

Having Done All to Stand (Eph. 6:10-17)

I. INSTRUCTED TO STAND

¹⁰...be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against [demonic] principalities, against powers...against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴Stand therefore... (Eph. 6:10-14)

- A. **You may be able to stand:** Paul emphasized the need to “stand” 3 times within 4 verses. This is the primary command in this passage. Paul emphasized this often in his letters. We picture a soldier in a military conflict standing firm and prevailing against the enemy.
- B. We are living in the midst of an increasingly wicked and perverse generation. Where good is said to be evil and evil is declared as good. The leaders of the earth are casting off restraint and going against the basic governance of conscience. We are on the fast track to a falling away and love growing cold in many in the body. The need for men and women of God to stand is great. Young and old, male and female, within every nation and tribe the Lord will see to it that he has a people who stand and declare the truth of His death, burial, resurrection and His glorious return.
- C. Whether it's a soldier standing in battle, a house that built upon a firm foundation, roots of a tree that grow deep in the soil the word of God is filled with metaphors that communicate over and over the need for hearts to be steady in all seasons.
- D. Daniel purposed in his heart at a very young age to not be defiled by the Babylonian way of life. In chapter 3 of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah took a stand and would not bow to Nebuchadnezzar's idol. This led to them getting cast into a fiery furnace. In chapter 6 of the book of Daniel, Daniel will not relent on his commitment in prayer while wicked men scheme against him.

8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank.. (Dan 1:8)

16 ...Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up. (Dan 3:16-18)

- E. Standing is the opposite of shrinking back in fear. The person who is standing is not tossed to and fro from a double mind that is filled with doubt. Standing is sometimes an outward display for all to see and sometimes an inward resolve to not let go of what the Lord has said.

II. 8 PRINCIPLES TO STANDING

- A. **We stand in grace:** In Psalm 130 the psalmist says “If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand” We stand in grace. We don’t stand by the strength of our own arm but rather the unmerited favor that comes through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have access to this grace by faith.

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (Rom 5:1-2)

- B. **We stand in faith and by faith:** Standing *in faith* speaks of the condition or position in which we stand and abide. Standing *by faith* speaks of the source or the method by which we stand.

13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. (1 Cor 16:13)

20 You stand by faith.... (Rom 11:20)

24 Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand. (2 Cor 1:24)

- C. **We stand in liberty:** We have been liberated from the shackles of sin and death. We are to remain in the state of freedom and liberty provided through Christ. We are free from death and sin and should not to return entangled again in the yoke of bondage.

1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. (Gal 5:1)

10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, recon yourself dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 6:10-11)

- D. **We stand in one spirit:** We are to stand as an international family of affection, that is, the body of Christ unified with one mind laboring for the gospel to go forth and Jesus to be glorified.

27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel (Phil 1:27)

25 But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand...” (Mt 12:25)

- E. **We stand perfect and complete:** We are to stand in complete whole hearted obedience to the will of God. We must not reserve or hold back any area of our life for our own desire. We stand in whole hearted obedience as expression of our pursuit to love Him with our whole heart, whole mind, soul and strength.

12...always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. (Col 4:12)

- F. **We stand fast holding the taught traditions:** This is much like the exhortation from Paul in 2 Timothy 1:13 to “*hold fast the pattern of sound words*” or to hold fast to the foundational teachings and doctrine of the gospel.

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle. (2 Thes 2:15)

- G. **We stand by putting on the whole armor of God:** The means by which we stand. We are to “put on” the whole armor of God.

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

1. **Put on:** We are instructed to put on the whole armor of God. The use of the armor is not a given in the Christian walk. It is possible for a believer to be unarmed, unequipped, and unprotected in the battle. We must put on or apply the armor supplied by God. The Lord’s design and desire for the believer to be fully armed and equipped in this wrestle.
 2. **The whole armor of God:** There are six aspect to this armor. We are to put on the entire armor. It takes all six aspects to come out prevailing and victorious.
- H. **We stand against the wiles of the devil:** We stand against the wiles of devil, that is, the crafty schemes and deceitful strategies of the accuser intended to disillusion and destroy the believer.

III. THE WILES OF THE DEVIL

- A. One of the primary ways the devil attacks is the use of cunning words, deceitful plans, and subtle seduction. Not sexual seduction only but also his covert appealing to our deep desire for power.
- B. The devil never talks plainly and with a direct approach. He is constantly manipulative, always distorting the truth, seeking out who he may devour. From eve in the garden when he said “*did he really say that?*”, to his approach regarding Job, to his temptation of Jesus in the wilderness, the serpent speaks with a cunning tongue trying to accomplish his crafty schemes.

I Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the women, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?” (Gen 3:1)

- C. Satan presents himself as an angel of light. Often his reasoning sounds good and noble but it is wicked at its core. We must have God given discernment and minds washed in the water of His word so that we recognize the distortions of truths, the perversions of doctrine, and the twisting of the nature and work of the cross.

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works. (2 Cor 11:13-15)

- D. **(we wrestle) principalities, powers, spiritual host of wickedness...**: The devil uses his demonic army to accomplish his wicked schemes. It is this army that we wrestle against.
- E. **We wrestle not with flesh and blood:** We may have disagreements with men and women in the body but our true wrestle is not against them. It's just like the enemy to convince us that our enemy is flesh and blood. It's quite the diversion tactic. Our mental and emotional energy goes towards "fighting" flesh and blood meanwhile we are fighting the wrong battle entirely.
- F. **Having done all to stand:** Using all the available resources, our time, money, relationships, knowledge, skills, everything within our power to stand.

IV. WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD: THE SIX ASPECTS (EPH. 6:14-17)

- A. Paul describes the "armor of God," using the metaphor of a Roman soldier's armor to illustrate how believers can stand firm against spiritual opposition. Each of the six elements represents a spiritual truth that equips us to stand firm and advance the kingdom of God.

¹⁴Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; (Eph. 6:14-17)

1. ***Gird your waist with truth (6:14):***
 2. ***Put on the breastplate of righteousness (6:14):***
 3. ***Shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace (6:15):***
 4. ***Above all, taking the shield of faith (6:16):***
 5. ***Take the helmet of salvation (6:17):***
 6. ***Take the sword of the Spirit (6:17):***
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