

Ephesians 6:13-17

Verse 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. (Ephesians 6:13 ESV)

The “evil day” ...

- 1) Refers to today
- 2) Refers to any day
- 3) Refers to the day of unusual temptation

Paul says “stand firm”, you hold a critical position

How we stand

Verse 14:

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, (Ephesians 6:14 ESV)

Belt of truth- commitment

It means “I’m totally sold out to who God is, I’m totally sold out to what God has done, I’m totally sold out to what God said.”

You could come to church everyday but until you decide to put on that belt to be committed to Him, to who God is and what God has done, and what God has said you have not put on this belt.

Breastplate of righteousness- conforming to God’s standard

Righteousness is anything that conforms to a standard. The Christians has a standard, the standard for us is God’s truth.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2 ESV)

“Be transformed”- putting on that belt of commitment to who God is, what he has done and what he has said, then righteousness will flow out. Righteousness is not what I do for God it is the result of my surrender to Him.

Verse 15:

and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. (Ephesians 6:15 ESV)

What Paul is thinking about is the Roman soldiers’ war boots.

These shoes were not made to run in but to stand their ground and to walk forward.

But what is this thing about the gospel of peace?

There are two parts: 1) Peace with God

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1 ESV)

2) Peace of God

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (John 14:27 ESV)

Peace to the Hebrew, which Paul was, does not mean the absence of storms in our life but God’s peace as we go through them.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7 ESV)

Verse 16:

In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; (Ephesians 6:16 ESV)

“Evil one”- the name means “wicked, corrupt” but it is used in Scripture to show that Satan is not happy to be corrupt himself he seeks others to corrupt.

And he does this with flaming darts or arrows.

These flaming arrows are doubt, distrust, and deception which lead to discouragement.

How? Temptation, trials

In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; (Ephesians 6:16 ESV)

The shield of faith in fact, the word for this shield came from the word "door".

Only the front-line troops got this- soldiers in the front-line of battle. Believer, you are on the front-line of this battle, you hold a critical position in this battle. The Roman soldiers would use these shields to protect each other. Christianity was never meant to be an individual thing- it is a team sport.

But what is the shield of faith- trust

Paul says "take up" - many of our shields are laying down next to us and we don't pick them up when the flaming arrows of doubt, distrust, deception, and discouragement come.

Verse 17:

and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, (Ephesians 6:17 ESV)

Helmet of salvation

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. (1 Thessalonians 5:8 ESV)

This hope of His return is our helmet.

And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. (1 John 3:3 ESV)

and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, (Ephesians 6:17 ESV)

Sword-is the Word of God

When you are reading your Bible and you come to a certain phrase or word that speaks to your heart, that is what Paul is talking about, the word of God is powerful.

Or when someone comes to you with a problem and when you are talking with them a Bible verse comes to your mind to apply to the situation.

His words are compelling

His words are convincing

His words are consoling