WARRIORS OF WARFARE

Don't Shoot the Messenger

PART THREE

Standing Firm When They Shoot

The armor of God was made for the battlefield, not the sideline.

FAITH · STUDY · EQUIP

PatrickDukes.com

PART 3 OVERVIEW

When people reject the message, the temptation is to reject the messenger or silence the message. Part 3 is about staying standing — in your calling, in your identity, and in God's Word — when the arrows of opposition, discouragement, and doubt start flying. We will explore Ephesians 6's 'armor of God' through the lens of the faithful messenger, and draw on the lives of Elijah, Paul, and Jesus to understand what it means to stand firm under fire.

TEACHING: THE ARMOR OF THE FAITHFUL MESSENGER

1. You Are in a Spiritual Battle

The opposition that messengers face is never merely human. Paul makes this unmistakably clear: *'For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms'* (Ephesians 6:12). When someone rejects the gospel you share, despises the truth you speak, or attacks your character for your faith — the enemy is working behind the scenes. Recognizing this does not excuse human responsibility, but it does change how you fight back: not with anger toward people, but with prayer, truth, and the authority of Christ.

2. The Armor Is for Standing, Not Just Fighting

Notice that Paul's instruction in Ephesians 6 does not primarily say to 'advance' or 'conquer' — he says to **stand** (vv. 11, 13, 14). Three times in four verses. There are seasons in the life of a faithful messenger when the most powerful thing you can do is refuse to move. Refuse to compromise. Refuse to abandon your post. Sometimes standing firm is the victory.

> *"Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."*
>
> **— Ephesians 6:13 (NIV)**

3. Each Piece of Armor Speaks to the Messenger's Vulnerabilities

The armor of God is not decorative — each piece directly addresses the specific attacks a faithful messenger will face:

• **Belt of Truth:** The messenger's greatest weapon is the truth they carry. Satan attacks through lies, distortion, and misrepresentation. Know the Word deeply enough that you recognize deception when it arrives.

• **Breastplate of Righteousness:** Attacks on character — accusations of hypocrisy, moral failure, or unworthiness — target the heart. Living with integrity gives the enemy no open door. You cannot deliver a righteous message while living unrighteously.

• **Shoes of the Gospel of Peace:** A messenger must be mobile — willing to go where God sends, even when the terrain is unfamiliar or dangerous. Your feet must be ready for the next assignment.

• **Shield of Faith:** The flaming arrows of discouragement, doubt, fear, and failure are extinguished by faith — not by perfect understanding, but by trust in the unchanging character of God.

• **Helmet of Salvation:** The mind is the primary battlefield. Protect your thoughts with the certainty of your salvation and identity in Christ. A messenger who is confused about who they are is easily manipulated.

• **Sword of the Spirit — the Word of God:** This is the only offensive weapon in the armor. Jesus used it against Satan in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1–11). The spoken, prayed, and proclaimed Word of God is the primary weapon of the faithful messenger.

4. When the Messenger Wants to Quit: The Story of Elijah

1 Kings 18–19 presents one of Scripture's most raw and honest portrayals of a faithful messenger on the edge of burnout. Elijah had just called down fire from heaven, defeated 450 false prophets, and seen the rain return to drought-stricken Israel. Then one threat from Jezebel sent him running for his life, collapsing under a tree and praying to die: *'I have had enough, Lord. Take my life.'*

God's response is instructive. He did not rebuke Elijah. He did not remind him of all his victories. He sent an angel — twice — with food and water and the simple instruction: *'Get up and eat, because the journey is too great for you.'* God's first response to the exhausted messenger was not a pep talk; it was rest, nourishment, and presence. Only after that did He speak.

If you are exhausted from faithful service and ready to quit — God sees you. Before He gives you the next assignment, He often first restores you.

5. The Power of the Praying Community

No messenger stands alone. Aaron and Hur held up Moses' arms when he was too weak to hold them himself (Exodus 17:12). Paul consistently asked his churches to pray for him — not for his comfort, but for boldness to preach the gospel (Ephesians 6:19). The faithful messenger who neglects the community of prayer is operating without critical support. Identify your Aaron and Hur. Let them hold up your arms.

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which piece of the armor of God do you find most difficult to keep on? Why?

2. Describe a time when you faced spiritual opposition while trying to serve God faithfully. Looking back, where do you see God's hand in that situation?

© 2026 Warriors of Warfare · PatrickDukes.com

3. What does Elijah's story tell you about how God treats His exhausted servants? How does this change the way you view your own seasons of burnout or discouragement?

4. Paul asked for prayer for boldness, not comfort (Ephesians 6:19–20). What is the difference between those two requests? Which do you tend to pray for yourself?

5. Who are your 'Aaron and Hur' — the people who hold up your arms when you are too weak to hold them yourself? Have you told them how important they are to you?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Choose at least two of the following to put into practice this week:

1. **Armor up daily:** Each morning this week, physically name and 'put on' each piece of armor as you pray through Ephesians 6:10–18. Journal what you notice about your day when you begin it this way.
2. **Read Elijah's story in full:** Read 1 Kings 17–19 and note every time God provided for Elijah. List God's provisions on one side of the page, and your own current needs on the other.
3. **Memorize a standing verse:** Choose one verse from Ephesians 6 and commit it to memory this week. Write it on a card and carry it with you.
4. **Identify your prayer team:** Reach out to two or three trusted believers and ask them to pray specifically for your calling and your courage this week. Share something specific.
5. **Fast from complaint:** For 48 hours, fast from all complaining — about opposition, difficulty, or people who resist you. Replace every complaint with a declaration of God's faithfulness.

✦ MEMORY VERSE ✦

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love."

1 Corinthians 16:13–14 (NIV)

Final session — PART 4: The Victory of the Messenger · 'What faithful messengers receive.'

Warriors of Warfare · PatrickDukes.com · FAITH · STUDY · EQUIP

© 2026 Warriors of Warfare · PatrickDukes.com