

Message Notes

April 5, 2009

Stand Firm: A Study in 1 Peter
Stand Firm
(1 Peter 5:8-14)
Pastor Steve Patzia

◆ Peter encourages us to _____ & not _____. (Mk 14:37-38)

The War We Wage

◆ We are in a _____ against a very real _____. (Jn 10:10; 1 Jn 5:19)

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)**

◆ Our enemy in this war is “the _____,” or _____. (Job 1:6-7)

◆ Satan waits to _____ us when we are _____. (1 Pet 5:8)

◆ Satan most often comes in _____. (Gen 3:1; Mt 13:24-30; 2 Cor 11:14)

◆ Satan seeks to _____ relationships. (Gen 3:4-5; Mt 16:23; Lk 22:3-4)

◆ Satan wants to _____ our fellowship with God. (Lk 22:31-32; Jn 8:44)

Our Battle Plan

◆ We must be “_____ -minded” & show Satan _____. (1 Pet 5:8)

Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your fellow believers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. **1 Peter 5:9 (TNIV)**

◆ We must be “_____” in order to _____ him. (1 Pet 5:8)

◆ We must “_____” him by putting on the _____ of God. (Eph 6:10-18)

◆ We must “_____” in our _____. (Isa 50:7; 1 Pet 5:9, 12)

◆ We *stand* on the “_____” with each _____. (1 Pet 2:4-8)

The Promise of Victory

◆ Peter reminds us that our _____ will _____ us. (Jms 1:2-4)

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. **1 Peter 5:10 (ESV)**

◆ We can *stand firm* because our _____ is soon to come! (Rom 8:18)

The Armor of God

Belt of Truth—As the belt formed the foundation of the soldier’s armor, the Truth is the foundation of the Christian life. If we are not sure that Jesus is “the truth” (John 14:6), then there is little use for the armor or in attempting to fight any battle. God’s truth, as revealed to us through Jesus Christ, forms the *foundation* of victorious Christian living.

Breastplate of Righteousness—Protecting the vital organs, the breastplate was a vital piece in the soldier’s armor. So too, “righteousness” provides a significant defense; it gives the evidence that we have been made right with God through the blood of Christ. When the enemy tries to convince us that we are not really saved, we can stand firm against him because of the righteousness we have been promised through our faith.

Feet Fitted with Gospel of Peace—Roman soldiers had special shoes made with studded soles so they could dig in and hold their ground when in hand-to-hand combat. Believers also have special “shoes” so they can stand firm in their hand-to-hand combat with Satan: true peace. When the enemy (the deceiver) offers false ways to peace or tries to get us to focus on our concerns and fears, we Christian soldiers can stand up to him without fear.

Shield of Faith—The image is of a large oblong or oval shield, approximately four feet high and two feet wide, soaked in water to extinguish the flaming arrows of the enemy. For Christians, this shield is *faith*—complete reliance on God. When the enemy sends his flaming arrows of temptation, doubt, wrath, lust, despair, vengeance, problems, and trials into our lives, we can hold up our shields and *quench them*.

Helmet of Salvation—The dressed soldier would *take* his helmet and sword from an armor bearer. In the same way, believers are to *take* this helmet of salvation, for it is handed to them by God Himself. When the devil seeks to devour and destroy God’s people with empty or evil thoughts, trying to get us to doubt our salvation, we can trust our salvation is secure.

Sword of the Spirit—The only offensive weapon mentioned (along with prayer). The sharp, short sword was one of Rome’s great military innovations. The Word of God is the Spirit’s sword in our lives (Hebrews 4:12). Jesus’ use of God’s Word in His temptation prompts our use of it against Satan (Matt. 4:1-11). With the Holy Spirit’s power now available to believers, we have the ability to use God’s Word as a weapon to resist any of Satan’s temptations. We also use the sword to fight against Satan’s advances in this world by proclaiming its message boldly: faith in Christ brings freedom and ultimate victory!