Ephesians 6:10-23 - Be Strong in the Lord

What do we need to do to help us in our everyday life struggles?

We know God helps us, but what do we need to do?

1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

We have normal struggles in life because this world is difficult and marred by sin.

We also have trouble because we sin and we cannot stop. God knew this and sent us a Savior in Jesus.

God always wins. It is okay for us to admit we are weak, sinful, and that we struggle. When we are weak, He is strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 *My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Vs 10-19 We can be strong in the Lord. We can be strong in His strength!

<u>Do you ask God to help you?</u> <u>When things are hard do you tap into Gods power?</u>

How do we fight the devil? PUT ON GOD!

Our fight is against evil, but God always wins. Be on His team and fight with His power.

We must decide if we are actually gonna take up our God armor and stand firm in Him.

Armor is defensive. It protects you.

We do not use armor much anymore because there is not fighting with swords and arrows. We do have bullet proof vests. Football players wear a helmet, shoulder pads, thigh pads, and hip pads. We need godly armor to protect us. We need to be ready.

You do not need some armor or part of God's armor. You need it all!

So, listen to this list and truly think what armor you wear each day and what armor you need to put on.

<u>Belt of truth</u>- Is it godly? Is it from the Word of God? Is it a lie? Is it led by the Spirit? Does it conflict with the Word of God? Do you use mental gymnastics, blame others, and not take responsibility; or, do you own up to it.

John 14:1-7 "*Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4 And you know the way to where I am going."5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6* ***Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me****. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."*

<u>Breastplate of righteousness</u>. Faith in Jesus that lives for Jesus

1 John 3:4-10 *Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed*

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abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. 10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: ***whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.***

Romans 3:22-25 ***The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe****. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith*

Shoes that are ready by the Gospel of peace

Romans 10:14-15 *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"*

Shield of Faith-

Eph 2:8-9 *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

Helmet of Salvation

Romans 10:9-13 *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

Sword of the Spirit- Word of God

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Pray at all times-

Matthew 26:41 *Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

James 5:16 *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

2 Corinthians 5:20 *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

- **Put on truth. No lies. Not the world. Godly truth.**
- **Put on righteousness. Ask Jesus to be your Lord. He purifies you. Live godly.**
- **Be ready. Be peaceful. Share Jesus who helps and saves others.**
- **Have faith in Jesus. That is what saves you. And, that is our promise for heaven.**
- **Be saved. Remember you are saved. Live and act as though you are saved.**
- **Know the Word of God and live the Word of God. Trust the Bible. Know it!**
- **Pray**

Vs 21-23 Peace, love, faith, and grace were his prayer blessing to the church.