

Put on the Full Armor of God ... and Stand

(Ephesians 6:10-18) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. {11} Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. {12} For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. {13} Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. {14} Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, {15} and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. {16} In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. {17} Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. {18} And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

What we have before us is nothing less than a full-scale war. But it is more than a fight for lives. Christ said, **(Mark 8:36) What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?** This is a spiritual battle that rages in the world, in our government, in our people and yes, even in our own hearts. And in this spiritual battle it is important that we understand who the enemy really is. Paul provides this answer: **(Ephesians 6:10-12) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. {11} Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. {12} For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**

Our enemy is not the president, suicide-assisting doctors, or a death oriented media. They all reflect the spiritual bankruptcy promoted by Satan. Concerning him Peter writes: **(1 Peter 5:8) Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.**

We won't beat abortion or euthanasia with the demise of pro-death leaders. We also won't win with just an increase of pro-life leaders. Until we can effect change in the hearts of people, efforts to protect life will be shallow. To win the war we need to quit going after the humanitarian missionaries of the pro- death movement and go for the heart.

Our tools for fighting this war are unique and described for us as follows: **Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.** We are to be fully suited up to conduct this effort. You can't play football with just a helmet. So also, you can't conduct spiritual warfare with half a uniform.

We are to wear a special belt. **Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your**

waist. We do not lie to lure potential clients in our centers. We do not portray ourselves as compassionate when we have no intention of caring for those others do not want. We are to be pure. **With the breastplate of righteousness in place.** Our minds and motives are to reflect God's will.

We are to be prepared to witness with good news. **With your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.** Peter said it this way: **(1 Peter 3:15) But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.** We must at all times be ready to talk about the God of eternal life.

When in battle and the enemy seeks to harm you, stand firm with your faith as your shield. **Take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.** It is that faith which enables us to stand up to those who seek to force their religious views of individual freedoms to the cost of human life on all of us.

Protect your most vulnerable part of the body your head, with the Word of God. **Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.** We can learn all we want about the effects of dehydration on the human body or the pain caused to an unborn child in abortion. But ultimately, it is the Word of God which changes the heart. We are told, **(Hebrews 4:12) For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, Joints and marrow; it judges thoughts and attitudes of the heart.**

This is how you lower the abortion rate. This is how you find the stamina to care for the dying patient. This is how you face your own impending death while others are suggesting you should die rather than be a burden on your family.

With all this having been said Paul concludes with these words: **(Ephesians 6:18) And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.** You finally are on the winning side when you maintain communication with the One in charge.

I encourage you to keep up the fight for life by always remembering that this is really a fight for faith. You cannot lose, despite the odds. You cannot fail, despite the way it looks sometimes. You are children of God, objects of his love, instruments for his work and victors over all that is evil. Never forget and never lose heart. Amen.

Pastor Robert Fleischmann - National Director Christian Life Resources