

STAND FIRM, Part 1

October 21, 2012 Ephesians 6:13-14 by Bob Branch
Standing In Your Inheritance in Christ, Part 33

MAIN IDEA: We're in a spiritual fight, but we are not without protective armor and the means to advance the fight.

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **Ephesians 6:13**

Why the “WARFARE” language, when we’re in the peace business?

- ❖ Warfare describes the *seriousness* of the situation & stakes
- ❖ Warfare describes the level of *awareness* needed
- ❖ Warfare describes the level of *preparedness*
- ❖ Warfare signals that there is a *dangerous adversary*
- ❖ Battles are not frequently the same.
- ❖ It is *God’s armor*, shared with us. (Isaiah 59:17)

Stand firm then, with the **belt of truth** buckled around your waist
Ephesians 6:14a

BELT:

Truth is GOD’S STANDARD.

(John 3:21; John 8:36; 14:6; Rom. 1:25; 1 Tim 2:4; 4:6)

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. **John 17:17** ESV

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. **2 Tim. 3:16–17**

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.
John 8:32

Truth is TRUTHFULNESS, honesty & integrity.
(John 7:18; 1 Cor. 5:8; 2 Cor. 6:7; Eph. 4:15)

“Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false.”
John 1:47

with the **breastplate of righteousness** in place **Ephesians 6:14^b**

BREASTPLATE:

Righteousness as GOD’S GIFT in Christ... “Justification”

The antidote to a steady diet of accusation is the righteousness you have received on Christ’s behalf. Acquitted. Not guilty. Freed. Now accepted. Loved. Adopted. Approved. All a gift received by faith.

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. **Romans 3:22–25**

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?” ...“Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us” **Romans 8:31, 33-34**

It is living in the awareness of our righteousness, that we can stand against the enemy and his accusations!
(Rev. 12:10; Job 1:8-11; Zech. 3:1)

Righteousness as the outcome of LIVING RIGHT with God.

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.
1 Corinthians 15:10