

114 - Be Strengthened in the Lord - Ephesians 6:10 - 2016-10-30

Call to Worship: Deuteronomy 31:12

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15 - 31:8

Sermon: "Be Strong in the Lord" Ephesians 6:10

Benediction: Deuteronomy 32:3-4

## INTRODUCTION

When you used to think that you were saved because God gave you the choice, and you chose correctly, there were no evil forces trying to change your mind about that, trying to get you to run away from that kind of thinking. That was not a good place to be, and the devil did not mind you being there. But now that you have learned to have a much higher view of God, to give all glory to God's grace for choosing you, electing you, predestining you, from all eternity, to be saved in Jesus Christ; for sending His own dear Son to take the penalty for your sins in Himself on the cross; for taking you, when dead in trespasses and sins, and powerfully making you alive with Jesus Christ by His Holy Spirit---you are on good ground now. You stand in a place that is a blessed place, a joyful place, and wonderful place. And the devil and all the spiritual forces of evil would love to make you run away from that place back to where you used to be, or would like to see you fall, stricken down right where you are. In order to stand, with such enemies after you, you will need strength.

When you used to think that the church was where you could basically say whatever you wanted to say, and do whatever you wanted to do, and get whatever you wanted to get, because church is about you sharing what the scriptures mean to you; its about you being chairperson of your favorite committee, or director of your favorite ministry; its about putting the children in the nursery so you can serve the Lord in the church's programs. It's about playing basketball, golf, volleyball, and whatever else you like and calling that your ministry. When you used to think like that, you were spiritually living in a hovel, and the spiritual forces of evil were fine with that. I imagine they had a good cackle or two over us when we lived like that. But now you have learned that the church is a holy temple, being built up by Jesus Christ, upon the foundation of Himself and His apostles and prophets. His church is His own body, and all of us the members of it. We are to take in nourishment from the church's pastors and teachers, which nourishment is the Word of God as spoken and written by the apostles and prophets, so as to be built up in the faith to a mature man. We are to humble ourselves and do all we can to keep the unity of the Spirit in the church, in the bonds of peace. Now you have moved out of that hovel to a good house on a lovely property. You stand there in a state of blessedness. But the devil and all the forces of evil in the spiritual realm are now out to ruin all of that for you. They would like to see you turn tail and run from there, going back to what you used to do, or off to something worse. If they can manage it, they would really like to see you fall right where you are, and do grievous damage to your church. In order to stand, with such enemies after you, you will need strength.

When you used to think that family life and the workplace were not really matters to be governed by our faith in Jesus Christ. You didn't think of the gospel as being promoted by submission to your husband or obedience to your master. You thought the gospel was best spread by putting on carnivals and going on youth group mission trips. You thought that however you were raised, however your friends and the world around you did it, that was good for the Christian at home and the Christian at work. You wives, children, and servants didn't understand or take seriously submission and reverence. You husbands, parents, and masters didn't understand or take seriously Christ-like love. When you were like that, that was like living in a cardboard box under the bridge. No one wanted to take that from you. Demons that saw you living there had no quarrel with you. Why would they want to move you from there? But now that you have learned something from our Lord Jesus Christ about submission to those over you, and real love for those under you, and the power those things have in proving to sinners the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ, a power far greater than the largest carnival, you stand in a much better place. You now stand on a large, bountiful estate, full of good things with which to nourish yourself and your family, and full of new joy every day. And the spiritual forces of evil that have gotten wind of what you have been up to are sure to want to launch and assault on you so ferocious that you will turn tail and run away back to your cardboard box. Better yet, they would like to cause such a moral fall in you as would be like a bomb going off in the middle of your home or your workplace. In order to stand, with such enemies after you, you will need strength.

And so, the Lord Jesus, by His apostle Paul, tells you to be strengthened.

## TEXT

Ephesians 6:10-11 Finally, my brethren, **be strong strengthened [G1743 *endunamoo*]** in the Lord and in the power of His might. (11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

## BODY

- I. "Be Strong" Means, More Specifically, "Be Strengthened"
  - A. Understand in the original this is not two words, but one
    1. not the verb "to be" and the adjective "strong"
    2. but the verb "enstrengthen" or "enstrengthen"
  - B. This one word is not to do something to yourself, but to have something done to you
    1. the verb is *endunamoo*
    2. here it is in the [present] **passive** [imperative]
      - a) active: Doctor Jones, operate on this patient.
      - b) passive: Joe, you need to have an operation.

- c) You see that an operation needs to be done. The doctor actively will do the operating. Joe will passively be operated on.
  - d) So, to have an operation is to do something, but the actual thing being done is done not BY you, but TO you
  - e) You are to exert yourself to see that it gets done, but it is essentially done to you by someone else.
- C. The verb in this verse, “to be strengthened,” when it is used in the active voice, it sounds like this
- 1. Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- D. But here it is used in the passive voice, and so sounds like this
- 1. Ephesians 6:10 Be strengthened in the Lord
- E. So, do not conceive of this as something you are doing to yourself; Instead, conceive of this as something you are having done to you
- F. Not those strong being told to act or stay strong; but those weak being told to get strength
- G. Not those weak being told to be strong, but those weak being told to go be made strong
- H. That is the nature of the gospel and our religion: not that we are to get ourselves to God by what we do, but that God is getting us to Himself by what He has done for us through Jesus Christ and by His Holy Spirit!
- II. Be Strengthened In the Lord
- A. By which is meant being strengthened in the Lord Jesus Christ; this doctrine is centered not on you, but on Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior
- 1. this not the doctrine of you being strong, but the doctrine of you being strengthened by the Lord Jesus Christ
  - 2. It's not that we have been learning about
    - a) chapter one was about God choosing us in Jesus Christ
    - b) chapter two was about God making us, who were dead in sins alive in Jesus Christ
    - c) chapter three was about God showing His wisdom by accomplishing in us His eternal purpose in Jesus Christ
    - d) chapter four was about Jesus Christ building us up into one unified, mature man
    - e) chapter five was about our walking in love as Christ has loved us, and submitting to those over us as unto Christ Himself
    - f) the first part of chapter six was about obeying in the Lord and doing good as to the Lord
    - g) but this last part of chapter six is about us getting ourselves strong by ourselves and for ourselves; of course not; this section, like all the rest, is about the Lord Jesus Christ; here it is about our being strengthened by Him

- B. Which strengthening is available to us because the Lord Jesus is near to us, is with us; when Paul writes, "Be strong in the Lord," part of what he means is, "Be strengthened in the Lord's nearness, in the Lord's presence"
1. You heard in today's Old Testament reading, Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."
  2. God said the same to Joshua: Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."
  3. 1 Chronicles 28:20 And David said to his son Solomon, "Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God--my God--will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.
  4. King Hezekiah said to the people of Judah: 2 Chronicles 32:7-8 "Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that is with him; for there are more with us than with him. (8) With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles." And the people were strengthened by the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.
  5. Haggai 2:4 Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel,' says the LORD; 'and be strong, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and be strong, all you people of the land,' says the LORD, 'and work; for I am with you,' says the LORD of hosts.
  6. This is what Paul said, 2 Timothy 4:17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.
- C. Which strengthening is by God's grace expressed to us through Jesus Christ; when Paul writes, "Be strong in the Lord," part of what he means is, "Be Strengthened In the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ"
1. 2 Timothy 2:1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
  2. grace essentially
  3. grace as blessing - knowledge, will, ability
  4. means of grace - chapter 18, paragraph 3
    - a) This infallible assurance doth not so belong to the essence of faith, but that **a true believer may** wait long, and conflict with many difficulties before he be partaker of it; yet being enabled by the Spirit to know the things which are freely given him of God, he may, without extraordinary revelation, **in the right use of means, attain** thereunto: and therefore it is the duty of every one to give all diligence to make his calling and election sure, that thereby his

heart may be enlarged in peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, in love and thankfulness to God, and **in strength and cheerfulness in the duties of obedience**, the proper fruits of this assurance; -so far is it from inclining men to looseness.

b) enumerate

D. Which strengthening is through faith in God through Jesus Christ; when Paul writes, "Be strong in the Lord," part of what he means is, "Be Strengthened Through Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ"

1. strengthened in faith Romans 4:20-21 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, (21) and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.
2. strengthened through faith Hebrews 11:33-34 who **through faith** subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, (34) quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, **out of weakness were made strong**, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.
3. remember Paul taught this to the Galatians, in a related matter: Do you think that having begun through faith, you now are to finish through works?

## CONCLUSION

You have come to stand in a good place, and roomy place, and land flowing with milk and honey. But enemies are on the way. You will need strength to stand in this good place the Lord has brought you to. It won't do to ignore the threat until it is upon you. Today, now, at this time, without delay, be strengthened in the Lord Jesus Christ; in His nearness, His presence; in His grace; in faith, and through faith in Him, that you may be able to stand in the evil day.

## THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

2 Timothy 4:17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

JRY:

The Lord often says, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you." Is the availability of strength from Him part of what He means?

2 Timothy 4:17 the Lord stood with me and strengthened me

## THE GRACE OF THE LORD

Looked at as to God's Part, this Strengthening Is a Matter of GRACE

2 Timothy 2:1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Ellicott:

not as men understand strength or firmness; but do thou be strong "in the grace that is in Christ Jesus"—that is, be strong in the power of that inward sanctification which enables a man to will and to do according to what God has commanded, in the power of that inward sanctification which alone proceeds from Christ, and which will never be wanting to any one who is in Christ; in other words, "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might" (Eph\_6:10).

EB:

In his own strength he will be able to do nothing; but in the grace which Christ freely bestows on all believers who ask it of Him, Timothy will be able to find all that he needs for the strengthening of his own character and for the instruction of others

Gill:

either the free favour and love of God in Christ

or rather by grace is meant the fulness of grace which is in Christ, for the supply of his people; for in that grace which is in him, and not in that which is in themselves, should their dependence be.

Clarke:

Though the genuine import of the word grace is favor, yet it often implies an active principle communicated from God; light directing how to act, and power enabling to act according to the light

Fairbairn:

this power the apostle had also been careful to represent as derived solely from the grace of a redeeming God being in Christ by a childlike faith is the sphere in -which the gift of grace is to be found. But the injunction to be strengthened therein, implies that, in order to be realized, it must be actively laid hold of by the believer.

Hawker:

The grace I had from Christ the first day, I need every day, and to the last day. My spiritual strength, is in Christ: not in what I feel, nor in what I have; but wholly in Him. And this life is kept up, in the constant receiving of fresh communications from Him, and living to Him, and living upon Him. This is to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. There is no other strength

Barnes:

The meaning is, Be strong, relying on the grace which the Lord Jesus only can impart.

Calvin:

what God demands from us by his word he likewise bestows by his Spirit, so that we are strengthened in the grace which he has given to us

the present exhortation could not have been fruitful without the secret power of the Spirit

JFB:

grace, the element in which the believer's strength has place

## FAITH IN THE LORD

Looked at As to Our Part, this Strengthening is a Matter of FAITH

Poole:

[be strong] not in yourselves, but in the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom your strength lies, and from whom by faith you may obtain it:

Gill:

they may strengthen themselves . . . by exercising faith upon him

Romans 4:20-21 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, (21) and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

Hebrews 11:33-34 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, (34) quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Trapp:

here their strength was to sit still

Poole:

few in number, short as to force, power, etc. yet by faith in God were made bold as lions, and had wonderful success against numerous and potent enemies

Pink:

But our text is not to be restricted to physical "weakness;" God is able to make the doctrinally and spiritually weak to stand: Romans 14:4. The secret of the Christian's strength lies in maintaining a consciousness of his weakness (2 Cor. 12:10). The trouble is that as we grow older, most of us grow more independent and self-sufficient. The fact is that the oldest Christian has no more strength in himself than he had when he was but a "babe in Christ." Just so soon as we fail to feel and acknowledge before God our personal weakness, do we fail to prove the sufficiency of God's grace! Seek strength from Him daily.

Barnes:

Enabled to perform exploits beyond their natural strength, or raised up from a state of physical infirmity, and invigorated for conflict.

## BE STRENGTHENED

RWP:

Present passive imperative of *endunamoō*

"Keep on being empowered," "keep in touch with the power."

Be strengthened by Jesus Christ

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

1 Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me

2 Timothy 4:17 the Lord stood with me and strengthened me

Ellicott:

Properly, *be strengthened*

Fairbairn:



Be strengthened—ἐνδυναμοῦ—not simply “be strong,” for the verb in the passive signifies to become strong, to get strength

Eadie:

be strengthened . . . The verb is passive

JFB:

literally, “be invested with power”

JRY:

It is not that I am going to act strong, but I am actually going to be strengthened.

IN THE LORD

meaning the Lord Jesus Christ

this is all centered on Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior

we’re not putting on the armor of God, meaning doing something apart from Him

Hebrews 11:32-34 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: (33) who **through faith** subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, (34) quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, **out of weakness were made strong [G1743 endunamoo], became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.**

Acts 9:22 But Saul **increased** all the more **in strength [G1743 endunamoo]**, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

Romans 4:19-21 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. (20) He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but **was strengthened [G1743 endunamoo]** in faith, giving glory to God, (21) and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

Philippians 4:12-13 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. (13) I can do all things through Christ who **strengthens [G1743 endunamoo]** me.

1 Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has **enabled** me [ESV, NIV **given me strength**] **[G1743 endunamoo]**, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,

2 Timothy 2:1 You therefore, my son, **be strong [G1743 endunamoo]** in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 4:14-18 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. (15) You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. (16) At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged

against them. (17) But the Lord stood with me and **strengthened [G1743 endunamoo]** me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. (18) And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

Philippians 4:13

2 Timothy 2:1

Ephesians 1:19

Ephesians 3:16

Deut 31

Josh 1

Zech 10:12

JRY:

Joshua received this word when about to go conquering the promised land.  
had we not gained this ground, we would have no need to keep it  
If we had not in mind to believe and do according to what we have learned in Ephesians,  
the devil would have nothing to do to get us out of it.

Ferguson:

necessary for practising all or any of the forementioned duties  
in the Lord Christ

It is not enough for Christians to know what they ought to do by virtue of their several  
relations, except they also set about the practice of their duty  
the duties of a Christian life will not be discharged by us without a battle and conflict with  
strong difficulties and terrible adversaries

Hodgins:

“be strengthened”

we do not have strength of our own; it must be infused by Christ  
ordinary means of grace - not automatic

Calvin:

summon up courage and vigor

when our weakness is considered, an exhortation like this would have no effect, unless  
the Lord were present, and stretched out his hand to render assistance, or rather, unless  
he supplied us with all the power. Paul therefore adds, in the Lord

Poole:

be courageous, and constant in the practice of your duty

not in yourselves, but in the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom your strength lies, and from whom by faith you may obtain it:

Gill:

since there is strength in him, which is communicable to them, they may expect it from him, and depend upon it

they may strengthen themselves in it, and by it, by meditation on it, by prayer for it, by waiting on Christ in his own ways, by exercising faith upon him, and through the Spirit, who strengthens them from him with might in the inward man.

Eadie:

(as also Ellicott) the verb is passive, "be strengthened in the Lord"

JRY:

we could look at some who have had strength, and see what we know about how they got it

### **and in the power of His might**

Poole:

Though your own strength be but weakness, yet Christ's power is mighty, and he can communicate enough to you.

Genesis 15:1-6 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. **I am your shield**, your exceedingly great reward." (2) But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" (3) Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" (4) And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." (5) Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." (6) And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

Deuteronomy 33:29 Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, The shield of your help And the sword of your majesty! Your enemies shall submit to you, And you shall tread down their high places."

2 Samuel 22:1-4 Then David spoke to the LORD the words of this song, on the day when the LORD had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. (2) And he said: "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; (3) The God of my strength,

in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, My stronghold and my refuge; My Savior, You save me from violence. (4) I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.

## able to stand

Ephesians 6:10-14a Finally, [my brethren,] be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. (11) Put on the whole armor of God, **that you may be able to stand [G2476 *histemī*]** against [G4314 *pros*] 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 [G436 *anthistemī*]** in the evil day, and having done all, **to stand [G2476 *histemī*]**. (14) **Stand [G2476 *histemī*]** therefore . . .

Ferguson:

In the latter part of the verse, he showeth the end why they should be strong in the Lord, and put on this armour, even that they might be able to stand; that is, to hold on their Christian course, as a soldier standing orderly and keeping his ground  
Satan's great design in all his temptations is to drive the party tempted from his station . . .  
for, while he saith, "that ye may be able to stand against his wiles," he implieth that Satan's aim is to drive us from our station

The great work of a Christian is to guard against them, and to keep our station notwithstanding of them, even when we are assaulted by them  
by "standing" as it is distinguished from "withstanding" presently mentioned, must be meant the posture not of a soldier, but of a conqueror, who useth to stand when the conquered are thrown upon the ground

Psalms 20:7-8 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God. (8) They have bowed down and fallen; But we have risen and stand upright.

the weakest of saints will be enabled to receive, without losing ground, the most furious of Satan's assaults

he forewarneth of an ill day approaching, and will have them arm themselves before it come

Hodge:

That you may be able, after the conflict is over, to maintain your ground as victors.

Poole:

either to fight, or rather to overcome. He that loses the victory is said to fall; he that gains it, to stand

Gill:

stand against him, oppose him, and fight, and get the victory over him

JRY: to stand meaning?

to be perfect and complete in all the will of God

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may **stand [G2476**

**histemi**] perfect [ESV, NIV mature] [**G5046 teleios**] and complete [NIV, ESV, RWP “fully assured”] [**G4135 plerophoreo**] in all the will of God.

Ephesians 4:13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect [**G5046 teleios**] man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

You have been taught what is true about the great salvation God has worked in you in Jesus Christ our Savior by the Holy Spirit.

You have been taught how you are to walk, as worthy of that salvation.

You now, in effect, stand as a mature man.

JRY: to stand instead of

Fall

Romans 14:4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls [G4098]. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him **stand** [**G2476 histemi**].

1 Cor 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he **stands** [**G2476 histemi**] take heed lest he fall [G4098].

Be cut off

Romans 11:20-22 Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you **stand** [**G2476 histemi**] by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. (21) For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. (22) Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

Luke 21:34-36 "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. (35) For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. (36) Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to **stand** [**G2476 histemi**] before the Son of Man."

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not **stand** [**G2476 histemi**] in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may **stand [G2476 *histemī*]** perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Gill:

have a perfect knowledge of the revealed will of God, both as to doctrine and practice, and be enabled to act according to it

Clarke:

That ye may stand firm, perfectly instructed, and fully persuaded of the truth of those doctrines which have been taught you as the revealed will of God: this I believe to be the meaning of the apostle.

Ellicott:

prays that this perfection may belong to all, and that it may have its basis not in the secrets of heavenly knowledge, but in the revealed "will of God."

JFB:

"Perfect" implies the attainment of the full maturity of a Christian.

EB:

The first petition is for steadfastness. To stand has for opposites—to fall, or totter, or give ground; so the prayer is that they may not yield to temptation, or opposition, nor waver in their fixed faith, nor go down in the struggle; but keep erect, their feet planted on the rock, and holding their own against every foe.

The prayer is also for their maturity of Christian character, that they may stand firm, because perfect, having attained that condition which Paul in this Epistle tells us is the aim of all preaching and warning. As for ourselves, so for our dear ones, we are to be content with nothing short of entire conformity to the will of God.

"fully assured" in all the will of God. There can be no higher blessing than that—to be quite sure of what God desires me to know and do and be—if the assurance comes from the clear light of His illumination, and not from hasty self-confidence in my own penetration. To be free from the misery of intellectual doubts and practical uncertainties, to walk in the sunshine—is the purest joy. And it is granted in needful measure to all who have silenced their own wills, that they may hear what God says,—"If any man wills to do His will, he shall know."

Henry:

We must stand complete in all the will of God; in the will of his precepts by a universal obedience, and in the will of his providence by a cheerful submission to it: and we stand perfect and complete in both by constancy and perseverance unto the end.

Acts 26:22-23 Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I **stand [G2476 *histemī*]**, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come-- (23) that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."

Romans 5:1-2 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 [G2476 histem]**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:11-12 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. (12) Therefore let him who thinks he **stands [G2476 histem]** take heed lest he fall.

Isaiah 11:1-5 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. (2) The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. (3) His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; (4) But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; **He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. (5) Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness [LXX G225 aletheia] the belt of His waist.**

Isaiah 59:16-17 He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him. (17) **For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.**

-righteousness as a breastplate

-a helmet of salvation on His head

Psalms 18

Psalms 18:32 It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect.

Psalms 18:35 You have also given me **the shield of Your salvation**; Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great.

Psalms 18:39 For You have armed me with strength for the battle; You have subdued under me those who rose up against me.

2 Corinthians 10:2-6 But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. (3) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. (4) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, (5) casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, (6) and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.



1 Thessalonians 5:6-8 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. (7) For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. (8) But 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.**

Ephesians 6:14-18 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, (15) and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (16) above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. (17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; (18) praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--

1 Samuel 2:1-10 And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation. (2) "No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God. (3) "Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the LORD is the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed. (4) "The bows of the mighty men are broken, And those who stumbled are girded with strength. (5) Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, And the hungry have ceased to hunger. Even the barren has borne seven, And she who has many children has become feeble. (6) "The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up. (7) The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up. (8) He raises the poor from the dust And lifts the beggar from the ash heap, To set them among princes And make them inherit the throne of glory. "For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, And He has set the world upon them. (9) He will guard the feet of His saints, But the wicked shall be silent in darkness. "For **by strength no man shall prevail.** (10) The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces; From heaven He will thunder against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. "He will give strength to His king, And exalt the horn of His anointed."

In this letter, we, the church of Jesus Christ, have been told what is true, that we may believe in our Lord Jesus Christ, and what is commanded us, that we may obey our Lord Jesus Christ.

The devil and all the hosts of wickedness with him hate our Lord Jesus, and hate us because we are His. They do not want us to believe in Christ as we have been taught here, and they do not want us to obey Christ as we have been commanded here.

We stand here, on the ground laid out for us in this letter.

The devil and all who are with him will be trying to knock us off of it.  
Our Lord's apostle tells us what to do so that we may be able to stand here.

Our commander has shown us our rightful position, and has told us to hold this ground.  
This is the ground that belongs to the church, having been given it by the Lord Jesus.

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. **He was a murderer from the beginning**, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Think how often the bible speaks of God's people as being in violent conflict with the forces of evil.

You have your own sinful flesh to deal with  
You also have the world to deal with  
But think now for a while about the fact that you have the devil and his hosts to deal with

He is a foe whose ultimate defeat is sure. But that does not mean he is not a vicious and dangerous enemy still for now.

It is good, as Ephesians chapter 2 taught us, to be made by God to be one new man in Christ Jesus. It is good to do as Ephesians 4 teaches us, and grow into the maturity of a full-grown man. But many full-grown men have lost possession of what they had because they have been driven off the ground they had gained by the attacks of an enemy. And many full-grown mature men have been wounded and killed by the attacks of cruel enemies.

## Finally

Clarke:

Having laid before you, your great and high calling, and all the doctrines and precepts of the Gospel, it is necessary that I should show you the enemies that will oppose you, and the strength which is requisite to enable you to repel them.

JRY:

Of the several matters that make up this letter, here is the last.

When we think of obeying the things we are commanded, as in Ephesians, we think of it as just obeying or disobeying in the individual instance. But we are taught here that obeying or disobeying in any given instance of temptation is also a matter of how we live overall

-filled with the Spirit

-being strengthened, taking up the whole armory of God

Hodgins:

our wealth  
our walk  
our warfare  
OR  
sitting  
walking  
standing - holding your ground and fighting

Hoehner:

10-13 putting on the armor  
14-16 standing with the armor  
17-20 receiving the final pieces of armor

### **Put on the whole armor of God**

Hodge:

Instead of relying on the arms which God has provided, men have always been disposed to trust to those which they provide for themselves or which have been prescribed by others. Seclusion from the world (i.e. flight rather than conflict), ascetic and ritual observances, invocation of saints and angels, and especially, celibacy, voluntary poverty, and monastic obedience, constitute the panoply which false religion has substituted for the armor of God. Of this fatal mistake, manifested from the beginning, the apostle treats at length in his Epistle to the Colossians, Col\_2:18-23.

Trapp:

Or else never think to do the afore mentioned duties

JRY:

ILLUS: Gas chamber during basic training  
the gas mask is not pleasing to the flesh

Hodgins:

[paraphrasing]  
-Paul not referring to organizing for political action  
-Paul not referring to missionary endeavor  
-Paul referring here to the everyday mundane matters

Isaiah 59:16-21 He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him. (17) For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak. (18)

According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay, Fury to His adversaries, Recompense to His enemies; The coastlands He will fully repay. (19) So shall they fear The name of the LORD from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him. (20) "The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," Says the LORD. (21) "As for Me," says the LORD, "this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants' descendants," says the LORD, "from this time and forevermore."

Borgman:

Paul is not thinking of Roman soldier armor, but of Isaiah 59:17 armor

Griswold:

This armor is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

"I am the truth"

"Christ, our righteousness"

"He is our peace"

Rom 13: "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ."

When a soldier goes into battle, his armament is already chosen for him.

If you are not interested in these weapons, you fear men rather than God.

**that you may be able to stand against**

Hoehner:

to stand defensively (not to conquer) against the onslaughts

to stand defensively against the spiritual wickedness in the heavenlies

**the wiles of the devil**

**gird your waist with truth** *G225 aletheia*

Isaiah 11:5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And **faithfulness [G225 aletheia] the belt of His waist.**

**breastplate** *G2382 thorax of righteousness*

Isaiah 59:17 For He put on **righteousness as a breastplate**, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.

1 Thessalonians 5:8 But 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.

**having shod your feet [G4228 *pous*] with the preparation [G2091 *hetoimasia*] of the gospel [G2098 *euaggelion*] of peace [G1515 *eirene*]**

Isaiah 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who **brings good news [LXX G2097 *euaggelizo*]**, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

**shield [G2375 *thureos*] of faith [G4102 *pistis*]**

**helmet of salvation**

Isaiah 59:17 For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And **a helmet of salvation** on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.

**sword G3162 *machaira* of the Spirit G4151 *pneuma* the word G4487 *rhema* of God**