



Recap: August 20, 2025

Speaker: Bishop A.L. Smith

Title: **Stand Ready for Battle**

Scripture: Ephesians 6:15-17

Overview:

God never called you to be a passive bystander in a spiritual war—He equips you to be prepared, alert, and armed with what you need to stand firm and fight back. Faith, salvation, and the Word of God aren't abstract concepts or theological trophies—they're weapons for today's battles. When you live ready, you can stand confidently no matter what comes against you.

Point One - Continuing with The Spiritual Armor to Have

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 of peace.

- **Having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace:** The preparation of the gospel is represented as the protective shoes (or sandals) worn by Roman soldiers. No one can fight effectively or effectively go about his business without this equipment.
 - **Preparation** is a word meaning “a prepared foundation.” The gospel provides the footing for everything we do. However powerful the rest of your body is, if you are wounded in your feet you are easy prey for the enemy.
 - These shoes were described as ‘shoes thickly studded with sharp nails’ as to ensure a good grip. The military successes both of Alexander the Great and of Julius Caesar were due in large measure to their armies’ being well shod and thus able to undertake long marches at incredible speed over rough terrain.
 - The idea of preparation is really readiness. We must be mobile, flexible, and ready with the truth. This is a place to have in the Christian life, to live in constant readiness and flexibility.

Point Two - The Spiritual Armor to Take

Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

- **Above all:** This really has the idea of “in addition to the previous,” and it applies to each of the three pieces of armor that follow. It isn't the idea, these parts of the armor are more important than the others.

- **Taking the shield of faith:** Ephesians 6:13-14 tells us of armor to have. Some of the armor we must wear all the time and have as a standing foundation. Therefore having comes first. We must be rooted in the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, and the “combat boots” of the gospel. Yet now Paul will deal with aspects of the armor we are to take at the necessary moments of spiritual warfare and opportunity.
- **Taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one:** Faith is represented as a shield, protecting us from the fiery darts of the wicked one, those persistent efforts of demonic foes to weaken us through fear and unbelief.
 - The **shield** Paul describes is not the small round one, but the large, oblong shield that could protect the whole body. In ancient warfare, these fiery darts were launched in great numbers at the beginning of an attack. The idea was not only to injure the enemy, but to shoot at him at all sides with a massive number of arrows, and thus to confuse and panic the enemy.
 - Even if an arrow was caught by the shield and did not penetrate to the body, it caused panic, seeing a fiery arrow sore through the sky would make anyone pause let alone strike your shield you are holding, so that the soldier was tempted to get rid of his burning shield and expose himself to the enemy’s spear-thrusts. But the shield of faith not only catches the fire-starting devices but extinguishes them.
 - Our thoughts, feelings, imaginations, fears, and lies – all of these can be hurled at us by Satan as fiery darts. Faith turns them back.
- **And take the helmet of salvation:** In the ancient world this usually was a leather cap studded with metal for extra strength. Often some kind of plume or decoration was added, perhaps to identify the soldier to his regiment. Salvation is pictured as this kind of helmet, protecting an essential part of the body. A soldier would be foolish to go into battle without his helmet.
 - *1 Thessalonians 5:8* speaks of the helmet of salvation in connection to the hope of salvation. The helmet of salvation protects us against discouragement, against the desire to give up, giving us hope not only in knowing that we are saved, but that we will be saved. It is the assurance that God will triumph.
 - One of Satan’s most effective weapons against us is discouragement. When we are properly equipped with the helmet of salvation, it’s hard to stay discouraged.
- **The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:** The idea is that the Spirit provides a sword for you, and that sword is the word of God. To effectively use the sword of the Spirit, we can’t regard the Bible as a book of magic charms or tie one around our neck the way that garlic is said to drive away vampires.
 - To effectively use the sword, we must regard it as the word of God –If we are not confident in the inspiration of Scripture, that the sword really came from the Spirit, then we will not use it effectively at all.
 - But we must also take the sword of the Spirit in the sense of depending that He helps us to use it. Not only did the Spirit give us the Scriptures, but also He makes them alive to us (or us alive to them), and He equips us with the right thrust of the sword at the right time.
 - Think of a soldier or a gladiator in training, practicing sword thrusts and moves and positions. Now, he must practice them ahead of time and if he is a superior fighter and has a great fighting instinct, at the time of battle he will instantly recall which thrust, which position suits the precise moment. He will never be able to use the thrust in the fight if he has not first practiced it; but he still needs to make the move at the moment. Therefore, effectively using the sword takes practice. The great example of this was Jesus combating the temptation of Satan in the wilderness.