
I'm Still Standing, Part II (God's Protection)

The Fight of Holiness

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Sermon: The Fight of Holiness: I'm Still Standing, Part II (God's Protection)

Lesson Text

Ephesians 6:13–18 (AV)¹³ 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. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: ¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Introduction

We are closing out the year of 2020 with three final teachings on Holiness dealing with our fight!

Last week we looked at “The Real Fight”; It was about knowing your enemy.

Now we are going to look at “The Whole Armor;” It will be about fighting your enemy.

In order to stand, we must learn how to protect ourselves so that we can fight. Why? Because for the rest of our lives we will have to fight.

(VIDEO CLIP – All My Life I Had To Fight)

All our life we will have to fight, so stop being shocked when it keeps happening

- 1 Peter 4:12 (AV)¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:
- Psalm 34:19 (AV)¹⁹ Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

We are in a fight: a fight for our lives, a fight for our mind, a fight for our marriage, a fight for our family, a fight for our calling and ministry. And all our life we will have to fight.

Isaiah 54:17 (AV)¹⁷ No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; ...

Although we will have to fight, when we put on the whole armor of God, we will ultimately win because we are protected against every attack of the enemy.

Series and Sermon: The Fight of Holiness: I'm Still Standing, Part II (God's Protection)

“Protecting Your Truth, Protecting Your Mind, Protecting Your Heart”

I. Protecting Your Truth (The Belt)

Ephesians 6: ¹⁴ Stand therefore, *having your loins girt about with truth*, ...

In the ancient garment of that day, the gird about the loins held in place every other part of the armor of the soldier. The gird, or girdle, was essentially a belt that was used to bind, restrain, tighten, and hold everything together.

The belt is essential because without it we have nothing to hold our armor together: making it impossible to stand and fight!

Ephesians 6:13–17 (AV)¹³ 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.

A great battle in the past was won by a clever general who told his men to cut the belts of their enemy while they were sleeping. The next morning the enemy troops were so busy holding up their trousers that they weren't able to shoot their guns; and therefore, they lost the battle.

Holding up your falling pants may look funny, but in a battle it can be deadly.

Truth is our belt, and without it, the rest of our armor is useless.

The challenge we have today is everybody wants to have their own truth. We live in a world where everyone defines their own truth. "Don't judge me;" "That's your opinion;" "This is how I feel;" "I was told;" "I read this on the internet."

People are making life-altering decisions and living their lives based on conspiracy theories.

John 8:44 (AV)⁴⁴ **Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.**

If everybody has their own truth, then we have no truth. Truth is not subjective or opinionated, and there can only be one truth. Not your truth, not my truth, but God's Truth!

Romans 3:4 (AV)⁴ God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

John 14:6 (AV)⁶ Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

II. Protecting Your Wind (The Body Armor)

Ephesians 6: ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, **and having on the breastplate of righteousness**;...

What Paul is teaching us here is to protect our ability to breathe, because without our breath or win, we can't stand and fight.

Has anyone ever had the wind knocked out of them? When this happens, it feels like you're going to die.

The breastplate or body armor of ancient times would be equivalent to the modern-day bullet proof vest.

God gave us our wind, the breath of life:

- Genesis 2:7 (AV)⁷ And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.
- John 20:22 (AV)²² And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, **Receive ye the Holy Ghost:**

The breastplate of righteousness protects our spiritual lungs from unseen attacks that are designed to take our breath of life.

This year, perhaps more than any other, has been a year of unseen attacks. "I didn't see this coming: COVID-19, economic collapse, loss of loved ones, racial unrest, hurt and betrayal!"

Psalms 91: ⁴ He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. ⁵ Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

The terror by night are the unseen attacks. These are the attacks that knock the wind out of you; you literally lose your breath.

The purpose of these attacks are not for you to temporarily lose your breath, but to destroy your lungs so you can't breathe ever again. In other words, the enemy was trying to kill you.

Without a body armor you wouldn't have been knocked down, you would have been knocked dead!

Righteousness, or Holy Living is our Breastplate, our Body Armor, our Bullet Proof Vest; and it protects us from that which would have destroyed us.

The enemy shot me, and I went down. He thought I was dead, but I had on my bullet-proof vest. It knocked the wind out of me, but I got back up and I'm Still Standing!

Psalms 27:13 (AV)¹³ *I had fainted*, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

I would have quit. I would have given up. I would have lost it. I would have died, but I had on my body armor – "I'm Bullet Proof and I'm Still Standing!"

Isaiah 54:17 (AV)¹⁷ No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.

III. Protecting Your Heart (The Shield)

Ephesians 6: ¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Whereas the breastplate of righteousness or body armor protects your heart from unseen attacks, it is juxtaposed with the shield of faith used for the attacks you see coming!

So now we move from the Body Armor that protects our wind or breath of life, to the shield that protects our heart or blood of life.

The ancient soldier had a shield that was so big that he could hide behind it when the enemy shot his arrows.

Psalm 91: ⁴ He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: **his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.** ⁵ Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; **nor for the arrow that flieth by day;**

The reason why the enemy sends the arrows by day is because he's trying to snatch your heart. Trouble on every side are the arrows by day to snatch your heart. Many afflictions are the arrows by day to snatch your heart.

But our shield is our faith; and the more faith we get, the bigger our protection shield becomes.

Romans 10:17 (AV)¹⁷ So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Philippians 4:6–7 (AV)⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Faith keeps your heart, guards your heart, and protects your heart from the oncoming attacks.

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: I'm Still Standing, Part II (God's Protection))

Lesson Text

- Ephesians 6:13–18

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. *Protecting Your Truth*

II. *Protecting Your Wind*

III. *Protecting Your Heart*

Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)

I. **Getting to Know "Me"**

1. What is a Christmas holiday tradition that you enjoy?
2. Describe your ideal vacation (money is no object)?

II. **Into the Bible**

1. John 8:31-32 (CEV) Jesus told the people who had faith in him, "If you keep on obeying what I have said, you truly are my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." What is the biblical definition of truth? Why is the disciple privileged to know the truth? How is this related to freedom?
2. Why does the Apostle Peter describe the trial as "fiery" in 1 Peter 4:12-13? Why would the shield of faith be vital to protect you in the "fiery trial?" What does he mean to "rejoice...ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings;...."

III. **Life Application**

1. Sometimes it's easy to be influenced by what we've heard, read, or seen. Share a strategy of how we can turn to God's truth in a fight, even when we don't "feel" like it.
2. Many people have lost heart because of today's social and economic climate. Share with your group, a two-sentence uplifting word of encouragement.