



Allan Hamblin – August 6, 2017

“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.”**

Eph. 6:10-18 (NIV)

Q: Why are we told to “stand/hold our ground” instead of march or advance?

- **Jesus already won the war; we are supposed to hold the ground that belongs to Him!**

Q: Why is our struggle not against “flesh and blood”?

- “Flesh and blood” is who we are fighting **to save**, not who we are fighting **against**.
- This is a **rescue mission!**

Q: Who is our struggle against?

- **Satan and his forces** (**Acts 26:18; Col. 1:13**).

“For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ **For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.** ⁵ **We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,”**

2Cor. 10:3-5 (ESV)

Q: What are the strongholds we are to destroy?

- **Intellectual arguments** and **opinions** people hide behind to prevent the invasion of the Gospel.

Q: How do we destroy arguments and opinions... and take thoughts captive?

- By **holding our ground!**

Q: What is the armor of God?

- The things God has provided that will **protect us from attack**, and make us able to **hold our ground!**

Q: Where will the spiritual forces of evil try to attack you?

1. Your mobility.
 - a. The belt of truth lets you **move freely**.
2. Your desires.
 - a. The **desire to please God** will protect your heart like a breastplate!
3. Your footing.
 - a. The Gospel of Peace gives us **traction**.
4. Your confidence.
 - a. The arrows from Satan are **doubts** and **accusations**.
 - b. The Shield of Faith won’t let them **penetrate**.
5. Your purpose.
 - a. The Helmet of Salvation keeps **Satan out of your head!**
6. Your judgement.
 - a. The Sword of the Spirit will **sort out what’s what**.

None of these will do you any good until you **put them on!**

- Prayer is how we are to put these on; not **selfish** or **self-focused** prayer, but prayer for **all the Lord’s people**.