

Be Strong.

Ladies, would you ever consider bringing back the 80's power suit?



In 2018, 20-year-old college student Katherine Li wore a thrifted vintage 1980s power suit-- padded shoulders, electric-blue blazer, pleated skirt-- to her Stanford job interview

at a Silicon Valley VC firm. The partners, expecting hoodies, burst out laughing at the “Working Girl” throwback. That thought she was hilarious. Was she or wasn’t she a good intern venture capital candidate?

Today’s text unwraps how to be strong. If you’re a Christian, you know that “Looking for strength within ourselves may get us through a small trial, but not the big ones” (Chuck Smith, Sr.). The strength you need in your next season will require God’s power suit. And it to is something you put on.

Put on the full armor of God

CONTEXT

Sitting (1-3)

Walking 4-6:9

Standing (6:10-13)

The Armor of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong **in the Lord** and in **his mighty power**. ¹² 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**. ¹³ 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 6:10–13 (NIV)**

In the Lord (or “in Christ”), we have been...

- “Blessed with every spiritual blessing” (1:3)
- “Chosen...to be holy and blameless” (1:3)
- Predestined for adoption to sonship by grace (1:6)
- Redeemed “through his blood” by grace (1:7).

Stand in the power...

- Power of the resurrection (1:19-20)
- Power of the love of Christ (3:16-18).
- Power of the fullness of God (3:19).
- Power of God to do “immeasurably” more than we “ask or imagine” (3:20).

Powers and spiritual forces in the heavenly realms (Principalities and Powers, a brief OT and NT theology)--

- Governed by the council of heaven (Ps. 89:6-7).
- Empowered in the heavens and allied with kings (Isa. 24:22).
- Prohibited from harming believers by Jesus (1 Thess. 2:18; 2 Cor. 12:7; 1 Jn. 5:18).

Put on...

- "Put off your old self" (4:22)
- "Put on the new self" (4:24)
- "Put on the full armor of God" (6:13)

APPLICATION

Be strong...

1. In the Lord

¹⁰ Finally, be strong **in the Lord** and in **his mighty power**.

In the Lord or "In Christ"-- How does this identity play out in life?

We say we find our identity "in Christ," and then our actual "center" is messed-with-- "Your center could be your career, reputation, appearance, achievement, peer group, friends, family, or romance" **Paul P. Kaufmann (1998), *God's New Society***

You lose your job or suffer in a reorg. When your identity is "in Christ," you're content. God is your provider. He may just want to teach you something. You're God's adopted son or daughter.

When you don't achieve A's or you don't start, varsity-- a misplaced center of achievement, you remember that you're God's child and that your job is to be faithful with little and trust

You have a life-threatening medical diagnosis. You remember that you are "fearfully and wonderfully made," and our Lord Jesus cares for you and loves the body he actually designed for you! And, regardless of your prognosis, we are all

getting closer to the new bodies prepared for us when all things become new, because we are **"in the Lord."**

In his mighty power-- How are we passive about this power?

We see Spiritual Battles "No big deal." You might say, "I'm not a murderer, but you hate your brother." You might say, "I'm not be an adulterer," but you have a lust habit. You might not be in trouble with the law, but you might not honor your mother and father?

How then am I to "be strong"? The things of the world, the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life is waring against my mind, body, and soul.

HOW? Recognize the real conflict is spiritual

Again, your center, or your idols may be "your career, reputation, appearance, achievement, peer group, friends, family, or romance" Paul P. Kaufmann (1998), *God's New Society*

You will be tested to move from these idolatrous centers to Christ-centeredness, to an "in Christ" identity.

So we recognize the conflict is spiritual, now Paul gives us something that is personally talioed for each one of us.

2. Put on the full armor of God

¹³ 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.

What is the full armor of God?

The full armor of God is the righteousness of God. **Chuck Smith, Sr.**

Clean Garments for the High Priest

3 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. ² The Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"

³ Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. ⁴ The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes."

Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you."

⁵ Then I said, "Put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the Lord stood by.

⁶ The angel of the Lord gave this charge to Joshua: ⁷ "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'If you will walk in obedience to me and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.'

⁸ " 'Listen, High Priest Joshua, you and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, the Branch. ⁹ See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua! There are seven eyes on that one stone, and I will engrave an inscription on it,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.

¹⁰ " 'In that day each of you will invite your neighbor to sit under your vine and fig tree,' declares the Lord Almighty." **Zechariah 3:1-10 (NIV)**

⁴ The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes."

Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and **I will put fine garments on you.**" **Zechariah 3:4 (NIV)**

HOW? Let God put fine garments on you

Satan is the prosecuting attorney, but he understands only legal exactitude. He does not understand that the heart of God's character is mercy and compassion. Dave Nystrom, Ph.D., *Angels and Demons*

[Gods are at war for your soul. The things of the world, the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life is warring against my mind, body, and soul.

You need to let God "put fine garments on you."

We do this by believing that Christ was crucified for our sins. We let God clothe us with Christ.

Then we walk in a new life that starts with baptism because it symbolizes taking off the old and putting on the new.

And Baptism is your first step after becoming a Christian. December 14th is your opportunity.

Insert baptism slide here.

But from baptism on, it's learning to stand your ground in your new armored garments.

Li learned in: **"I dress for the funding I want."** Her confidence and retro swagger won them over. She landed the internship, then a full-time analyst role post-graduation, becoming the youngest hire in firm history. The \$12 suit now hangs in her office. *Verified by Forbes "30 Under 30" profile and firm press release.*

Put on the full armor of God

A season that was soo good we knew it couldn't last forever.

Power suit

Notes:

¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

"Schemes" or craftiness. He knows how to poke and exploit your fear, lust, and pride. He's determined. Satan is the most powerful of all angelic beings. Ezek. 28:14

Satan is a wiley foe and to stand against the wiles of Satan, there are many Scriptures that tell us to stand against the subtleties and the wiles of Satan and the Gospel of Mark, "For false Christs and false prophets shall rise." 2 Cor. 2:11, "Let Satan" 2 Cor. 11:3, "through his subtlety" The subtlety and deceit of Satan? Transformed into angels of light. 2 Thess. "Lying wonders." it is a spiritual battle. God has given us spiritual armor. We have to be using the spiritual weapons that God has made available to us because "we wrestle not against flesh and blood."

The weapons of our warfare are for the pulling down of the strongholds in our lives.

Recognize that the real conflict is spiritual-- "Many times the devil attacks and hides behind the physical things. He's trying to draw us into a physical conflict with him. If Satan can draw you into the flesh, into a physical conflict, he has the decided advantage over you. But if we war against him with the spiritual weapons, we have the decided advantage over him.

So often, we react and we respond in the flesh, not recognizing the spiritual nature of the conflict:

Recognize-- this is an attack of the enemy (someone at work, they are suddenly attacking us (38:14). If you defend yourself, the Lord will let you. But if you let the Lord defend you, he'll do a much better job. This is not always easy because of the wily ways he attacks us.

Refuse it-- I don't have to take from Satan, any kind of duff.

Rejoice-- that God has given to us the power of his spirit whereby we can repel the attacks (1 Jn. "Satan cannot touch us").

The whole armor of God. It's the righteousness that I have in Christ Jesus.

Satan's attacks are often in the form of condemnation. I am defended by this righteousness that I have. We shouldn't place emphasis on the physical aspects.

Stand, therefore-- **The first part of our spiritual armor is truth.**

Principalities and Powers

- Appointed over people groups (Deut. 32:8-9).
- Inferior gods (Ps. 29:1).
- Presided over by the council of heaven (Ps. 89:6-7).
- **Disarmed and triumphed over at the cross (Col. 2:15).**
- Judged by God because "they have not defended the poor, they have turned their backs upon God's standards" (Ps. 82:1-4).
- **"Powers in the heavens" allied with "kings of the earth" (Isa. 24:22).**
- Yet, the powers are still active (Eph. 6:12).
- Frustrated Paul's missionary plans (1 Thess. 2:18; 2 Cor. 12:7).
- **A Power is being "restrained" (2 Thess. 2:7).**
- Spirits of the world (Gal. 4:3; Col. 2:8, 20).
- Blinds unbelievers (2 Cor. 4:4).
- Opposes God (Eph. 2:1-2).
- Created in and for Christ (Col. 1:16; 2:10).
- Crucified the Lord of glory (1 Cor. 2:6-8; John 14:30-31).
- Nothing can separate us from God (Rom. 8:31).
- Will know the manifest wisdom of God (Eph. 3:10-11).
- **Christ will triumph over all the powers (1 Cor. 15:24).**