

## **Ephesians 6:13–16**

### **“Armed Together in Christ's Strength through Corporate Worship”**

*How does Christ, our Strength, Strengthen Us? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. In these four verses, we learn that what the apostle describes here as taking up the armor of God is the use of that corporate worship that He has been describing throughout the epistle.*

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Ephesians 6 verse 13 through 16, these are God's words. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God. That you may be able to withstand in the evil day. And having done all. To stand. Stand therefore having girded your waist with truth. Having put on the breastplate of righteousness. And having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel the peace.

Above all taking the shield of faith. With which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts. Of the wicked one.

So far the reading. Thus ends the reading of. God's inspired and an errant work.

So we heard last week and verses 10 through 13 or taking verse to 13 again. As a hidden between the two passages but we heard why it is that just in order to stand. We have to be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. That is because we are in a spiritual battle.

And we are being attacked where we are and the heavenly places and we are there in union with Jesus through faith, that's what we've learned from the letter that we're seated there. And that as we are attacked there it is by an enemy who is organized and evil and powerful.

He comes back to you what he started to say in verse 11 put on the whole armor of God and he repeats that slightly different words now in verse 13, he says therefore take up the whole armor of God. And notice that everything we're told to do here are active we are to take up the whole armor we are to gird our waste with truth we are to put on the breastplate of righteousness we are to shoe our feet with the preparation of the gospel of faith we are to take the shield of faith.

And so standing in the strength of Jesus doesn't mean doing nothing. It means doing what Jesus says trusting. Jesus to make it effective trusting. Jesus to give us his strength in these things the Christian life is a very active life. And it doesn't mean just doing some of what Jesus says trusting Jesus means doing all of what Jesus says and whenever we realize that we are not repenting rejoicing that he forgives us and renewing our commitment to do everything he says.

So notice take up the whole armor of God verse 13 having done all to stand verse 13. And so we are to do all of this and you notice especially in this passage that we are to participate in the corporate worship of God as the Lord himself has designed it.

So. We are told to GIRD our waist with truth truth is what holds all things together all of these things together and you remember that we are to address one another with truth and we're especially going to. We're especially going to think about that in verse 15 stand therefore having girded your waist with truth.

The truth is what we learn from him and cling to altogether remember back to chapter four and he talks about all of these ones one body one spirit one hope one. Lord one faith one baptism one God and father of all and where do we learn about these one not many things we learn them from the apostles prophets and evangelists and God has given us especially.

Pastor teachers to teach us because why because we all need to have stable doctrine having a unity of the faith no longer being children no longer talked about by every wind of doctrine because verse 15 of chapter 4, we are to speak the truth. In love and that every joint supply is something that every met every part does its share and so you can't see it in the English translation but these are all plural commands and we put on the belt of truth together if we don't have stable doctrine if we don't learn from the Bible and under these pastor teachers that Jesus has appointed and Jesus has given us as gifts then we will be tossed to and fro.

If you have a a very baggy shirt and a very baggy pair of pants and you're trying to hold it all together with a belt and you don't put the belt on properly everything's just gonna fall apart it won't work the Roman soldiers had, you know, their tunic and and everything and in order for it to be girded up and cinched tight so that they're legs would be free and they wouldn't be tripping all over their garments and all of their things would be held right where they need it.

So that they so that when they reached for a weapon it would be in the place that they expected it they had to have the belt fixed firmly in place and that's something that we all do together and so corporate worship attending upon the preaching and teaching of the word from our shepherd teachers, that is this girding your waist with the truth.

And we fix in place the breastplate of righteousness this is of course the righteousness of Jesus that is counted for us for is by grace through faith that you have been saved and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God and so and that's from chapter 2.

And so we fix that in place and then he says having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace and this is the, You know, the Roman shoes had spikes in them that would give them sure footing and he's quoting here from Isaiah chapter 52. A referring to Isaiah chapter 52 and Isaiah chapter 52 verse seven, he says how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news who proclaims peace and so he says having your feet shod or shod.

With the gospel of peace he's saying the beautiful footed person of Isaiah 52:7 is actually every single believer so yes, we are to be girded up with the belt of truth something that especially happens in the preaching and teaching that we receive in the assembly the whole body being united in doctrine by the ministry of the pastor teachers as they proclaim the Bible but.

We are also all to be proclaiming peace to one another having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace and the place that we especially do that is in the singing you remember from chapter five says be filled with the spirit speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord giving thanks always for all things to God the Father.

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ submitting to one another in the fear of God and so when we sing together in the worship we all have beautiful feet, according to Isaiah 52:7 and according to Ephesians 6 verse 15 having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace and, Finally above all taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one and this is faith in Jesus Christ, but it is especially believing in Jesus Christ together clinging to Jesus Christ together there are different kinds of Roman shields and there are different words for each of those shields and the one that's mentioned here is the the large almost entire soldier-sized shield and, And you would have the a group of soldiers in a family links in an organized pattern and if the commanding officer commanded to take up the shield they would immediately position themselves and these great big leather covered shields that they were that they were carrying wood form a shell like a force field bubble around them and not even a single arrow could get through.

Now if you're by yourself and you try to do that then depending upon where the enemy is and what angles he's using you don't have the ability to quench all verse 16 all the fiery darts of the wicked one so here again is another command to take up armor in the congregation corporately in union with our brothers and sisters.

And so the one of the main things that we are called to do if we are going to obey to be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might one of the main things and trusting in Jesus and depending upon his strength in our Christian lives in our spiritual battle is to attend and participate well in corporate worship.

Where we are girded with the truth. Where we come through the righteousness of Jesus. Where we announce the gospel to one another especially in the singing and have those beautiful feet. And where we lift the shield of faith not only by ourselves but with others. And especially when these fiery darts are coming and you may sometimes have suggested to your mind some temptation of sin that you might commit or you may have doubts spring up about yourself or even suggested to your mind by your flesh or by the double doubt about the Lord Jesus himself.

And. Yes, you are to refer yourself immediately to what you know from the Bible to be true and give whatever that temptation or whatever that doubt whatever that law is a great big resounding no in your mind and in your heart. But. The Lord has designed us that it is when we go to the assembly and when we lift that shield of faith together and cling to the Lord and to what we know of him from his word and cling to his word together.

That he especially delivers us from this attacks protects us from those attacks of the evil one very similar to ASAP and Psalm 73 you remember when he was doubting and then he went to worship and the Lord used that to deliver him from the temptation in the sin that he was sliding back into.

So let's be girded up with the truth let us come through Christ and his righteousness put on the breast plate of his righteousness, let's have those beautiful feet as we announced to one another the gospel of peace with God admonishing one another especially in song and let us take up the shield of faith together.

Clinging to God and through Christ and clinging to Christ and His word. It's praying.

Father we thank you for your design for our Christian lives. We thank you that. Just in. Coming to you through Jesus and clinging to him who has given us these ways by which he leads us and grows us and works in our lives that this is the taking up of all of

your armor.

We think your Lord that you have not left us to invent our own armor. And we pray that you would keep us from. Overcomplicating you're adding to the Christian life or trusting in ourselves in any way. Whatsoever make us instead to trust only in Christ. And in his strength.

So we pray that you would help us. To meditate upon your word as we as we read it and meet you in it you meet us in it and bless it to us by your spirit and our private worship and family worship and especially in the public worship on the Lord's day.

And that you would be continually strengthening us hour by hour and all of these spiritual battles that we have throughout each day. Glorify yourself. Lord Jesus and your church. And particularly in this part of it here. Has represented in each of these dear ones around me. I ask it in your name amen.