

READ EPHESIANS 6:

Ephesians 6: 10-17

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Why put on the armor? Answer: v. 11 - So that you can "take your stand".

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

STAND FIRM.

Two meanings of the word STAND here:

1. (Verse 11, 13) "στῆτε" (stēte) a command or exhortation. **taking a firm, unwavering stance, standing resolute in the face of challenges or opposition, being steadfast and unmovable in the spiritual battle, maintaining a position of strength and stability. ESTABLISHING YOUR FOOTING.**
2. (Verse 13) "ἀνθίστημι" (anthistēmi) - The second Greek word. **"to stand against," "to resist," or "to oppose."** It conveys the idea of taking a stand against something or someone. **"WITHSTAND."**

"He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand." Psalm 40:2

Jesus spoke about this in a parable about building a house. Matthew 7:24-27

SAND - Heard the Word, DID NOT do what it said.

ROCK - Heard the Word, DID do what it said.

2 Samuel 23: 9-12

9 Next to him was Eleazar son of Dodai the Ahohite. As one of the three mighty men, he was with David when they taunted the Philistines gathered for battle. Then the men of Israel retreated, 10 but he stood his ground and struck down the Philistines till his *hand grew tired and froze to the sword. The LORD brought about a great victory that day.* The troops returned to Eleazar, but only to strip the dead.

11 Next to him was Shammah son of Agee the Hararite. When the Philistines banded together at a place where there was a field full of lentils, Israel's troops fled from them.

12 But Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field. He defended it and struck the Philistines down, and the LORD brought about a great victory.

Progression:

1. Enemy comes to take land.
2. Men of Israel retreat - yield land to the enemy.
3. A single soldier takes a stand and will not retreat

This is what Ephesians 6:13 is depicting for us.

"Therefore put on the FULL armor of God so that WHEN the day of evil comes..

Not IF it comes... WHEN it comes.

..you may be able to stand your ground (withstand), and after you have done everything, to stand (establish your feet)."

*"The evil one has been unable to prevent us from becoming the children of God, but given that is the case, he is now seeking to do everything in his power to prevent us from **living** as the children of God."*

- Alistair Begg

1. Anger. Ephesians 4:26-27 "Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil a foothold."

Jesus, in Matthew's account, in chapter 5 says:

21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder,^a and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' **22** But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.

1 John 3:15 "15 Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him."

Anger turning to hatred is a real danger for us. IN your anger do not sin.
This is dangerous territory. And for many of us this is a real struggle.

Ephesians 5 - husband/wife, parents/children, worker/boss

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

2. Pride. Feeding into our pride.

Some verses to consider:

1 Corinthians 10:12 says, "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."

Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall."

Be strong in the Lord, and in HIS mighty power.

2 Corinthians 12: 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. **10** That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

Moses: Exodus 14:13-14

And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, **stand firm**, and **see the salvation of the Lord**, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. **The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.**"

The Lord will fight for you. HE will work for you today...

Mighty men:

I want you to see the progression here.

1. Enemy comes to take land.
2. Men of Israel retreat - yield land to the enemy.
3. A single soldier takes a stand and will not retreat
4. THE LORD brings about a GREAT victory.

3. LIES

The devil is a liar and a deceiver.

John 8:44 "He (the devil) was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

And when we lose our solid ground, when we yield ground to the enemy, we are doing the works of the kingdom of darkness. When light retreats, darkness advances. When light retreats, what is left is darkness.

Sadly, people love darkness, not because it makes them feel good, or satisfies them, but because they know deep down that their deeds are evil. And they don't want to be seen for who they truly are.

John 3:19-21 "This is the verdict (*this is the reality*): Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever **lives by the truth comes into the light**, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Isaiah 59: 12-15

12 For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us.

Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities:

13 **rebellion and treachery against the Lord**, turning our backs on our God, inciting revolt and oppression, **uttering lies our hearts have conceived**.

14 **So justice is driven back**, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter.

15 Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.

*The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was **no justice**.*

*He saw that there was **no man**, and wondered that there was **no one to intercede**; then **his own arm brought him salvation**, and his righteousness upheld him.*

He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.

According to their deeds, so will he repay, wrath to his adversaries, repayment to his enemies; to the coastlands he will render repayment.

20 "The Redeemer will come to Zion (to Jerusalem), to those in Jacob (in Israel) who **repent of their sins**," declares the Lord.

SO WHAT?

A few questions:

Do you have anything that you stand for? Or are you like a wave, being tossed to and fro: aimless.

Are you standing on the Word of God? If you are, how is your life reflecting that? Do God's ways trump your ways?

What scheme of the devil has kept you from submitting to God? Is it your anger, unforgiveness, bitterness, pride?

Stand on His Word. Set your life on the truths found in God's word and live according to it.

Withstand the schemes of the devil = Submit to God so you can resist or withstand.

See the power of God at work in your life as you stand.

He has the victory. We need only stand in Him and with Him.