

Here I Am
Faith Wins the Battle
Pastor Craig Sweeney | May 4, 2025

Thread: Faith wins the battle.

I Samuel 13:19 - 20 NLT

The weapons they fought with were not typical and neither are ours. II Corinthians 10:3 – 5 NLT

“...Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.”

Ephesians 6:10 – 12 NLT

We must know what we are fighting against.

- Ours is a spiritual battle for the minds and hearts of people.
- If we don’t know what we are fighting, we won’t know how to fight.

“Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil...” **Ephesians 6:13 NLT**

We don’t defeat the work of Satan, Jesus does. We resist evil.

- The armor is for protection and defense. It’s designed so the enemy’s blows do not do damage.

James 4:7 NLT

We DO have authority over evil in Jesus’ name. Our authority is not to be enslaved.

- **Authority** means not having to agree with nor obey evil.

“Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.”

Romans 12:21 NLT

- **Defeating** once and for all requires a power we do not possess—but Jesus does. **He has defeated death, hell and the grave.** I am His servant.

II Corinthians 4:4 – 5, 7 - 12, 14 NLT

“...Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground...” **Ephesians 6:13 – 14 NLT - This is my goal: to “stand firm.”**

“...putting on the belt of truth...” – **Ephesians 6:14 NLT - God’s truth is “the narrow way” of Jesus and His life and teachings.**

“...and the body armor of God’s righteousness.” **Ephesians 6:14 NLT - When the fiery arrows and blows of the enemy come at me and I am guilty of the accusations, the forgiveness of God covers me.**

“For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.” **Ephesians 6:15 NLT - Be at peace when threats of defeat are hurled my way.**

“In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.” **Ephesians 6:16 NLT - My faith in Jesus, His work on the cross and His Holy Spirit present in me deflect the deadly arrows of the enemy.**

I John 5:4 – 5 NLT

“Put on salvation as your helmet...” **Ephesians 6:17 NLT - Let my mind be calm and at the ready—not given to fear and despair, for I am loved by God.**

“...and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” **Ephesians 6:17 NLT - This is the truth, the context and my worldview.**

“Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.” **Ephesians 6:18 NLT**

Challenge:

- What ground do you need to stand firm on?
- What truthful path do you need to stay on?
- What fiery arrows of the enemy are you needing to deflect with your shield?
- What fear do you speak truth to—in order to gain peace?