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In Our Struggle, How God Helps Us to be Strong

Spiritual Warfare

Eph 6:10-20

“Lead us not into temptation; deliver us from the Evil One.” Matt. 6:13

**Why doesn’t God just take our enemy out of the fight?**

The **methodeias** / schemes (not invasion) of the devil

Put on the Full armour of God ***SO THAT*** you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes Eph 6:11

STAND

**6 necessary pieces of armour and a posture… to be strong in the Lord…**

1. **Make it your mission to hold yourself and your life together by being truthful always**.

 To the person of truthful integrity, everything about them holds together/ holds up all the time every day.

2. **Guard your most vital parts (heart) by choosing God’s way every time.**

 Above all else guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it (Prov 4:23)

 This (self-righteousness) IS the enemy of our salvation—you are called to guard your glorious position as justified (declared righteous) by daily practicing the implications of your position—to practice what you are.

3. **Expect the day to be a battle; be on guard and ready.**

The battle is to steal your confidence in your standing with God--Who is Christ--who am I--on what do I stand? At peace with God!!

 Get gospel-saturated.

4. **Set before the eyes of your heart a shield that prevents the battle from eclipsing our vision of Christ.**

 Faith not in what you see but in what really is—the dart is to dislodge your eyes from faith in your God if you let it!

5. **Guard your mind with the security and assurance that is meant to come with your salvation.**

When your heart is splayed and crushed by emotion and your feelings are threatening to take over and carry you to fright—flight—or fight, you must lean into the real truth about your reality in Christ—so you will be able to keep your head in all situations—2 Tim 4:5; Rom 8:28f

 Protect your thinking with your guarantees concerning reality and destiny.

6. **Get very good with the spiritual warfare weapon of choice—the Word of God.**

 The Spiritual weapon of choice by the Son of God was the Word of God—high kill ratio—it is the operating language of the most powerful Being in the universe and the evil one cannot shout it down (Is. 40:8; 55:10,11)—stands forever (can’t knock it down); accomplishes what God desires, and achieves his purpose.

7. **Take a knee always, assuming the posture of power—**

 **PRAYER** — not just a conversation, but an actual spiritual transaction according to the rules of our being in covenant with God through Jesus—this is how Christianity works—this is the power up cord for how all of the other armour functions—this is our connection to the divine power of the universe—how gifts work, fruit grows, disciplines shape us—GOD AT WORK THROUGH OUR ACTIVE DEPENDENCE.

PUT THIS ON! ALL OF IT—VICTORY IS FOR THOSE WHO DO—OUR FAITH AND OBEDIENCE TO THE VOICE OF OUR BATTLE CAPTAIN IS REWARDED. ARE YOU ARMOURED UP?