

April 13th, 2025

## **Ephesians 6:11-13 - Stand Firm (Sermon Transcript)**

Let me give you a, a hypothetical scenario, and hopefully this has never happened to you. It's the middle of the night because of course it would be right, and your smoke alarms start going off and you realize your house is on fire now.

Julie and I will go back and forth with this question and, and I've asked our leadership team this question. Let's say you wake up, you realize what's going on. Your family is safe and outside. All right? And the pets too. Okay? Put them in all your pets. They're outside now. Now that the most important things in your life are outside and you've double checked, what would be like three items you would take out if you had just a few moments?

What are you gonna grab? Okay. You're gonna think through like, Hey, what is, what is something I need right now? So I'm gonna take my wallet, my car keys, and probably my laptop. Okay. I feel like I can just, that's a good start. Everything else after that is just, it can be replaced. I can, and I can replace those things, but having to deal with the DMV and the bank after my house burnt down seems awful.

So I'm at least grabbing my wallet. Okay? But what happens is in this moment, there is a, you see what's going around? And you're not laying in bed, what happens? There's an urgency that takes place. I've gotta get out of here. I gotta grab what I need and move. We talked last week about how in the Christian life, if we are not careful, we become complacent.

We failed to see what's going on around us, and we lay back and this is what I've shown this before. And I will show this for as long as I need to. All right. This picture right here. You know this meme? Okay? Yeah. We all do, right? This is, this is what you're, this is fine. And oftentimes this is how we live the Christian life.

Just we maybe are aware of what's going on, or maybe we're not aware and we're like, Hey, this is fine. This is what complacency in the Christian life and spiritual warfare looks like. But when we look at Ephesians chapter six, we're gonna see urgency. That this is not a time to just lay back and be complacent.

It's a time to move. It's to grab what is needed in this case, the armor of God, so that we can stand in an evil day. So if last week we looked at complacency, today we're



looking at urgency. 'cause here's why. You cannot live without the armor of God. You cannot live without it. This is what I hope that we grasp today.

Leaving here today, I cannot live without the armor of God because if I think I can live the Christian life on my own or without the protection that the Lord has given me, we will be defeated. We will give into the schemes of our enemy. We are at war against an enemy far greater. Then we give credit on our own.

We lose. But in an equipping power of God, we stand firm against our defeated enemy. Let's read Ephesians six, 10 through 13. What we're about to do here, the reading of scripture, it will be the most important thing that we do together this morning as we hear from God's word today. 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 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 up 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, to keep alerts with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints and also for me, that words may be given to me and opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel for which I am an ambassador in chains that I may declare it boldly.

As I ought to speak, this is the word of the Lord. Amen. Father, open our eyes to behold the wonderful truths from your word. Help us to see the urgency of this text, to be aware of what is happening around us, and to be confident knowing that you have equipped us with your armor as we fight in our spiritual warfare.

And it's your name we pray. Amen. Have you ever been asked a question? And or someone has told you to do something and your first response is, how do I even do that? You ever been in a situation like this? Like, I'm like, I have no idea what to do



here. Okay. And I feel like I, I'm, I'm one that can like, adapt and like adjust, but then there's sometimes I'm like, I don't even know what you're saying here.

I can't comprehend it. It's like, I, I hear what you're saying, but I'm gonna need more information because I'm just at a loss. This is kind of where I feel about math sometimes when I'm helping the kids, where I'm like, I don't even know if this is math. This looks like computer coding a little bit. I don't know what's going on.

How does this work? How gives the answer to a manner in which something is accomplished? That's the whole purpose of the word. How

it is as if in this text that the Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul is gonna say or understand like what the question's gonna be. If verse 10 says, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might, and it just stayed there, and there's no verse 11 through the end of the chapter, the natural question is going to be, okay.

How do I do that? How? How do I be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might tell, tell me how. Well, that's why verse 11, 12 and 13 are there with us to tell us exactly how we be strong in the Lord, in the strength of his mind. God does not leave us guessing. He does not leave us wondering, we do not have to Google search this, or do we not, we don't have to put in an input on chat GPT that says, Hey, can you gimme five ways in Middleburg Florida?

I'm, uh, you know, given all the details of how I can stand firm in the Lord, God tells us exactly what we need to do. We need to put on the whole armor of God, and then he even gives us the why. Yeah. Both of these things frustrate me when I don't know the how, and I don't know the why. This is a, we struggle this with our kids, right?

They just wanna know the why. Like why do I have to do this? Why do I have to do that? And I think it's a great question because I think oftentimes it's good to know why you're doing something. Why do I need to put on the whole armor of God? Verse 12 tells us we've got a very serious and strategic and powerful enemy.

And so in the Lord's sovereign grace, he's gonna help us understand and put into practice verse 10, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. How? By putting on the whole armor of God. Why? Because we are not at war with flesh and blood. We are at war against a very supernatural and spiritual enemy.

And as we keep continuing on, we're going to see, hey, what is the armor of God? And who is our enemy in our spiritual warfare? God knows exactly what we need and why we need it. How comforting is this? This? This has been extremely



comforting for me this week. Like God knows exactly what I need in order to fight sin.

It's not like he just threw, threw me to the wolves and said, good luck. No. He knows exactly what we need. He knows what you need. And the sin that you are fighting and the life that you are living, he knows exactly what you need. He's not at a loss. I'm like, man, that Mr. Jim, he's got me stumped. I don't know what to do with him.

He knows exactly he needs, he knows that that should be comforting for us. That where we are right now, and here, here's even the best part. 30 years from now when our lives look different and a lot's happened over 30 years, we're gonna have maybe different pains and hurts and struggles. The Lord knows what we need then too.

He's a good and sovereign and gracious king that equips us with everything we need. So as we look into verses 11, 12, and 13, today, we're gonna see what the armor of God is, who our enemy is, and the importance of why we need to put on the whole armor of God right now today. Let me read verse 11 one more time for us.

Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. Let's break this verse down. God has provided his whole armor for us to put on. God has provided his whole armor for us to put on. Verse 11 starts with these two words put on. Can you guys say Put on, put on, put on, circle them, highlight them.

It's a, it's a verb. It's calling us to do something. It's something that, it's not just listed there. It's, Hey, this is something you need to do. Put on the whole armor of God. This word put on is, is a, is a word that Paul uses quite a bit in his writings. He's used it in Colossians, Ephesians, and Romans, and it's this idea of clothing yourself.

It's putting on your clothes, put on the whole armor of God like you would put on a jacket or a pair of shoes or a pair of boots. It, it requires intentional action. In doing so. Yeah, but in these words that put on is actually more reflecting of our identity in Christ. He says multiple times throughout the New Testament, put on Christ.

This is who you are. You are someone that puts on the armor of God. It's not something you just do today or next week. This is who you are. You are a armor bearer. You put it on daily. Go to war, fight your sin, and you keep it on. You. Don't take it off, you keep it on. This is who we are as Christians, and here's the reason why.



The Lord knows that we are exposed in ourself. We are exposed. This is why you, Hey, put on clothes here. This is, I don't understand this about kids. Okay. The, especially like the little ones, they go through a phase where it'll be eight degrees outside and they're in short sleeves. And you're like, Hey, put your jacket on, right?

Why do we tell 'em to do this? Because we know they're cold. All right? They could be tough as much as they want to, but they're blue. Okay? We know they're cold, all right? Or when they go swimming, and like right now is this weird time where it's, it's hot outside and it feels like swimming weather. So they get in the pool and you can tell the water's cold, and you're like, Hey, are you cold?

And you're like, it's not cold, right? Because we know what they need. We know they're exposed to harmful elements for their bodies. And so we say, Hey, put on a jacket. Clothe yourself, because we know that in the extremes, it's harmful for us. This is what God knows. He says, put on the whole armor of God because without it, you're exposed to the devil's attacks.

You will die. You will be destroyed. You will give in, man, how gracious of our Lord to step in and intervene here. Amen.

God doesn't leave us defenseless. He gives us everything, everything we need. He doesn't leave us exposed. In Psalm 23 verse one, the Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want what this means. What David is saying in this very popular verse is the Lord is my shepherd. Everything I need. It is from him. He's given it to me.

I don't have a dean. I don't have a wants because the Lord has graciously provided it. How gracious it is to say, for the Lord to say, you're exposed to the enemy's attacks. Let me give you something to clothe yourself in so that you're protected and fully protected. This is who God is. He's a God That covers us.

Let's go all the way back to Genesis chapter three. The most heartbreaking passage of scripture in all of the Bible. Adam and Eve have just given in to the temptation of the devil, and they realize they've sinned, and they also realize they're naked and they're shame and they try to cover themselves.

And guess what? It's not good enough. Sinners cannot cover themselves and hide from a holy God. And here in this passage, after God deals with Adam and Eve, and he deals with Satan and gives this incredible promise to Eve that says, listen, the serpent is gonna bruise your hill, but your offspring is gonna crush his head.

Our first glimpse of what Jesus is gonna do, this's coming Friday is what we celebrate, right? He's going to crush the enemy. Like you don't even have to read



the end of the book to know what happens. You get three chapters in and God's like, spoiler alert. Jesus wins. There's no sus suspense there. And after all of these events, God takes a sacrifice and he takes it and he covers Adam and Eve perfectly knowing exactly what they need.

Our God is a God who covers us with his righteousness and his sin and over our sin 'cause he loves us. He does not leave us exposed.

He says, okay, you're exposed. I'm going to equip you with my whole armor. Let's put up verse 11 again. Okay. It says, put on the whole armor of God. Let's, we're gonna get the, the whole armor in just a second. Can we say Of God. Of, of God. All right. This is the source of the whole armor. Like when we study these passages, I hope you're seeing this is how you can study the whole Bible.

There's lots of different clues. When you see of God, it usually means what just happened before. It comes directly from God. He is the source. God does not outsource his armor. It comes from him. In fact, it's his armor. So I think we, we think of Jesus and God. Maybe just, you know, they got first century clothing on.

But scripture tells us that God is armored up. Let's read this verse from Isaiah 59. Truth is lacking and he who departs from evil makes himself a pre. The Lord saw it and it displeased him that there was no justice, there was no dealing of sin. He saw that there was no man and wondered that there was no one to intercede.

Then his own arm brought him salvation and his righteousness upheld him. He put on righteousness as a breastplate and a helmet of salvation On his head, he put on garments of vengeance for clothing and wrapped himself in Zal as a cloak. Here's the cool part about the armor of God. God's already doing it.

He looked out and saw sin and said, no one's gonna do anything. I'll do it. Let me throw on the helmet of salvation and the breastplate of righteousness. I will go to war and I will defeat sin. And then he says, put on my armor, my armor, God is the source of the armor that we put on. We don't buy it from Amazon, we don't give it from, get it from another person.

You don't become a member at Grace Life Church. And after you go through it and you sign the covenant and you say, here's your care package, you get your armor, congratulations. This is provided to every Christian. Amen. You don't have to be a Christian for 20 years to unlock it. Amen. The moment Jesus saves you, he equips you to fight the enemy.



So if. The armor of God comes from God himself, and it is his armor. What does this mean for us? For one, we gotta put down our armor what we think is good enough. Why in the world will we want to equip ourselves with something that we think is good enough? Why would we wanna do that? David says in Psalm 44, for not in my bow do I trust.

Nor can my swords save me, but you have saved us from our foes and have put to shame those who hate us. Look, it's not your righteousness that protects you. You're not the one that saves your brain, the helmet of salvation. You're not putting on your own shoes. And yet we try to do it. We try to put on our own armor.

Thinking our knowledge will be good enough, thinking our good works will be good enough. Thinking our intellect and our ability to speak will be good enough as a sword. No, your armor stinks. It's worthless and that's okay. 'cause God's armor's good and it's sufficient. His armor never changes. When you look at armor throughout the, the history, right?

We're looking at a Roman soldier and the armor that they would wear. Armor looks a lot different now, right? Warfare looks a lot different. It changes. God's armor never changes. You need a shield of faith and 300 ad in the middle of Africa. Yeah, it's the same armor that we have today. It never changes.

Last couple weeks have been really interesting for me as a baseball fan. Okay. For one, the Yankees who I think the devil may root for, I don't know, but that's a different story. The Yankees came out with a new bat. Did you guys hear about this? Probably not 'cause the torpedo bat. Okay. Now, as a baseball fan, they've been using the same type of bat for like.

Uh, over a hundred years and this bat comes out and it's different. They've, they've emphasized the area where the ball is going to hit the bat. Okay? And the bat looks weird. Most people can't recognize it, but it looks weird to me. And you just think like over 150 years, they're adapting to this game, trying to get better.

God's armor never does that. Yeah, God's armor. God doesn't say, ah, it's a new century. There's a digital age. Let's change the armor up so we can adapt. No, it's the same armor. It's, it never changes and it's ageless. It never has to be updated. It's eternal. And one day we're gonna get to take it off 'cause we don't need to fight anymore.

As we talked about last week, it's ageless armor. I read recently how. Millennials. I'm a millennial. Where are my millennials at? Alright, some of y'all don't know You're millennials. Okay, we'll talk about that later, right? I read this, this thread on Twitter





about how this guy was just like, man, I went to work today and I've had to, I spent early in my career explaining to the older generation how to use computers, and now the younger generation, gen Zs come along and they don't know how to use computers.

Because it's all on a phone. And so now millennials are training both sides of their generation. How to use a computer like this. I don't know why everything has to land on our shoulders, but it does. Okay. I can't figure it out. But you think of how when we grew up, like for me man, it was dial tone and then you just adapted.

Then you had, we plugged in a tv, it was red, white, and yellow. Yeah. Right. And then they added blue and green down the road. I don't, I couldn't tell you why. And then we went to HD and we're all for a computer. It's VGA, right? And then it's HDMI. Then we're streaming and we're just adapting along the way.

Right. Gen Zers come along and like, everything's on the cloud, it's fine. And I'm like, listen this, we've gone through all these different changes because technology changes. The Christians today, were not adapting. Like, Hey, we, we got new spiritual warfare. It's, it's updated, it's version 3.0 from the Lord.

They didn't have different fighting back then. They didn't have what we have to deal with now. They did. It just looked differently. It's ageless and it fits perfectly whether you're a new believer, an old believer, the armor that God equips you with fits. We see this in the story of David and Goliath.

David goes to Saul and tries to put on Saul's armor and it doesn't fit. He said, I can't fight in this. This is, and so I will fight in the Lord's strength. The Lord doesn't weigh us down with armor that we, that doesn't fit right. It fits perfectly for exactly what we need. A shield of faith is good for us.

A helmet of salvation fits perfectly 'cause it's God's armor. He knows exactly what you are dealing with. I mean, your heart is different than my heart, but your heart also fights sin because my heart also fights sin too. Like he knows. He knows what's gonna happen in a couple weeks and he knows what I'm gonna do with then, and he's already equipped and prepared me for it.

I praise the Lord for that. So whether you're a new believer or you're old, you've been a believer for years and decades. The armor of God always fits. You don't have to make adjustments, you just gotta put it on what? Grace. That the Lord doesn't leave us defenseless.





And yet in this, he expects us to put on the whole armor of God. Can y'all say whole armor? Whole armor, whole armor. Yeah. This is not just put your shoes on. It's the whole armor as we work through this. In fact, the way this is written, if you think you can just take the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God, and be fine, what the text is saying is you will lose.

It's all or nothing here, right? You know, I don't really need the shield. I'm fine. No. All or nothing is the way this text says. It's just similar to how Paul writes the fruit of the spirit. You have all or nothing, right? This is what the, the markings of someone who is in Jesus put on the whole armor of God.

So if we think, Hey, I just need a sword. I got it. I'll just attack you with the Bible. That's all I need. The devil can work around it. The enemy can work around it. You think of bow and arrows from a long, I mean some lightsaber stuff, I guess. I don't know. But you need all of it. And this put on the whole armor of God is covered in urgency.

This is not something we do next week. It's right now. Put it on, put it on it's go time, put it on. We, we where the element, it's the attack is happening. Battles now put it on. The whole armor of God. And why do we need such urgency in this? Why do we need to clothe ourselves and, and God's whole armor?

Because we wrestle against a strategic and strong and supernatural enemy. Let's go to verse 12 here. After you write these three points down, strategic, strong, and supernatural. The beginning of verse 12, it says, sorry, verse 11. In verse 11, it says, put on the whole armor of God. That underline that word that, okay.

It's a four letter word that we often just skip over. It's often translated in your English Bibles so that this is a purpose statement. What's the purpose of putting on the whole armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil? This is the whole reason why we're putting on the whole armor of God.

It's just not an accessory to the Christian life. It's so that you can stand. In fact, the whole purpose of Ephesians six is so that we will stand and stand firm in an evil day against the attacks of the enemy and standing in the hope of Jesus Christ alone. This is the purpose of why we equip ourselves.

Because we have a strategic, strong and supernatural enemy. And Paul, right out the gate says, Hey, we don't wrestle against flesh and blood,

which I think is very significant and I think is a tool that the devil uses in our fight. You know, when you're wrestling, your kid's will against your will and you, Hey.



Okay. Can you clean your room? Can you do this for me? No. Ephesians six tells us that's spiritual warfare. They're actively at war of their own flesh against what they, what the Lord wants them to do.

It's spiritual, married couples. Have you ever been in a disagreement? Yeah. Okay. Right. Like never man. Julie and I never been in argument. She's in kid life right now, so she can't even argue that. So, but there are times when you're just like, why are we at odds with one another? You been there like something happened.

You're like, it's just over. Something ridiculous too. Maybe because we don't wrestle against flesh and blood. It's spiritual warfare and the devil would love to tear apart families. What about when we talk about division in the church? I mean when, when we come against disagreements with brothers and sisters of Christ, it's not flesh and blood.

It's something supernatural and spiritual is spiritual warfare.

It's supernatural. 'cause in verse 12, it points to the, all of this. I mean, rulers, authorities, cosmic powers. Over this present darkness against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Now, we don't have a whole lot of time to break through verse 12, okay? But this is not a hierarchy of Satan and his demons.

It is explaining the supernatural nature of our enemy that there is a ruler of this world, and his name is the Devil or Satan. We'll get to into him just a little bit. And there is a cosmic power. You can say, well, this is, oh man, pastor Matt, we're in conspiracy level here. No, this is what scripture teaches.

It is a spiritual warfare man. The longer you're a Christian, the more you kind of start to see it. When you realize, Hey man, this is, this is not fleshing blood. I'm dealing with. We see it all throughout the gospel of Jesus and his disciples dealing with an enemy that seeks to devour anybody that it can.

And not only is it supernatural, but it's personal. There is a significance why Paul uses the word wrestle. We wrestle not, I'm not a wrestler, but when you talk about wrestling, it's close combat. It's grappling, it's wrestling. Hands are on arms and it's back and forth, and hands are in your face. Think of this.

This is your fight against sin. It's not just distant, like it's over there. I'll, I could deal with it later. It's close combat. It's wrestling. It's in the mud being thrown around. It's personal. You don't think our enemy wants to tear you up? He does. It's personal, which means if we're going to fight an enemy, we need to know our enemy.



And the Lord tells us exactly who he is and that's why we need to take the time to learn about him. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood. And then we get all of this list, but in verse 11, it tells us so that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. Let's talk about the devil. All right.

I don't like to spend a lot of time talking about 'em,

but we're going to, all right. He is a created angel, cast out of heaven due to pride. Ezekiel 28, 12 through 16 tells us A, gives us a glimpse of this. Son of man raised the lamentation over the king of Tyra and say to him, thus, says the Lord. You were the signe of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect and beauty.

You were in Eden, the garden of God. Every precious stone was your covering. Verse 14, you were an anointed guardian. I placed you. You were on the holy mountain of God. In the midst of the stones of fire you walked, you were blameless in your ways from the day you were created. Till unrighteousness was found in you in the abundance of your trade, you were filled with violence in your midst and you sinned.

So I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you. Oh guardian cherub from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was proud 'cause of your beauty. You creped your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I casted you to the ground. I exposed you before Kings to feast their eyes on you.

The devil. Perfect and be beauty. Desired to be God and his pride thought he was something better than he was, and God said, I cast you to the ground. Jesus even talks about this with his disciples in Luke 10 18, he says, and he said to them, I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I mean.

From what I see from scripture, it happened before even Genesis one began the accounts of the Garden of Eden in Genesis chapter three, meaning this warfare has been going on a quite a long time.

Spiritual nature.

The devil didn't stop there. Becomes a serpent is the one who attempts Adam and Eve, which in my opinion, there's enough biblical evidence to avoid snakes altogether. That's what the Satan chose to, you know, his second choice was probably a dog. I don't know, but oh yeah. See, we don't wrestle against flesh and blood.



All right. His second choice cat. So here, so here, trying to rally y'all. Make sure y'all pay attention. Okay. He tempts Adam and Eve. Hey, you'll be like, God is what he wanted. He tears them apart and separates them from the beginning of time. Our enemy, the devil, has been fighting against the creator God, and this is who he is.

He's a deceiver. Revelations 12 nine through. 12 nine says, look at this verse. He's a deceiver. The great dragon was thrown down, the ancient serpent, who is called the devil in Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was thrown down to the earth and his angels were thrown down with him. He's a deceiver.

He's a liar. John 8 44 says, Jesus says, telling the Pharisees you belong to your father, the devil who's a liar. One Corinthians seven, five tells us he's a tempter.

He's trying to tempt us into rejecting the things of God. One Peter five, eight, as we saw last week, is that he's a devourer. He does not care about you. He wants nothing for you. He wants you to tear you apart and will do everything he can. That's. The meaning behind the word schemes. It's a craftiness.

This is his method. This is how he tries to accomplish defeat in the life of men and women. The King James version says, against the wiles of the devil. I like that word. Okay, here's why. 'cause it makes me think of Wiley Coyote. Y'all know Wiley Coyote? What's he trying to do? He's trying to get that roadrunner.

He's gonna try everything he can to get that roadrunner. Fake mirage image on the side of the mountain. Yeah, try it. Dynamite. Try it. Anvil. Anvil. Try it. He's doing everything he can to get the roadrunner. This is the enemy. He's trying to do everything he can. Crafty, conniving, manipulative

to get us. Here's what this looks like. He gets us to try to question God's word. Everything we read in Genesis chapter three verses Adam and Eve is what he's doing today. Hey, did God really say you need to love your neighbor? He wasn't talking about this neighbor. Hey, I know God said that you should not lust after a woman, but one, one glimpse.

It won't hurt. It's fine. God doesn't care. Hey, you need money. You need it. You, you need it. Go get more of it. God says the love of money, you're not loving it. You just need it for your family. It's okay. He even tried to throw this at Jesus. You've heard that it's been said in here like over, he's questioning God's word, man, we faced this haven, wouldn't we?



Does God really love someone like me? Yeah. He tries to strip us of our identity in Christ. How could God love someone like you? Does he know what you did? That's disgusting. You ever had that thought?

I know many of you have. 'cause you're trying to fight sin. You're just like, I, I, man. Can God be merciful towards me? Yes, he's gracious and merciful.

Man, you're not really protected. God doesn't love you. God won't keep you. He won't hold you for eternity. Yes, he will. And yet, why is the enemy's voice so loud? Hmm.

He tries to entice us to believe that something sinful is good. The devil is good at this. Hey, that won't hurt anybody. That won't hurt anybody. Listen, I eat that candy bar, it'll make you feel so much better. Jesus can't eat. Give you a candy bar right now. Eat it. Let's keep going. Right? Can you hear that little temptation happening, enticing you to give in to something opposing what God has said in his word?

And then he even tries to trick us into the thinking. We're good enough, man, you're doing great. You're the, you're God's favorite. And when that starts to build up this pride. And here's what I find so interesting about we don't wrestle against flesh and blood,

is that we look at this passage and we say, man, the devil, he's coming after me. And here's what I think. I don't think many of us have ever had an encounter with the devil. 'cause he's not God. He's not everywhere at once. He's only in one place. I don't know where he is right now. The Lord know does the Lord's got tabs on him.

The spiritual warfare you're facing is your own flesh. It's you. You can't blame it on the devil. You can blame it on the schemes of the devil. It's part of his living in a fallen world, but it's your desire to be rich and greedy and prideful and lustful. It's your heart that needs to be. Here's what Peter says in one Peter five, eight, sorry, one Peter two 11.

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh. Flesh, which wage war against your soul.

The devil will even try to take the blame so that you'll fall.

This is what he did to Adam and Eve. He does not care as long as you fall with him. We cannot let our guard down when fighting sin. We cannot let our guard down when fighting sin.



When I was in elementary school, um, was living outside of Atlanta and my parents took me to a tribulation house. Have you guys ever been to a tribulation house? Yeah. Or a hell house? Alright. Do not recommend. Okay. Here's why. The whole purpose is to entice fear on someone,

and oftentimes it, it, it leads to not a, I I don't want to, I'm not beholding Jesus. I'm beholding what I don't want. And so here's what happened to me. I'm like nine. Um, I'm, it's dark. It's, we're going through. People's heads are being pretend chopped off and they're like, this is the end of the world. And I'm like, man, and I'm just, I have no idea what's going on.

I can remember vividly what I was wearing. I was wearing black jeans and white tennis shoes, and I had a big puffy Miami Dolphins. Till jacket, starter jacket. Okay. Not even kidding. It's back when I was a Dolphins fan, I'm wearing this and all of a sudden I feel these hands grab my shoulders. I'm already frightened.

I turn around and it is someone dressed up as the devil and I had no idea he came outta nowhere. And you don't think, I don't still don't have dreams about that now like, man, it got me. And as I'm writing through this text, this text, this sermon, all I can think about is the devil grabbing me by the shoulders.

And I had no idea he was there. And it's as if the Lord was saying, you gotta keep your head on a swivel because sin is coming after you. You don't know it's there and it's attacking you out of nowhere you've been there, right? Like where in the world did that? Why did I feel the need to lie about that right then and there?

Why did I need to, like, what is going on? One John two 15 through 16, do not love the world or the things in the world for if anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the desires of the flesh and desires of the eyes and the pride of life is not from the Father, but it's from the world.

It why Paul says in one Corinthians 16, be watchful. Stand firm in the faith. Act like men. Be strong. Head on a swivel. You know your surroundings. You know what's going on as you fight sin

and because of the strength and strategy of our enemy, we have to take up the whole armor of God. We get to verse 13, my favorite word in the whole Bible is right here at the beginning of it. Therefore, it's not that one. Therefore, can you guys say therefore, therefore, therefore, therefore. When you read this word in the Bible, you have to ask why is it?



Therefore, we've just read verse 12, because of our enemy who is strategic and supernatural. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day. Today is the evil day. Tomorrow's the evil day. Every day is an evil day, and having done all to stand firm, this is what the Lord desires for us to stand firm.

To stand firm, so we must take up the whole armor of God and stand firm in the face of the enemy. Once again, there's urgency this time that take up is different than put on, put on as a clothing yourself. And this is who God is. This is the armor of God. Take up is grab your go bag. It's go time. In fact, it's a word used for final preparations for the battle.

I've got all my gear. I've got everything. Let's go. It's attack. It's active. It's not passive. It's go time without the strength of God and the protection of spiritual armor is impossible to stand against the attacks of the enemy. You say, well, do I really need it? Pastor Matt? Yeah. I've watched too many people, I love think they can stand on their own and they can't.

We've probably seen in our own lives where we just have to sit back and say, all right, Lord, I, this is what I need. I need you. Pastor Charles Spurgeon says, if you tell me when God permits a Christian to lay aside his armor, I will tell you when Satan has left off temptation. In other words, the only time we lay down the armor.

Is when the enemy has been fully defeated and will never fight us again. And that day's coming 'cause scripture tells us that Jesus has the eternal victory already. But right now, now is the time to resist. There is no retreat in the Christian life. That's why Paul says at the end of verse 11, having done all, you've done everything you can.

You've done everything in your power to fight. You've put on you've, you're going after this. It's going to take everything you've got to fight your sin. This is not a weak and passive fight. It is wrestling close combat, personal I employing every possible measure to ready oneself through truth, faith, righteousness, and the proclamation of the gospel.

It means getting rid of anything that will weigh you down. Anything that will take your eyes off the Lord, you're standing firm.

But here's the reality of it. We don't stand firm in ourselves. We can do everything we can having done all to stand, but ultimately everything we do is not enough without Jesus.





I don't know if he intended these words to be this way, but Tom Petty. This is a different illustration. Some of y'all are like, what? He wrote these words. Well, I won't back down. No, I won't Back down. You could stand me up at the gates of hell. But I won't back down. And this is what the Lord is telling us in this passage here.

The gates of hell will not prevail against his church. You can steer hell in the face and still have victory because of Jesus. This is the hope that we have. Our enemy is defeated, but we don't fight in our own strength. We fight in the strength of Jesus. We stand on His strength is why he says in Romans five, two.

Through him. We have also obtained access by faith into his grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. One Corinthians 15. Now, I would remind you brothers of the gospel I preached to you, which you received in which you stand. Here's why we stand on Jesus. 'cause earlier in Ephesians one 16 verse 23 verse, let's start with verse 21.

For above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. And Jesus put all things under his feet and gave us, gave him as head over all things to the church. Back in Ephesians one 16, we see the list of verse 12 mentioned that Jesus stands on top of them.

Jesus is the solid ground that our lives must be built on. This past week, we went to the fair and Merit has been the longest time wanting to do the, the rope game, where you try to climb the rope and it the ladder and you hit the buzzer and you get a prize. She's watching the video on YouTube on how to do it scientifically, and so she's ready.

I mean, she's talked about it. She's saved her birthday money, she's gonna do it. So we get there and this guy, he's older, he's got a very raspy voice and he's like, you can do it. And I'm literally in this moment thinking of my sermon. I'm like, this is how I'm closing out. This is exactly how the devil sounds in my opinion.

Okay, I didn't tell this guy this. He's got a microphone. It feels very loud, but if you walk by, no, you can't hear anybody else talking. It's just right there. He says, let me show you how to do it. And he gets up there and makes it look so easy. It's fine. He gets up there, hits the buzzer three times. He gets back down and then he does it again and I can see on merit's face, she's like, I've got that.

I can do this. And I know exactly what's gonna happen. She gets on this ladder and flips around and he's like, oh, it's fine. You get two more turns, you've got this. It's



easy flips again. And she's frustrated now, and I think this is how it looks when we try to do things in our own power. The enemy says, you've got this.

It's fine. You'll be able to stand, you'll be able to be sturdy, you'll be able to balance. But the only solid ground is the ground in which Jesus stands on. Amen. We do not have to try on our own. Jesus is firm. He is a solid ground and we stand on his life and his finished work. In fact, when we look at the final verse, let's go back to verse 12 here, 13, sorry.

As we close out, 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, this word stand that we see throughout, we'll see in verse 14. It is a fixed, confident position that the core is actually in place, engaged, ready to go. 'cause if you know a soldier, their feet work matter too.

There is a balance and it's all because of Jesus For the Christian life, we stand our lives on him and Him alone. But that doesn't mean we stand complacent. We stand in urgency, ready to attack our sin and put it to death knowing that Jesus is sufficient in everything he's provided for us. Father, thank you for your word.

