

STRONGER
Part 5: Dress for Success

TEXT: Ephesians 6:10 NKJV

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

A. Spiritual armor for a spiritual environment (*Ephesians 6:11-13 NKJV*)

1. We must put on God's armor
 - a. He provides; we must access for ourselves
2. Put on the whole armor - mentioned twice
 - a. To enable us to stand against Satan's schemes
3. We are in a spiritual conflict area - a hot zone
 - a. One challenge is we can't see our enemy
 - b. Why we often are lashing out at people
4. God has enabled us to stand not fall - twice instructed to armor up
 - a. We want what will help us stand

TRUTH (*Ephesians 6:14 NKJV*)

A. We are living in days of deception (*1 Timothy 4:1 NKJV*)

1. We do not exist in a spiritually neutral environment
 - a. There are spiritual forces with an intent to deceive
 - b. Pull people away from the faith - attacks we are to stand against
2. We have an answer for deception
 - a. The truth of God's word (*John 17:16-17 NKJV*)
 - b. "My truth" will not hold up against spiritual attacks
3. Strong in the Lord is strong in His truth
 - a. Jesus used God's truth to resist the enemy
 - b. God's truth produces freedom; lies produce bondage (*John 8:31-32 NKJV*)
4. Becoming stronger in God's truth (*Acts 17:10-12 NKJV*)
 - a. Noble - fair/open minded to hear God's perspective
 - b. Received the word with great eagerness - hunger for truth
 - c. Searched the scriptures daily to determine what is truth
 - d. Therefore many believed
5. The contrast (*Mark 6:1-6 NKJV*)
 - a. They were not fair and open minded - skeptical / questioning
 - b. Did not receive Jesus with eagerness - saw the carpenter
 - c. They were offended and rejected the truth - no honor
 - d. Unbelieving and not blessed - missed out on what God was doing

Ephesians 6:10 NKJV

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Ephesians 6:11-13 NKJV

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness 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.

Ephesians 6:14 NKJV

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

1 Timothy 4:1 NKJV

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

John 17:16-17 NKJV

16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

John 8:31-32 NKJV

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Acts 17:10-12 NKJV

10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. 12 Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.

Mark 6:1-6 NKVJ

1 Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. 2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! 3 Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" So they were offended at Him.

4 But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house." 5 Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.