Strong in the Lord – Stand Alone Sermon – November 2026 – Ephesians 6

Ephesians 6:10-20: *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. **13** Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **14** Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, **15** and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. **16** In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*
***18** And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. **19** Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, **20** for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.*

INTRO: This morning we are studying one of the best known passages in Ephesians, often titled "The Armor of God." In the verses that precede and follow the verses about the armor, believers are called to identify our true spiritual enemy and to "armor up" first and foremost through prayer.

I. Identifying our True Enemy (vs. 10-12)

-Our call as Christians is never to be strong in ourselves or in the things of this world, but instead to be "*strong in the Lord and in his mighty power."* **(vs. 10)**

-The spiritual battles we face are often described as "spiritual warfare.

-Before describing the "armor of God," **vs. 12** reveals who is the true enemy of the Christian faith. Though we are often tempted to classify other people who think or act differently than us as enemies, here the Bible makes clear that our true spiritual enemy is the devil (Satan.)

-No human being is to be seen as our true spiritual enemy, but instead we fight against spiritual beings that serve the (Satan. Scripture describe these beings using the categories of "*rulers*," "*authorities*," "*powers of this dark world*," and "*spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms*."

II. Standing Firm in Faith (vs. 13-17)

-This section begins with the two-fold exhortation: “withstand” and “continue to stand” firm in the Lord even when under spiritual attack in evil days.

-Because our true enemy, Satan, is a spiritual enemy – here the Bible gives us clear instructions on how to “armor up” spiritually, by “putting on” these spiritual attributes that come directly from God and not from ourselves:

- *the belt of truth buckled around your waist* - God’s timeless and unchanging truth revealed to people throughout every age

- *the breastplate of righteousness in place* – the righteousness of Christ that guards our hearts from the deceitfulness of sin

- *your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace* – the message of peace through a reconciled relationship with God that we carry with us as the Good News of salvation for all who believe

- *the shield of faith* – the gift of faith allows to believe in and trust the Lord even when under spiritual attack (*extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one*)

- *the helmet of salvation* – the confidence that we belong to Christ through His gift of salvation, which protects our minds from the confusion of the devil’s lies and the seeds of doubt he sows.

- *the sword of the Spirit* – the only offensive weapon in the arsenal is defined clearly as “*the word of God.”* When we meditate on Scripture and hide it in our hearts, God’s Word is always available to counter attack the devil’s schemes.

III. Praying Faithfully (vs. 18-20)

-The most effective way to engage in spiritual battle in God’s strength is through prayer.

-How are we to pray? *In the Spirit*
-When are we to pray? *On all occasions*
-What are we to pray? *all kinds of prayers and requests*, including for each other as “the Lord’s people and for those active in Kingdom service, as was the Apostle Paul.

-Here, Scripture also describes faithfulness in prayer and in service of the gospel as being courageous, being an ambassador of Christ, and delivering the blessed mystery o of the Gospel – that though we were dead in our sins and transgressions, God by His grace offers us the gift of salvation so that we might be made alive in Christ and set free from our sin and all evil.

-Remember – the devil has already been defeated by the cross and the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In Christ, we already have the victory!

Other Scriptures Referenced:

1 Peter 2:17: *Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.*

Isaiah 11:1-5: *A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;*
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—
3 and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
5 Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

Isaiah 59:17: *He put on righteousness as his breastplate,*
and the helmet of salvation on his head;
he put on the garments of vengeance
and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.

Exodus 15:3: *The Lord is a warrior;*
the Lord is his name.

Psalm 18:39: *You armed me with strength for battle;*
you humbled my adversaries before me.

Psalm 35:1-3: *Contend, Lord, with those who contend with me;*
fight against those who fight against me.
2 Take up shield and armor;
arise and come to my aid.
3 Brandish spear and javelin
against those who pursue me.
Say to me, “I am your salvation.”