



Stand Firm! ...Ephesians 6:10-18

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For 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. 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. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying 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 6:10-18*

Be watchful, **stand firm in the faith**, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.
...1Corinthians 16:13-14

The Whole Armor of God...

Describe the meaning and examples of each part of the Armor of God...

1. Belt of Truth...

...Ephesians 6:14

2. Breastplate of Righteousness...

...Ephesians 6:14

3. Shoes given by the Gospel of Peace...

...Ephesians 6:15

4. Shield of Faith...

...Ephesians 6:16

5. Helmet of Salvation...

...Ephesians 6:17

6. Sword of the Spirit...

...Ephesians 6:17

Group Discussion

1. Why do you think the Bible gives us the metaphor of a Roman Soldier's armor and sword, and describes how we must put on God's "ARMOR" in our daily life?
2. *Ephesians 6:10* begins by telling us to "**be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might**". What choices can we make, and what steps can we take in our lives to **be** "strong in the Lord"?
3. Ask yourself, "If I were the devil...how would I fight against me?" What "lures" do you need to watch out for, that are likely to trip you up? ...share your answer with your Group
4. What does it look like to stand firm and fight for the faith of those that God has put around you...To take a stand and to not give up ground... to be the gatekeeper of those that God has put under our protection, so that the enemy does not "have his way" in their life? ...**READ Ephesians 6:10, Luke 11:21**
5. **READ Ephesians 6:10-18 together as a Group...** Describe the meaning and examples of each part of the Armor of God...
 - **Belt of Truth...** ...Ephesians 6:14
What is your ultimate source of TRUTH in your life?
 - **Breastplate of Righteousness...** ...Ephesians 6:14
What do you do to actively Guard your Heart? How do you guard the hearts of those that God has placed under your care?
 - **Shoes given by the Gospel of Peace...** ...Ephesians 6:15
Do you bring peace or chaos to the circumstances you walk into? Do things calm down or escalate? Are you being an Ambassador of Peace every time you walk into the presence of those that God has put in your life, those who you are responsible for? How do you do it?
 - **Shield of Faith...** ...Ephesians 6:16
The opposite of Faith is not doubt...the opposite of Faith is Fear, because Fear paralyzes, but Faith moves to Action! How do you deal with Fear in your life? Are you part of a "Band of Brothers" holding one another up?
 - **Helmet of Salvation...** ...Ephesians 6:17
It is the husband & father's job to teach the Word of God to your wife & children...and you cannot teach what you do not know. Does your family know Jesus? What does it look like to have an eternal vision...are you casting an Eternal Vision for your family? How do you do it?
 - **Sword of the Spirit...the Word of God...** ...Ephesians 6:17
Do you plant the Word of God into the lives of those in your care? How is it done?
 - **Praying at All Times...** ...Ephesians 6:18
Are you regularly praying for those in your care? How do you keep it a priority?

NOTE: The man's number one job is "to protect and provide for whoever it is that God has put under our care and responsibility.

"My prayer is that when I die all of hell rejoices that I am out of the fight"... -C.S. Lewis ...Not because of me, but Him!

Prayer

Take a few moments to share any Prayer Requests with the men in your Group. Write down any requests and commit to pray for one another throughout the week.

(It's great to know that other guys are praying for the important things in your life...and it's great to be praying for the important things in their lives!)

How do the **5 Principles for the Christian Man**, help equip you to apply this to your life?

Discuss your answer with your group...

- Prayer (*Relationship*)
- God's Word (*Knowledge and Understanding*)
- Worship (*Adoration*)
- Fellowship (*Encouragement and Accountability*)
- Service (*Caring for Others, Action to your Belief*)