



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Stand!

Scripture: Ephesians 6:13 - Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

The Book of Ephesians was a letter of encouragement and a call for action to this infant Pentecostal church in a city that had the only temple to the goddess, Diana. The Word of God will do its work if we will just use it in the face of every problem or enemy. The teachings regarding Diana were just paltry myths, but the Word of the Lord is powerful, never changes itself, and actually changes the lives of others who encounter it.

Every child of God must put his armor on if he/she is to be outfitted properly for the fight. It is not our place to suggest different equipment for the Christian armor. God designed the outfit and He has made it to be the most effective possible. We can never know for sure from where Satan will attack us, but the Lord wants us to be prepared to fight with adequate protection and offensive spiritual weapons. Every piece of equipment provided in the spiritual armor is necessary to keep us standing and in the battle. A person may not think he needs the hot and uncomfortable helmet of salvation, the bulky and heavy shield of faith, or the binding girdle of truth; he may view them as inconvenient or unnecessary. **But all the equipment is vital and we need it all.**

Having the whole armor of God is not sufficient. We must determine in our heart that we will stand against the devil and for the Lord at all costs. If we use all of our equipment and shield ourselves from the enemy with the shield of faith, we will stand in victory. We can take courage and stand against the enemy of our soul. In describing the pieces of the Christians armor, Paul worked from the inside out. Certainly, it is what is within that makes the soldier, not just our outward dress. We need to continually protect ourselves by continuing to allow God to guard our thoughts and speaking. "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices" (2 Corinthians 2:11).

The people of God need to realize that we are in a war. Because of this, we must accept our responsibility to support one another through prayers and our resources with those who "*labour in the Word and doctrine*" (1 Timothy 5:17). This is important, not only for the sake of those who are on the front lines of spiritual warfare, but also for our own sake. We need preachers and teachers who can declare the Word in Spirit-anointed utterances, that we may be sufficiently equipped to stand against the adversary and to gain spiritual victory.

That's why Paul told the church of Thessalonica, "*Pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith. But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil*" (2 Thessalonians 3:1-3). Also, to be a successful spiritual warrior, we must have an understanding of the Word of God, but we all need a caring and capable teacher to guide us and help us. Therefore, we should faithfully support our spiritual leaders with fervent prayer.

We must stand in faith even if things do not seem to work out in our favor. Life will continually throw situations at us that will try our souls. The trials we face may be subtle; nevertheless, they will come. And somehow, we must reach a point in God where we are anchored in the Rock of Christ Jesus and nothing the devil sends our way will cause us to let go of our faith. We must grab hold of the "even-if-He-doesn't" faith. Likewise, we must decide—to remain steadfast and sure, regardless of what our future holds. Trust in God must be based in a relationship with Him and not on the situation you may be in. We must fully understand that God's love for us is total; He only wants what is best for us. No matter how bleak the situation may seem, **God is still in control and will do what is best for us.**

Christ has given us heavenly armor. The victory over the devil is accomplished only when we obediently put on the armor of God and come against him in the power of the Spirit. It will help us to stand in these last evil days.

May the Word of God encourage you to Stand in these last evil days!