

Standing Strong Against the Devil's Schemes

Ephesians 6:10-18

Pastor Art Hunt

July 19-20, 2014

Take-Home Truth: God provides what's needed for every believer to **STAND STRONG** against the devil's schemes.

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

1 John 3:8b (New International Version)

Instruction #1: RECOGNIZE THAT ATTACKS ARE COMING.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For 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.

Ephesians 6:10-12 (English Standard Version)

Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.

James 3:15 (NIV)

Instruction #2: ARM YOURSELF IN ADVANCE TO WITHSTAND THE DEVIL'S ATTACKS.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one. Ephesians 6:13-17 (ESV)

- **Belt of Truth** = a heart that sees the truth and tells the truth.
- **Breastplate of Righteousness** = the constant awareness that Christ is our righteousness and the practical, daily decision to be obedient to God and to live righteously.
- **The Shoes of Peace** = the peace of mind that comes from having peace with God.
- **Shield of Faith** = expressing confidence and trust in God and His Word whatever the circumstances.

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7 (NIV)

Instruction #3: USE PRAYER, DIRECTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, AS YOUR PRIMARY WEAPON.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints. Ephesians 6:17-18 (ESV)

- **Helmet of Salvation** = security of our salvation.
- **Sword of the Spirit** = the word spoken to us by the Spirit of God to combat the lies and deceptions of the enemy.