



Mike Mozingo—Lead Pastor January 7, 2024

BE STRONG IN THE LORD!

The Whole Armor of God

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 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. 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. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. Ephesians 6:10-18 NLT

HOW CAN WE BE STRONG IN THE LORD?

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Ephesians 6:10 NLT

Finally, “here” means that he speaks *in light of* all he has previously said.

- In light of all that **God has done for you.**
- In light of the glorious standing you have as a **child of God.** • In light of His great plan of the ages that God has **made you part of.** • In light of the plan for Christian **maturity and growth.**
- In light of the conduct God calls every believer to live. • In light of the **filling** of the Spirit and our **walk** in the Spirit. • In

light of all this, there is a **battle to fight** in the Christian life.

WE ARE TO PUT ON ALL OF THE ARMOR.

Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. Ephesians 6:11 NLT

- You are *in* a spiritual battle and if you are ignorant of it or ignore that fact, you probably aren't winning the battle.
- The spiritual life is not a **playground** but a **battle ground.** • We have to be well **equipped and trained** for the battle. • As a follower of Jesus, we have to realize **there is a battle** and **there is a devil.**

We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NLT

WE HAVE TO KNOW OUR ENEMY AND HIS STRATEGIES. 70% of Americans believe in the devil. Half believe in a literal devil and half believe in a figurative devil. 32% of Christians don't believe in a literal devil.

- **Jesus saw the devil fall.**

When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, “Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!” “Yes,” he told them, “I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning!” Luke 10:17-18 NLT

- **Demons and their demonic rankings.**

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. Ephesians 6:12 NLT

MORE IMPORTANTLY WE NEED TO KNOW THE ONE TRUE GOD.

Paul writes in chapter 1 of Ephesians...

I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of

*Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church.
And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all*

things everywhere with himself. Ephesians 1:16-23 NLT

Next steps for me today...

- **To know the one true God by faith in Jesus Christ his son.**
- **To grow in my knowledge of God and his mighty power.**
- **To realize I'm walking in on a battlefield and need to be ready.**