

Prepared for Battle
Week 7

If this past week for you has been anything like the week I have had, you have had many challenges and struggles. The heat has been turned up and satan is on the attack! It occurs to me that we need to have a crash course or a refresher course in how to stand against the enemy and battle his attacks. That being said, please turn in your Sword to Ephesians 6:10-20 and read it in its entirety. We will come back to this passage in a bit.

Now read I Peter 5:6-9

1. Who walks around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour? _____
2. In what state are we to be, as we go about our daily lives, in order to be ready for him when he strikes? _____

Verse 3 says, "Resist him, steadfast in the faith-----." In the Greek, steadfast is translated from the word "stereos" which means to stand, stiff, solid, stable-----steadfast, strong, sure. It means just what it sounds like: don't waiver in your faith in the Lord God Almighty, the One who made the whole earth and all that it is in it; the One who holds the keys to heaven and hell; the One who holds authority over the devil.

I am not one who buys in to the belief that there is a demon under every rock. But I do believe that all evil in our lives comes from one source and that is the devil and his agents. Sometimes, God allows the enemy to sift us like wheat, just as He did Peter and just as He allowed Job to be tested. However, never, for a second, believe that satan has any power over God, you, or me, unless we just lay down and let him have his way with us. He tries to strut his stuff and make us think he does, but he is a liar and a toothless cheat.

God and God alone holds the real power of the universe, the only power that matters. Those of us who are truly his children have His power living in us. It is by His power that we can boldly stand in steadfast faith against the schemes of the evil one.

3. Read Luke 24:49 What does Jesus tell the apostles that they will receive from on high? _____
4. Read Acts 1:8 What does Jesus tell the apostles they will receive when the Holy Spirit has come upon them? _____

Next, we are told to “Stand therefore” and then proceed to clothe ourselves with the whole armor of God.

12. “having girded your loins with the _____”. Truth in the Greek, *aletheuo*, means “to be true, speak the truth”. Therefore, truth should always be in our hearts and on our lips. There is no place for lying and deception in one who believes. That sin should be left with the evil one. By always speaking the truth, we have on a piece of God’s armor.
13. “having put on the breastplate of _____” Righteousness in the Greek, *dikaios*, translates as “equitable in character or act, innocent, Holy, just, right It is the righteousness of God that makes us righteous. It is in being covered in His righteousness that we are ready to fight.
14. “and having shod your feet with the _____ of the _____ of _____”. Peace in the Greek is *eirēnē* meaning “prosperity, rest, quietness, peace—(and MY favorite), set at one again.” The gospel, the “good news” of Jesus Christ, brings peace, rest, prosperity, quietness and being at one with Him. In warfare with the enemy, the peace that passes all understanding will carry us through the toughest of the toughest attacks.
15. “above all, take up the _____ of _____ with which you will be able to quench all the _____ of the wicked one.” Faith in the Greek is *pistis* meaning “conviction of religious truth or the truthfulness of God; reliance upon Christ for salvation; constancy in such profession; truth itself---assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.” In other words, it is the shield of our faith, our total commitment to the truth of God, our loyalty to Him, our unwavering belief in Him, our reliance on Him, that enables us to stand against all the burning arrows (whatever are our weak places) that the devil hurls at us and put them out with that shield of faith.
16. And take the helmet of _____ and the _____ which is the _____;” Salvation in the Greek is the word *soterion* and means “defender or defence.”

Paul tells us what the sword of the Spirit is---it is the word of God! Christ is our defender and God’s word cuts the enemy to the bone, slays Him dead. The best offensive tool to fight the devil and the thoughts he puts in our heads is THE WORD OF GOD!!!!

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

2 Corinthians 10:4-6 “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God for pulling down of strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”

v. 18 “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” Another aspect of warfare is being in constant communion with the Lord, as we go about our day. We must stand strong and never give up, pray in the Spirit for one another because “the prayers of a righteous man avails much.”

v. 19 “and for me, Paul, that utterance may be given me that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,

v.20 “for which I am and ambassador in chains, that in it I may speak boldly as I ought to speak.”

Paul was in chains in prison when he wrote Ephesians because of his zeal for Christ. No one could understand any better than he, other than Jesus, what the attacks of the enemy are like, and how we can stand and defeat him.

From a deep, dark cell, his one passion was to tell the good news boldly! He didn't ask for prayers for deliverance from the prison; he asked for boldness in the prison. Wow! What an example of sold out faith in the Savior and standing firm in the face of the enemy!

Please read John 10:10

The devil's one main purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy the children of God, you and me. But our Savior, praise God, came to give us abundant life! He did not leave us defenseless against this evil creature! He has given everything that we need to stand against him and thwart his schemes. We must remember to fight and stand, and when we have done all, to stand. Hide His word in your heart that you will not sin against Him!

that you will be able to strike down the lies of the enemy with the Word of God! Praise Him with all your heart and when the storms come, remember Who is on your side!

This armor of God, if you will notice, is all on the front or on the head. It is offensive armor, not defensive armor. Like David did when he was facing the giant, may we put our trust and faith in Christ to fight for us, saying, "Then the whole assembly will know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and He will give you into our hands." I Samuel 17: 47 Then, as we stand to face the enemy, may we, like David, hasten and run toward the enemy, not backing down but going forward, knowing that **THE CAPTAIN OF THE ARMY is our rear guard and we have nothing to fear!** If God is for us, who can be against us?

So my sweet sisters, be prepared minute by minute, not letting your guard down. For your adversary the devil is prowling around to find someone to destroy. Don't let him get to you, in Jesus name. Remember who you are—a child of the King, the Living God, the One True God! His power lives in you. Clothe yourself daily and often in His armor and when you have done all to stand, still stand; and when the enemy of your soul tries to entice you into his traps of destruction and death, you will be ready. The battle is on and God's army is ready! Go in the power and might of the Lord!