

“BE STRONG IN THE LORD”

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For 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. ¹³Therefore 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. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God ¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. (Ephesians 6:10-18 NIV)

1. MY MORAL CONVICTIONS, PERSONAL COMMITMENTS, AND BEST LAID PLANS ARE NOT ENOUGH.

Memory Verse:

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.
(Ephesians 6:10 NIV)

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood... (Ephesians 6:12 NIV)

2. WHAT ARE WE ARMED WITH?

- a. OUR TRUTH
- b. SELF-RIGHTEOUS
- c. NOT PEACE BUT EASE
- d. FAITH IN WHAT?
- e. SAVED FROM WHAT?
- f. SWORD OF THE TRENDS

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. (2 Timothy 4:3-4 NIV)

3. WE NEED A SPIRITUAL SOLUTION IN A PHYSICAL REALM FOR A REAL LIFE PROBLEM.

a. JESUS COMES AS TRUE GOD AND TRUE MAN TO DELIVER THE SOLUTION!

"No one takes it [My life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again." (John 10:18 NIV)

b. HE EXCHANGES OUR ARMOR.

1. BELT OF TRUTH—Your word is Truth (John 17:17)
2. BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS—Righteousness of God through Faith (Romans 3:22)
3. FEET FITTED WITH READINESS FROM THE GOSPEL OF PEACE—Peace of God (Philippians 4:7)
4. SHIELD OF FAITH—faith has healed you (Matthew 9:29)
5. HELMET OF SALVATION—salvation in no one else (Acts 4:12)
6. SWORD OF THE SPIRIT—The Word of God

GOING DEEPER

1. Which piece of your own armor do you need to trade for God's armor?

2. What is the obstacle behind the person I thought was my obstacle?
3. Do I believe that Jesus can defeat all opposition?