

STANDING TOGETHER

Spiritual Warfare

Ephesians 6:10–24

14 verses that can help you live a victorious life and stand your ground in Christ.

INTRODUCTION

Paul closes his letter to the Ephesians by reminding them that following Christ does not mean we will never face opposition.

There is a spiritual battle taking place, but **God has not left us defenseless.**

Paul gives us everything we need to know how to stand. The goal is not simply to survive the battle.

The goal is to stand firm, remain faithful, and live victoriously in Christ.

1. BE STRONG IN THE LORD

“In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [draw your strength from Him and be empowered through your union with Him] and in the power of His [boundless] might.”

Ephesians 6:10 AMP

Notice Paul doesn't say: **“Be strong in yourself.”** He says: **“Be strong in the Lord.”**

Our strength comes from our relationship with Him. You don't fight spiritual battles in your own strength. **You stand in His strength.**

Illustration — The deer

There were deer that kept coming into our backyard. I would ring the bell and try to scare them away... But they kept coming back! Then Raja came outside and chased them away.

I guess my cat knew how to stand his ground better than I did!

Sometimes we do the same thing spiritually. We keep trying to fight things in our own strength. But there are battles where we need to recognize: **“I need God's strength.”**

Key thought: Know whose authority you stand under. You are not standing alone. **All heaven is backing you up.**

2. PUT ON GOD'S ARMOR

“Put on the full armor of God... so that you may be able to [successfully] stand up against all the schemes and the strategies and the deceits of the devil.”

Ephesians 6:11 AMP

Paul doesn't tell us to create our own armor. He says: **Put on God's armor.** God has already provided what we need. But notice something important: **Armor doesn't help you if you don't put it on.** You can't leave your armor sitting on the floor and expect to be protected. Every day we need to intentionally put on what God has provided.

3. THE DEVIL HAS STRATEGIES

Paul describes the enemy:

- Schemes
- Strategies
- Deceptions

The enemy studies weaknesses. Like an animal preparing to pounce on its prey, he looks for an opening. Some of his common attacks can look like:

- Fear and anxiety
- Doubt
- Discouragement
- Discontentment
- Pride
- Inflated importance
- Lust
- Anger

Samson

Samson was incredibly strong physically. But the enemy found an area of weakness. **Physical strength does not equal spiritual strength.** You can be strong in one area and still vulnerable in another. That's why we need the whole armor of God.

Key thought: The enemy has strategies, but God has given us everything we need to stand.

Paul repeatedly uses the word: **STAND.** Not run. Not surrender. Not panic. **STAND.**

4. KNOW WHO THE REAL ENEMY IS

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood... but against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

Ephesians 6:12 AMP

Sometimes we fight the wrong battle against the wrong person. Paul reminds us: **People are not our ultimate enemy.** Your spouse is not the enemy. Your children are not the enemy. Your coworker is not the enemy. That person who offended you is not the enemy. There is a spiritual battle behind what we see. **Important:** The spiritual realm is real.

Scripture describes spiritual beings and spiritual opposition. But we don't need to live in fear.

Why? Because **Jesus has already won the victory.**

We may be in a battle, **but we know how the story ends.**

“The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and rescues them.”

Psalms 34:7

We are not alone.

5. STAND FIRM AND HOLD YOUR GROUND

“So stand firm and hold your ground, having tightened the wide band of truth... around your waist and having put on the breastplate of righteousness...”

Ephesians 6:14 AMP

Paul doesn't say: **“Take a few steps back.”** He says: **“Stand firm.”**

The enemy wants to move you:

- Away from truth
- Away from righteousness
- Away from God's Word
- Away from your identity in Christ

But God says: **Hold your ground. Belt of Truth.** Truth keeps everything together. When the enemy says: **“You are not enough.”**

Truth says: **“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”**

When the enemy says: **“God has abandoned you.”**

Truth says: **“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”**

You need to know the truth because **the enemy fights with lies.**

6. PUT ON THE SHOES OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

“...having strapped on your feet the gospel of peace in preparation [to face the enemy with firm-footed stability and the readiness produced by the good news].”

Ephesians 6:15 AMP

Roman soldiers needed footwear that gave them stability and traction.

Illustration — Hiking boots

A few years ago, we were in the mountains climbing some trails. The trails were extremely slippery. I had the right hiking boots with an aggressive grip. The other two guys were wearing tennis shoes. One of them had high-top sneakers and eventually couldn't even walk properly. He had to crawl. Why? **Wrong shoes.** The right shoes gave me stability.

Paul is telling us: **Don't try to walk through a spiritual battle without spiritual stability.**

The Gospel gives us peace. Peace doesn't mean there is no battle.

Peace means I can stand even while the battle is happening.

7. YOUR SHIELD IS VERY IMPORTANT

“Above all, lift up the [protective] shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”

Ephesians 6:16 AMP

Paul says: **“Above all...”** The shield protects you from the arrows coming at you.

The enemy will shoot:

- Fear
- Doubt
- Accusations
- Temptation
- Discouragement
- Lies

Faith doesn't mean you don't see the arrows. **Faith means you don't let the arrows determine your response.** When the enemy says: **“It's never going to change.”** Faith says: **“God is still working.”** When the enemy says: **“You're finished.”** Faith says: **“God is not finished with**

me.” When the enemy says: **“There's no way.”** Faith says: **“God can make a way.”** Raise your shield.

8. THE HELMET AND THE SWORD

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.”

Ephesians 6:17 AMP

Helmet of Salvation

The enemy loves to attack your mind.

He wants you to question:

- Who you are
- Whose you are
- Whether God loves you
- Whether you are forgiven
- Whether God still has a purpose for you

Protect your mind with the truth of your salvation. **I belong to Jesus. Sword of the Spirit**

The sword is the Word of God. The Word is not just something we read. **It is a weapon.**

Jesus Himself responded to Satan's temptation with Scripture: **“It is written...”**

You need God's Word inside you before the battle comes.

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.”

2 Corinthians 10:4 NKJV

You don't fight a spiritual battle with physical weapons.

You fight God's way.

An arrow cannot compete with a rocket launcher.

The enemy may have weapons, **but God's Word is greater.**

9. YOU NEED A STRONG PRAYER LIFE

“With all prayer and petition pray [with specific requests] at all times... in the Spirit...”

Ephesians 6:18 AMP

Paul doesn't stop with the armor. He says: **PRAY.**

Prayer is how we stay connected to the One who gives us the armor.

Prayer is not the last thing we do when everything else fails.

Prayer is part of the battle.

Pray:

- When you're strong.
- When you're weak.
- When you're afraid.
- When you don't know what to do.
- When you're under attack.
- When everything is going well.

And notice: **“Praying for all God's people.”** Don't only pray for yourself. **Pray for someone else.**

10. HAVE A PAUL MINDSET

Paul is writing these words while he is in prison.

Yet he doesn't say: **“Pray that I get out.”** He says: **“Pray that I will speak boldly.”**

“And pray for me, that words may be given to me when I open my mouth, to proclaim boldly the mystery of the good news...”

Ephesians 6:19 AMP

Paul had a different mindset. He wanted **boldness instead of comfort.** He wanted **purpose instead of freedom.** He wanted **to preach Christ even in chains.** That's spiritual maturity.

When you're going through a battle, don't only ask: **“God, get me out.”**

Sometimes we need to ask: **“God, use me while I'm in it.”**

CLOSING — STAND YOUR GROUND

Paul begins: **“Be strong in the Lord.”** And throughout the passage: **“Stand.”**

The message is clear: You may be under attack. You may be facing pressure. You may be experiencing a spiritual battle.

But you don't have to surrender your ground.

Put on the armor. Know the truth. Protect your heart. Walk in peace. Raise your shield. Guard your mind. Use the Word. Pray. And **stand**.

ALTAR CALL

If you have been experiencing spiritual opposition, discouragement, fear, temptation, confusion, or a battle that you feel you cannot fight alone, I want you to come forward.

We want to pray with you. We want to stand with you. We want to partner with you in prayer.

You don't have to fight alone. And remember:

The battle may be real, but the victory belongs to Jesus.

STAND YOUR GROUND.

You don't have to win the battle in your own strength. You just have to stand your ground in Christ.