

## **A Soldier of the Cross** **Ephesians 6:13-20**

**Intro:** A soldier is trained to follow orders. He needs those orders to be precise and clear. This kind of clarity and precision is seen here in this passage as our Commander in Chief calls us to be prepared for battle.

**A.** “Be strong”- Present Passive Imperative

**B.** “Put on”- Present Middle Imperative

**C.** “Is”- Present Active Indicative

**D.** “Take up”- Aorist Active Imperative

**E.** “Stand firm”- Aorist Active Imperative

**I. Our orders- “Take up”**

A. Who have these orders been given to?

B. What are we to take up?

C. Why are we to do so?

**II. Our objective- “resist”**

A. What is our objective?

B. How are we to complete this objective?

C. When are we to do this?

### III. The outcome- “to stand”

- A. When are we to stand?
  
- B. Why are we to stand?

### IV. Our outfit-

- A. Loins girded with truth
- B. Breastplate of righteousness
- C. Feet shod with the gospel of peace
- D. Shield of faith
- E. Helmet of salvation
- F. Sword of the Spirit

**Conclusion:** Our Commander-in-Chief is like no other. He is the omnipotent ruler of the universe who loves us and has adopted us into His family. As His children, He has recruited us to fight in His army and has provided us with everything we need to be victorious in the battle. It is to be out of love, not obligation, that we serve Him. May we do so with great enthusiasm as we faithfully follow His commands in the manner He has directed us.

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### Questions for discussion/application:

- How does an understanding of the 5 verbs in this passage help us better comprehend the situation and what we are being asked to do in the midst of that situation?
- Why the challenge “to stand” at the end of v. 13? If we have already resisted, why the need to stand?
- At what times in our lives are we the most susceptible to the attacks of Satan? Can you think of Biblical examples of these?
- What happens when we do not put on the armor and resist in the evil day? What do we do then?