
ARMED WITH TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

(Ephesians 6:13-14)

The Christian life is not a pleasure park nor a playground. The Christian life is a spiritual battlefield. We all live in a spiritual combat zone because when we made friends with God through Christ, we made an enemy of Satan. That's why Paul gives this exhortation in Ephesians 6:13, *"Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, having done all, to stand firm."* The good news is that God does not send us into this spiritual conflict ill equipped for the battle. The Lord has supplied and provided us with the complete and full armor of God. **Since we are armed and equipped with God's truth and righteousness, we can stand firm against the devil and live in the triumph of Christ.** As we look at Ephesians 6:13-14, we will consider the first two equipment of the believer's spiritual armor.

1. Stand firm against the devil equipped with the _____.

The Apostle Paul uses the imagery of a soldier with his belt fastened around his waist to call us as believers and soldiers of Christ to preparedness and readiness for spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:14). The truth is our first line of spiritual defense against the evil one because Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44). This truth pertains to the objective truth of God's Word and to living a life of truthfulness and integrity (Ephesians 1:13; 4:15). If we are to stand firm against the Satan, it is vital that we are securely anchored and tied to the divine truth of God's Word (Genesis 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11; Psalm 119:97). We must not only believe, embrace and love the truth. We must also live a life of truthfulness and godliness in our speech, behavior and attitude (Ephesians 4:15; Titus 2:12).

2. Stand firm against the devil equipped with the _____.

The breastplate for a soldier in Paul's day is a major piece of armor that covers him from his neck to his waist front and back, thus protecting his heart and his other vital organs from the enemy's piercing attacks. Paul teaches us that righteousness provides spiritual protection in our war against Satan (Ephesians 6:14). This righteousness refers to the imputed righteousness of Christ and to practical righteousness of godly living (Ephesians 4:24; 5:9). The glorious truth that we stand before God clothed with the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ is our only hope for eternal life. No attack or accusation of Satan could ever change, diminish or take away our righteous status in Christ before God (Philippians 3:8-9; Romans 8:1, 33-34). In light of this amazing blessing of the imputed righteousness of Christ, we must then live a life of practical righteousness, godliness and holiness (Ephesians 5:3-9).
