

The Bible 20/20 Week 25: “Withstand Part 1” (6-28-20)

Last week: Isaiah 6 - “Be Present” (God’s Presence is Revealing, Purifying, Inspiring)

Next 2 weeks: “Withstand” (Experiencing God’s powerful & practical presence in the evil day!)

Introduction: Defensive basketball positioning

Ephesians 6:10-13 (ESV)

(10) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. (11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (13) 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 firm.

Armor from Ephesians 6 . . .

1) Belt of Truth

Ephesians 6:14 (ESV)

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth

Isaiah 45:18-20, 22 (ESV)

(18) For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): “I am the LORD, and there is no other. (19) I did not speak in secret, in a land of darkness; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, ‘Seek me in vain.’ I the LORD speak the truth; I declare what is right. (20) “Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, you survivors of the nations! They have no knowledge who carry about their wooden idols, and keep on praying to a god that cannot save. (22) “Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.

Note: He is the truth, He speaks the truth! He is the answer and there is no other!

His truth then, speaks into my “truth” (reality, perspective, experience) . . .

Isaiah 40:27-31 (ESV)

(27) Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? (28) Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. (29) He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. (30) Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; (31) but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Note: When the fight seems overwhelming, and I’m exhausted, the truth is He sees me and He is my strength!

My God is the belt that holds everything together, and that’s my first step in standing firm.

(Isaiah 11:1-5) is a description of Jesus!

Isaiah 11:5 (ESV)

Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

Note: He is good (righteous) & I can count on Him (faithfulness). He is my belt of Truth!

2) Breastplate of Righteousness

Ephesians 6:14 (ESV)

. . . and having put on the breastplate of righteousness

Isaiah 59:14-17 (ESV)

(14) Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter. (15) Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. (16) **He saw that there was no man**, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and **his righteousness upheld him**. (17) **He put on righteousness as a breastplate**, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.

Note: As long as we are trying to wear our own righteousness as protection - it will fail, there will be holes

- That's an exhausting way to live, and ultimately impossible!
- God sees this too, and that's why he had to provide a righteous man!
- So when we put on the breastplate of righteousness, we are really exchanging ours for his!

Look what that produces . . .

Isaiah 32:15-18 (ESV)

(15) until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest. (16) Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. (17) And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. (18) My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

Note: The wilderness turns into a peaceful habitation because of the presence of righteousness

- We cry out for peace, but not many of us cry out to be righteous. But they are linked!
- And as people of God we are meant to be carriers of this righteous peace . . .

Isaiah 42:6-7 (ESV)

(6) "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, (7) to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

This leads to our next piece of armor . . .

3) Shoes - Gospel of Peace

Ephesians 6:15 (ESV)

and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

Isaiah 52:6-7 (ESV)

(6) Therefore my people shall know my name. Therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here I am." (7) How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Note: Jesus is the one with beautiful feet that bring good news!

Feet - usually not thought of as beautiful, especially when they are being put to use!

Example: My recent foot injury - hurt like crazy, very limiting, and nasty to look at!

Consider the feet of him that brings the good news of the gospel of peace . . .

Isaiah 53:5 (ESV)

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Note: I usually think more of his hands being pierced, but his feet were too! And it is his wounds that heal us!

And so the one with pierced feet, now prepares our feet to carry His message of peace . . .

John 13:12-17 (ESV)

(12) When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? (13) You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. (14) If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. (15) For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. (16) Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. (17) If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Note: Jesus washes their feet, and instructs them to pass that on. He commands a blessing with it!

- If we would be carriers of the gospel of peace, we have to be ready to get our hands dirty.
- Just remember someone else already got their hands dirty, in order to make my feet beautiful.

Isaiah 40:1-4 (ESV)

(1) Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. (2) Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. (3) A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (4) Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Note: Bring comfort, and prepare the way, make the ground level for those in need! (this echos Hebrews 12)

Conclusion: To experience God's presence and withstand the evil day . . . Let's look to Jesus

- **Held together by the One who is Truth**
- **Protected by His Righteousness**
- **Carrying His Good News of Peace with us wherever we go**

Let's Pray!