

**Series: Standing Firm
“Helmet to Defeat Broadsword of Doubt”
Ephesians 6:17a**

Big Idea – We always need to remember it’s not over until God says it’s over!

Review last week’s helmet of salvation teaching:

Three aspects of our Salvation

In summary, salvation:

Happens in past – Justification
Is happening in present – Sanctification
Will happen in the future – glorification

Romans 8:22 – 25 – the creation groans due to curse of sin, but vs. 24 says that “we are saved in hope”

1 Peter 1:3 ...in God’s great mercy he has caused us to be born again into a living hope, because Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

4 Now we hope for the blessings God has for his children. These blessings, which cannot be destroyed or be spoiled or lose their beauty, are kept in heaven for you.

5 God’s power protects you through your faith until salvation is shown to you at the end of time.

6 So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you have to endure many trials for a little while.

The Helmet of Salvation is the Hope of Ultimate Salvation

1 Thessalonians 5:8 “...let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.”

There still is an element of salvation to obtain – the confidence that someday the battle will be over.

The function of the helmet of salvation is protection from Satan's double-side broadsword of Discouragement and Doubt.

Elijah thought he was the only one. Satan wants you to think you are the only one going through this (whatever it is you're going through)

Don't get weary or discouraged at the trials of others.

Ephesians 3:13 "I ask you not to become discouraged because of the sufferings I am having for you. My sufferings are for your glory."

Recognize the battle is relentless

2 Timothy 4:7 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Remedy for battle fatigue

"Remember that our salvation is nearer than when we believed." (Romans 13:11)

Getting close to the finish line – don't quit now.

Reminders to persevere

2 Timothy 1:7 "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

Hebrews 10:35 "...do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.
36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise."

the helmet of salvation will protect me from Satan's double-sided broadsword of Doubt

He wants you to doubt your salvation

John 6:37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

39 And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day.

40 For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life."

John 10:27 "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me,
29 for my Father has given them to me, and **He is more powerful than anyone else**. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand.

GOD IS THE STRONGEST POWER IN THE UNIVERSE

He wants you to doubt God's love for you

Romans 8:35 Can anything separate us from the love Christ has for us? Can troubles or problems or sufferings or hunger or nakedness or danger or violent death? **Answer to this hypothetical question is NO, NOTHING**

37 But in all these things we have full victory through God who showed his love for us.

38 Yes, I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor ruling spirits, nothing now, nothing in the future, no powers,
39 nothing above us, nothing below us, nor anything else in the whole world will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

He wants you to doubt God answers prayers

Matthew 14:29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.
30 But when he saw that the wind *was* boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"
31 And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

James 1:6 When you ask for something, don't have any doubts. A person who has doubts is like a wave that is blown by the wind and tossed by the sea.
7 A person who has doubts shouldn't expect to receive anything from the Lord.
8 A person who has doubts is thinking about two different things at the same time and can't make up his mind about anything.

He wants you to doubt God's Word

Because it is full of God's promises – look at the example of Abraham

Romans 4:20 He never doubted that God would keep his promise, and he never stopped believing. He grew stronger in his faith and gave praise to God.

21 He **was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises.**

When your mind is bombarded by doubts you must remember to focus not on what you feel, but what God's Word says.

Remember what God has done, not what God did not do!

David remembered God's deliverance (1 Samuel 13:37) not that God allowed him to be attacked by a bear and a lion! It's a matter of perspective, not why did this happen to me, but WOW, God brought me through it all.

John 20:24 Thomas...was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other followers kept telling Thomas, "We saw the Lord." But Thomas said, "I will not believe it until I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were and put my hand into his side."

26 A week later the followers were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came in and stood right in the middle of them. He said, "Peace be with you."

27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand here in my side. Stop being an unbeliever and believe."

28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Isolation feeds doubt. Thomas missed the assembling of believers and his doubts were magnified.

Hebrews 10:25 "Do not stay away from the church meetings, the assembly of believers, as some are doing, but you should meet together and encourage each other. especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

Faith grows by the fellowship and encouragement of other believers.