

## Ephesians 6.10-18

**Stand** - to maintain our ground; reason we put on armor is so we can stand; we can stand b/c we have put on the armor

- When we hear/think 'warfare' we tend to think of taking territory and gaining ground, you can make that case Biblically, but that is not what Paul is talking about in Ephesians
- **Told to stand 4x's** –
  - stand against the devil's schemes
  - put on the full armor of God so that you will be able to stand your ground
  - after you have done everything else to stand
  - stand firm then
- We are seated with Christ in heavenly realms and enemy is trying to move us off of that position
- A more relational image = Jesus doesn't lose any who are His, nothing can separate us from love of God in Christ
- Reality – enemy isn't strong enough to move us off the ground Jesus has won or break Jesus' grip on us; Jesus has already disarmed powers making a public spectacle of them on the cross
- Enemy's only option is to tempt us/lure us/deceive us into moving off our position

**Our battle is not against flesh and blood** - spiritual battle and we need spiritual resource to fight

- **Our enemy** = Satan
- **Satan's army** – best guess is rulers, authorities, powers, spiritual forces are like lieutenants, colonels, sergeants, etc in an army; don't know their 'rank'

- **Keep in mind not a fight between equals** - God is omnipotent, sovereign, Creator of all things; **Col 1** – all things have been created through/for Jesus
- **But it is still a fight** - Fallen spiritual beings were created by God, are in rebellion against God, have already been disarmed by Jesus, and their ultimate defeat is assured, but they still have some power and influence

**So you may stand against the schemes of the devil which are:**

- **Lies** – he is the Father of Lies and when he lies he is speaking his native language; lies about God, reality, others, ourselves
- **Accusations** – Accuser of the brethren; accuses us to God, accuses God to us, accuses us to ourselves
- **Temptations** – Tempter; lures us into sinful actions
- **Direct frontal assault** – sickness, suffering, things going wrong; I think those things can be spiritual attacks, but they aren't always; sometimes they are the result of:
  - **Fallen world**
  - **Sinful choices by us/others**
  - **Devil**
- **Important to recognize** – those things can be painful/difficult but they only serve enemy's ultimate purpose if they cause us to move away from Jesus; God can use them to draw us closer to Himself/mature us; so:
  - Ask God to use those circumstances
  - Ask God to change your circumstances

**Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God** – our armor is well-suited to withstand devil's schemes

- **General statement: we have nothing to be afraid of** - Eph 1.18-19: Paul prays that we would know the incomparably great power that is available to us, this is the same power the Father exerted when He raised Jesus from the dead - that same power that defeated our spiritual enemies on the cross is at work in us
- **Specifics = armor**; typical armor of a Roman soldier
  - **Belt of truth** – 2 understandings
    - **True doctrine**, the truth, necessary because devil's primary language is lies
    - **Sincerity** – acting truthfully, necessary because devil tempts us to live deceitfully – hide behind masks, etc.
  - **Breastplate of righteousness** – 2 understandings:
    - **Right standing with God**- justification, declaration that we are 'in the right' with God; necessary because devil is our accuser- tries to convince us we are still in our sins
    - **Moral behavior** – acting righteously; necessary because devil tempts us to live unrighteously
  - **Feet fitted w/the readiness that comes from the Gospel of peace** – not a calm heart, but reconciled relationship to God; this provides sure footing we need to stand our ground; necessary because devil wants us to live in condemnation and unaware that we have been forgiven
  - **Shield of faith**
    - referring to oblong shield (4ft x 2.5ft) which could cover whole body; designed to put out arrows that were dipped in pitch and lit on fire
    - **Flaming arrows of the evil one = his schemes**; these all the ways enemy tempts us to doubt God; Adam/Eve in Garden: Did God really say...
- **Faith = trust**; trusting God when circumstances say, 'no reason to' vs. believing accusations that God is not caring, not able, not aware, etc
- **Helmet of salvation** –
  - Reminds us we have been rescued from sin, Satan, death; necessary because of accusations that we are still under power of sin, Satan, and death
- **Sword of the Spirit** – word of God; only weapon we are given, can be used offensively and defensively; foundation for combatting lies/accusations

