



Part 3: Taking a Stand

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Ephesians 6:10-12

¹⁰ 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.

Simple Truths

1. Our victory never comes from our own effort but from God alone (vs. 10)
2. God has given us spiritual armor so that we can take a stand (vs. 12a)
 - a. Belt of Truth
 - b. Breastplate of Righteousness
 - c. Sandals of Readiness
 - d. Shield of Faith
 - e. Helmet of Salvation
 - f. Sword of the Spirit
 - g. Prayer
3. The purpose of the weapons is so that we can take a stand against the enemy (vs. 12b)
4. We are involved in a supernatural struggle (vs. 12)

Three Common Approaches to the Supernatural

- 1) Denial – nothing around us is connected to the supernatural
- 2) Paranoia – everything around us is connected to the supernatural
- 3) Balanced – the spiritual realm and the natural realm all belong to God and are under His power and control

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them,
because the one who is in you is greater than
the one who is in the world.

– 1 John 4:4

(Continues on back)

A Story of Spiritual Victory: 2 Kings 6:8-17

⁸ Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, "I will set up my camp in such and such a place."

⁹ The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there."

¹⁰ So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places.

¹¹ This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Will you not tell me which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?"

¹² "None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom."

¹³ "Go, find out where he is," the king ordered, "so I can send men and capture him." The report came back: "He is in Dothan." ¹⁴ Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there.

They went by night and surrounded the city. ¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked.

¹⁶ "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

What we need to know:

- 1) The spiritual struggle is real
- 2) God is our strength
- 3) God is our protection
- 4) Our eyes need to be open

Next Steps

BAPTISM: If you have decided to follow Jesus but have never been baptized, don't miss out on this opportunity. Baptism classes take place this weekend, with baptisms next weekend, during all services. More details in today's program, or sign up at the Connection Point.

ALPHA: Alpha is a practical introduction to the basics of Christianity. The style of Alpha is informal, friendly and non-pressured. It's not too late to sign up. More details in today's program or sign up at the Connection Point.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What's biggest victory you have ever won? An academic competition? An athletic race? A prize? A personal transformation?
- 2) What has been the biggest loss of your life?
- 3) How was the supernatural dealt with in your childhood home?
- 4) Over the next couple of weeks, we'll be studying the armor of God. What do you already know about the armor that you can share with the group?
- 5) Why do you think was it important for the eyes of the servant to be opened?
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?