

Standing Strong - Part III

Ephesians 6:16-24

I The Believer's Existing Armor

Put on (endysasthe) = "Having been clothed in"

- A. The belt of truth
- B. The breastplate of righteousness
- C. The footwear of peace

II The Believer's Available Armor

Put on (elabete) = "Take up, assume"

- A. The shield of faith - Gen 15:1

*"Faith is not belief without proof,
but trust without reservation."*

- 1. Faith comes from the Word of God - Rom 10:17
- 2. Faith is the foundation of our defense - 1 Pet 5:8-11
- 3. Faith leads to overcoming victory - I Jn 5:4-5
- B. The helmet of salvation
 - Take (analambano)* = "Receive up, take (in, unto, up)"
 - 1. Salvation is our hope - 1 Thess 5:8-9; 2 Cor 3:12
- C. The sword of the Spirit
 - Word (rhema)* = "The right Word at the right time"
 - 1. The Word is our defense - Matt 4:1-11
 - 2. The Word protects us from sin - Ps 119:9, 11
 - 3. The Word brings victory - Rev 12:10-11; 1 Cor 10:13
- D. Two additional protections against Satan's schemes
 - 1. An attitude of alertness
 - Be alert* = "To be sleepless, to keep awake, to watch"
 - a. The mark of being alert - 1 Pet 5:8; 4:7; 1 Thess 5:6
 - b. The benefits of being alert - Matt 26:41; Lk 21:36
 - 2. A lifestyle of prayer
 - a. Pray in the Spirit - Rom 8:26-27; 1 Cor 14:15
 - b. Pray on all occasions - Lk 18:1; Act 2:42; 1 Thess 5:17
 - c. Pray with all kinds of prayers and requests
 - 1. Adoration: To worship and honor God

- 2. Confession: To acknowledge and admit our sin
- 3. Thanksgiving: To express of gratitude
- 4. Supplication: To make requests or petitions
- d. Pray for one another
 - 1. Pray for others - Col 4:12
 - 2. Let others pray for you - 1 Thess 5:25; Rom 15:30
- e. Pray for boldness in evangelism - Acts 4:29, 31

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Now that your eyes have been opened to the spiritual battle, identify one significant area in your life where you now recognize Satan's subversive efforts to destroy you.
2. Discuss the statement, "Faith is not belief without proof, but trust without reservation." Is it true/biblical? Why or why not?
3. Rom 10:17 says that faith comes from hearing (through teaching, study, meditation, etc) God's Word. How is this so? What protection does a believer have if he remains chronically unfamiliar with the scriptures?
4. The sword of the Spirit (the Word of God) is a critical defensive weapon against Satan's deceptions. Read Matthew 4:1-11. Brainstorm and identify at least 5 things you can learn from Jesus' example in gaining spiritual victory. [Consider not only what He did and said, but also what He didn't do or say]
5. The mark of spiritual alertness is self-control. Why is self-control so critical when it comes to countering Satan's attacks? Where do you need to exercise spiritual self-control?
6. Paul concludes by exhorting the believers to prayer. Take time now to pray for one another in areas where the enemy is active. And pray for spiritual boldness in the proclamation of the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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