of the security they have in Christ.

So put on the shoes of readiness. Plant your feet in the unshakable truth of the gospel.

And when the ground beneath you starts to shift, you'll still be standing. Not slipping. Not panicking. Standing firm. Ready. Steady. Sent.

## II. **Take Up the Shield of Faith—Block the Flaming Arrows**

***“In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.” — Ephesians 6:16***

If the belt and breastplate protect your core, the shield is what guards you from the incoming assault. And Paul doesn't say *if* the arrows come—he says they *will*.

### **MY CURRENT BATTLE - ADVOCATES**

The enemy doesn't fight fair. He hides in the shadows and launches fiery darts from a distance:

- **Fear** that keeps you paralyzed
- **Lies** that whisper, “You're not enough”
- **Temptation** that promises pleasure but delivers regret
- **Shame** that replays your worst moments over and over again

But faith is our defense—not faith in circumstances or in ourselves—but faith in who *God is*, what *He's done*, and what *He's promised*.

***“This is the victory that has overcome the world—even our faith.” —1 John 5:4***

***“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.” —Psalm 56:3***

The shield of faith extinguishes—not just deflects, but *puts out*—the fire meant to consume you. It turns panic into peace. Doubt into trust. Wounds into witness.

So the question today isn't: *Will the arrows fly?* The question is: ***What will you believe when they do?*** Will you believe the voice of your enemy—or the voice of your Savior?

Raise your shield. Trust your God. Stand your ground. This is our calling and our surety. Or God is with us always, in every way and every situation.

### **III. Put on the Helmet of Salvation—Guard Your Mind**

***“Take the helmet of salvation...”***—Ephesians 6:17

The mind is the battlefield where many spiritual wars are won or lost.

The helmet was essential for Roman soldiers—it protected the head, the seat of thought and command. And spiritually speaking, your thoughts direct your steps.

Paul says to put on the *helmet of salvation*—because when your identity is secure, your choices are stronger. ***If the enemy can confuse who you are, he can distort how you live.***

It's when we confuse our identity or we lose focus what God states in his word that our identity truly is.

That's why Scripture tells us:

***“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”***—Romans 12:2

***“We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”***—2 Corinthians 10:5

You are not what the world says. You are not your past. You are not your feelings.

You are *saved*—by grace, through faith. You are *secure*—sealed by the Spirit. You are *spoken for*—a child of God, redeemed and restored.

The enemy wants to cloud your thinking with confusion, fear, and falsehood. But when you remember who you are in Christ, you live with clarity, confidence, and courage.

Don't leave your mind exposed. Strap on the helmet. Let salvation shape how you think, and your thoughts will shape how you stand.

#### **IV. Take Up the Sword of the Spirit—Fight with God's Word**

**“...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”** —Ephesians 6:17

The sword is the only offensive weapon in the armor of God. Everything else—the shield, the helmet, the breastplate, the belt, and even the shoes—is designed for defense and protection. But the sword?

The sword is for battle. And your sword is the Word of God.

When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, He didn't get into a debate. He didn't try to negotiate.

He didn't just grit His teeth and hope for the best. What did He do? He said, *“It is written...”* — and then He quoted Scripture.

**“Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”** — *Matthew 4:4*

**“Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”** — *Matthew 4:7*

**“Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”** —  
*Matthew 4:10*

Jesus used the Word to push back the enemy. And if that was His strategy, it should be ours too.

**This is important: the sword of the Spirit is not just *having* a Bible—it's *using* it.** It's not just head knowledge—it's heart application. You don't just carry it; you *swing* it.

When you speak God's Word over your fears, over your doubts, over your temptations, over your family, your future, your mind—you are fighting back with power.

**“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword...”** — *Hebrews 4:12*

This is not a dead book—it is a living sword. It cuts through confusion. It silences the lies. It reveals truth. It strengthens the weary. It equips you for battle.

So here's the challenge: ***Don't leave your sword on the shelf.*** Draw it daily. Memorize it. Meditate on it. Declare it. Pray it. Use it.

When you don't know what to say—speak the Word.

When your mind is under attack—speak the Word.

When you feel weak—speak the Word.

When you feel overwhelmed—speak the Word.

This is how we fight—not with fear, not with our fists, but with faith-filled, Spirit-empowered truth.

## **Conclusion: Ready or Not?**

Are you ready to hear a hard truth? You are not in a playground—you're in a battlefield. And spiritual warfare isn't a theory—it's your reality. It's in the air we breathe.

So let me ask you:

Are your *feet* grounded in the truth of the gospel, steady no matter what comes?

Are you *holding up the shield of faith*, trusting God's promises over the enemy's lies?

Is your *mind protected by the helmet of salvation*, rooted in your identity in Christ?

Are you *wielding the sword of the Spirit*, not just reading Scripture, but declaring it over your life?

The enemy won't wait for you to be ready.

But the good news is—you don't fight alone, and you don't fight unarmed.

God has given you *everything you need to stand*.

**This week, don't live spiritually unarmed. Suit up.**

### **Challenge: Use What God Has Given You**

- **Gospel Grounding**: Write one sentence that summarizes the gospel. Say it aloud every morning this week as your foundation.
- **Shield of Faith**: Name one lie you're tempted to believe. Then find and write down one Scripture promise that tells the truth—and post it where you'll see it daily.
- **Helmet of Salvation**: Spend five intentional minutes each day reflecting on who you are in Christ. Let His truth shape your thoughts.
- **Sword of the Spirit**: Memorize one Bible verse that speaks directly to a struggle you're facing—and use it in prayer and conversation this week.



You don't need new weapons—you need to *use* what God has already given you. Because when you're armed with truth, faith, identity, and the Word... *you will be able to stand.*

Let's pray together.