

Standing in Victory- Ephesians 6



MEMORY VERSE: Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. Ephesians 6:10-11

DAY 1 Ephesians 6:1-4 — Obedience and Honor

1. In keeping with the idea of submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ, what two instructions, and promises, did Paul give to children?
2. How might rebellion towards one's parents affect other areas of life?
3. Why are Paul's instructions to fathers so important for the child? Describe traits you have seen in someone who is an exceptional father.
4. What insight do these verses in Proverbs give parents and children?
3:11-12

13:1, 24

19:18

20:7,11

23:22-25

LEARN THE TRUTH

Paul began this letter by essentially telling people to **SIT** in salvation as it is a gift of grace that cannot be earned. He then instructed God's beloved children to **WALK** in the power of the Holy Spirit as members of the body of Christ. He now exhorts us to **STAND** firm in the midst of a raging battle.

DAY 2 Ephesians 6:5-9 — Willing Obedience and Service

5. Describe the heart and attitude one should have in serving someone in authority over them.

6. Why is a good attitude and work ethic important for every believer? What traits do you notice in people with a good work ethic?
7. What do you think verse 8 means?
8. What appears to be an unhealthy temptation for the one in authority? Why must this trait go?
9. What qualities of God are evident in His instructions to people both in, and under, authority? v. 9

Colossians 3:18-25

10. Is God convicting you about an attitude problem you might have regarding authority?

DAY 3 Ephesians 6:10-13 — Preparing for Battle

11. Where might we naturally look for strength? Where does God want us to get our strength? v. 10
12. Who is our battle really against? v. 12
13. Why should we put on the whole armor of God? v. 11,13
14. Compare what God desires for us to what our spiritual enemy, the devil, plans for us.
John 10:10

1 Peter 5:8-11

15. How does this truth affect your view of conflict you might have with people in your life?

DAY 4 Ephesians 6:14-18 — The Armor of God

16. What is the definition and purpose of “armor?”

17. Think about each piece of the armor of God. What part of the body does each protect? What spiritual purpose might each piece serve?

18. Which of these pieces of armor are defensive, and which are offensive? Why do you think this is?

19. What is our part in this battle and what is God's?

20. The word "stand," or a variation of it, is repeated 4 times in verses 11-14. Why do you think this word is used instead of something like "conquer" or "defeat?"

21. What do you think it means to pray in the Spirit? Why is this crucial to the armor of God?

Romans 8:26-28

DAY 5 Ephesians 6:18-24 — Grace and Peace through Love and Prayer

22. What do Paul's requests for prayer tell you about what he truly values? vv. 18-20

23. Given Paul's final words to the Ephesian believers, how do you think he felt about them?

24. From your study of Ephesians, what has surprised, encouraged, challenged or inspired you?

25. Is there a verse that you will especially remember from this study?

LOVE THE TRUTH

In closing, Paul said "Grace and peace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible."(v.24) Imagine love being "incorruptible!" Apart from Jesus, everything is corruptible. But God can make even our love for Him incorruptible. Put on the whole Armor of God and live safely in Him.

Ephesians 6

Standing in Victory

The more time you spend in the Bible, the more evident God's splendor and creativity become. He is a God of order, having a definite plan from the very beginning of time, and into eternity. And yet He wants us to be part of His plan. He moved heaven and earth to bring us salvation through the blood of Christ. We can rest or **sit** in peace, knowing that salvation is a gift, because of God's love rather than our good works.

God wants us to thrive by walking according to His will. Submission to authority is a vital part of living in His will. Submission does not mean abandoning one's own thoughts or opinions, becoming subservient. Likewise, being in a position of authority does not give one the right to dictate or dominate. Selfishness and sin have twisted God's intent for submission and authority. Look to God and Jesus in this. No one will ever be asked to submit as Christ did, and yet He did so willingly out of love and respect for His father and His love for us. No father will ever have to hand his beloved son over to the enemy in order to offer salvation to a sinful world. This is our example for submission and love, and we will thrive if we **walk** in it.

Our walk is especially important because we are in the midst of an unseen spiritual battle. We will come across people who seem to be our enemies, but the truth is that "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." (6:12) Let this sink in. We have a serious enemy who wants to destroy us and any semblance of Jesus Christ in our lives. We are not strong enough on our own to fight this battle, not even close. We do not need to seek out this battle because it will find us. Beware of those who seek to "do battle with the devil," as they are borrowing trouble. Our job is to **walk** in Christ and then put on the whole armor of God so we can **Stand**.

It can be helpful to picture the various pieces of the armor of God as protecting aspects of our lives such as our appetites, hearts, thoughts, beliefs, where we go... and this is true. But there is so much more to the armor of God. Every piece of the armor of God is a picture of Jesus Christ, both prophetically in the Old Testament and practically in the New Testament. We can only **sit** in righteousness because of Jesus Christ. We can only **walk** in truth because Christ is the source of our salvation. There is no peace but through Christ. He is the Living Word of God and the source of our faith. (John 14:6, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Luke 2:30, Ephesians 2:14, John 1:1,14, John 1:12)

WALK IN TRUTH



God's goal in our lives is for us to **STAND** firm in the midst of spiritual opposition. This is our victory- to remain standing when the enemy has tried to destroy us. Our job is to put on the whole armor of God. His job is to fight the battle. It was prophesied in Isaiah that Christ Himself would put on similar armor, which, in His case, is also referred to as "garments of vengeance." Revelation then depicts Christ ultimately defeating evil in judgement, by the Word of His Mouth, the Sword of the Spirit. (Isaiah 11:5, 59:15-21, Revelation 19:11-21) What does it actually look like to stand? It involves recognizing our own weaknesses and fleeing temptation as we pursue God. We stand when we submit to God and resist the devil, who must flee from us when we resist him. Satan's only tool against us is lies, so our offensive weapon, the sword of the Spirit is crucial. We cannot defeat enemies we cannot see, but we sure can put on God's armor and we sure can know His Word, the Sword of the Spirit. (James 4:7-8, 2 Tim. 3:16)

Notes