



Mike Mozingo—Lead Pastor January 14, 2024

“VICTORY THROUGH TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS”

The Whole Armor of God

¹⁰ A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. **Ephesians 6:10-13 NLT**

A QUICK REFRESH FROM LAST WEEK...

- **BE STRONG IN THE LORD.**
- **WE ARE TO PUT ON ALL OF THE ARMOR.**
- **WE HAVE TO KNOW OUR ENEMY AND HIS STRATEGIES.**
- **WE NEED TO KNOW THE ONE TRUE GOD PERSONALLY.**

¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. ¹⁵ For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. ¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. **Ephesians 6:14-18 NLT**

HOW DO WE GET READY FOR BATTLE?

¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. ¹⁵ For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. **Ephesians 6:14-15 NLT**

STAND YOUR GROUND.

- Draw a line, decide, commit.
- Don't back down.

THE BELT OF TRUTH

- Saturate your mind and heart with the word of God.
- “Gird up your loins” – prepare oneself for something difficult or challenging. • The belt is what holds things together and in place.
- Get ready to fight by drawing close to the truth regularly.
- When you know the truth, you see clearly the lies of the enemy. • This could also mean truthful attitude or person of integrity.

THE BODY ARMOR OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

- The righteousness of Christ covers us.

²¹ Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, ²² throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³ Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴ Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

Ephesians 4:21-24 NLT

- To be righteous means to obey God's commandments and live in a way that is honorable to Him.
- Our lifestyle either fortifies against the attacks of the enemy or makes us vulnerable to the enemy.

⁴ Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God. ⁵ And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, and there is no sin in him. ⁶ Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know him or understand who he is. ⁷ Dear children, don't let anyone deceive you about this: When people do what is right, it shows that they are righteous, even as Christ is righteous. ⁸ But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God. ¹⁰ So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God. **1 John 3:4-10 NLT**

⁵ Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. **Romans 8:5-6 NLT**

FOR SHOES, PUT ON THE PEACE THAT COMES FROM THE GOOD NEWS. ⁶

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.” **John 14:6 NLT**

¹¹ We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, ¹² always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the kingdom of

darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins. Colossians 1:11-14 NLT

Next steps for me today...

- To live a life of righteousness. •
- To put my faith in Jesus.

- To listen to God's truth.
- To draw near to God through His Word and Prayer.