

Stand Firm in God's Whole Armor
International Bible Lesson
Ephesians 6:10-20
Sunday, February 22, 2015
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:13—KJV).

"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm" (Ephesians 6:13—NRSV).

Jesus declared, “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword” (Matthew 10:34). Jesus did not come to compromise with sin and evil but to confront the enemies of God with the truth of God. Jesus has given His followers a spiritual sword, because “Our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12). Jesus has given all those who trust in Him “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17). The Christian’s warfare is a war of words; the Word of God against the lies of evil cosmic powers; the promises of God against the false claims of evil spiritual forces. In Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians, Christians achieve spiritual victory by standing firm in the faith when under attack. For hundreds of years, Christians have suffered persecution and martyrdom at the hands of authorities entrapped in this present darkness. But just as the first martyr, Stephen, stood firm and proclaimed the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit, which eventually led to Saul becoming the Apostle Paul, so countless believers have stood firm in the whole armor of God and have proclaimed the Word of God when under attack; therefore, the Holy Spirit has freed countless numbers of those enslaved by evil forces, enabling them to believe in Jesus Christ for salvation. – L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Thinking Further

1. What are some things we can do to get strength to stand firm when we are attacked?

2. What did the six different parts of the armor that God has given us represent?

3. What parts of our protective armor and weapons seem to be most attacked today?

4. To be ready to fight and stand firm in a battle against Satan and his tricks, of the six pieces of armor needed what item do you personally need the most? Explain your answer.

5. In addition to putting on the full armor of God, what else does Paul emphatically say we must do?