

1. Embrace the need for God's power to stand against supernatural enemies (6:13).
 - a. The need for God's power "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God" (13a)
 - i. Because of the supernatural enemy we face, we must take up God's supernatural armor.
 - ii. We cannot fight a supernatural foe with human resources.
 - b. The goal and time of the battle – "that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day" (13b)
 - i. The goal is to withstand, or stand against, the evil one.
 - ii. The time of the battle is now, the evil day (cf.5:16).
 - iii. The difficulties of the present age will only intensify as the coming of the Lord draws closer.
 - iv. The devil is constantly "sifting" the saints, which must be combatted through prayer (Luke 22:31-32).
 - c. The preparation for battle (13c)
 - i. Preparation for the battle does not take place once it begins, but well in advance.
 - ii. Christians must prepare well in advance for inevitable attacks.
 - iii. Because of the certainty that believers will face concerted demonic attack at various intervals it is imperative to grow deeper in a knowledge of God's gifts and cultivate the practices essential to dependence on the unsurpassed power of God.
 - iv. The goal of the preparation is to stand – to keep from falling into sin and to advance on enemy territory to bring the good news of deliverance to those who are oppressed.
2. Stand by putting on the Belt of Truth – "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth" (14a).
 - a. Truth is both an offensive and defensive part of the believer's armament.
 - b. As we strap on the belt of truth are yielding ourselves as an instrument of righteousness (6:13).
 - c. As we strap on the belt of truth, we go into battle with our Divine Warrior (Isaiah 11:1-5).
 - d. We strap on the belt of truth by knowing the doctrines of God's Word (2 Timothy 2:15).
 - e. We strap on the belt of truth by speaking and living truthfully (Ephesians 4:24-25).
 - f. We strap on the belt of truth by fully embracing our new identity in Christ (4:21-24).
3. Stand by putting on the Breastplate of Righteousness – "and having on the breastplate of righteousness" (14b).
 - a. We put on the breastplate of righteousness by cultivating a deepening appreciation of God's gracious gift of Christ's righteousness.
 - i. Paul seems to be directly drawing upon the imagery of God as the Divine Warrior in Isaiah 59:17.
 - ii. The Divine Warrior puts on righteousness to fight against unrighteousness and to bring redemption to His people (Isaiah 59:20).
 - iii. We have righteousness from God that comes through faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:24-28; 4:1-8).
 - iv. We have received the gift of righteousness (Romans 5:17).
 - v. We have been completely forgiven on the basis of Christ's blood (Ephesians 1:7).
 - vi. We have been reconciled to God (Ephesians 2:16).
 - vii. We now enjoy a new status as sons and daughters (Ephesians 1:5).
 - b. We put on the breastplate of righteousness by developing moral integrity.
 - i. We must learn how to continuously put off the old self, and put on the new (4:21-24).
 - ii. We must develop our light in this world by living a righteous life (5:8-9).
 - iii. Righteousness is an important weapon to defend against demonic attack (2 Corinthians 6:1-7).
4. Stand by putting on Preparation of the Gospel of Peace – " And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace" (15).
 - a. Readiness for active propagation of the Gospel is the most effective means of combatting satanic powers.
 - i. Isaiah 52:7 "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation..."

- ii. Romans 10:14-15 “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”
- b. Believers are called to prepare themselves to share the Gospel.
 - i. By His work on the cross, Jesus has bound the strong man so that God’s people can plunder the possessions of the strong man by freeing the captives from Satan’s domain by announcing the good news of God’s salvation (Matthew 12:29; Mark 3:27).
 - ii. Believers must prepare themselves with a thorough knowledge of the Gospel.
 - iii. Believers must prepare themselves for giving the Gospel by giving the Gospel.
- c. It is ironic in a context of warfare to find a reference to peace as a weapon, but the content of the Gospel is a message of peace.
 - i. The warfare that believers are called to engage in does not view people as the enemies but as the victims.
 - ii. Unbelievers are in bondage to a threefold form of evil: the devil, the flesh, and the world.
 - iii. At the heart of the Gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ can be our peace (2:14).
 - iv. Spreading this good news means opposing the work of the principalities and powers who endeavor to blind the minds of unbelievers (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Conclusion:

1. How are you preparing yourself to withstand and stand against the devil?
2. Are you standing against the devil, or are you being swept away?
3. Are you growing in your understanding of Bible doctrine?
4. Does your study of Bible doctrine show in an honest lifestyle and honest speech?
5. Are you resting in Christ’s righteousness, or are you trying to establish your own apart from Him?
6. Are you building a testimony that shines with the righteousness of Christ?
7. Are you prepared to share the Gospel to those who are still trapped by the wicked one?