

STANDING STRONG



Eph 6:10-13, ESV – ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Notes:

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SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of May 5, 2019
Eph 6:10 – 13

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This weekend we were reminded that Christians are to be strong in the Lord and stand against the schemes of the devil. How do these two actions relate to one another?

2 Paul says we "wrestle" with these spiritual forces. What type of imagery does this bring to mind? How is this imagery helpful in understanding spiritual warfare?

3 God has provided the resources. What is our part in the process? How do we go about doing this?

4 Do you think these admonitions are applicable to today's church? If so, how?

DIGGING DEEPER

1 **2 Cor 12:8-10, ESV** – ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Col 1:11, ESV – ¹¹ Being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy.

What do these phrases mean? “Strong in the Lord,” “Strength of His might,” and “Strengthened with all power.” Is there any difference between them? If so, what is it?

How does a person actually be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might?

2 *Is 40:28-31, ESV – ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. ³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

Relying on our own power is like going into battle without armor and a weapon. So, why do people rely on their own power instead of God’s power?

Why is God’s power and strength always better than our own?

Is God’s power and strength ever taken from us? Why do we have seasons of feeling his power and seasons when we do not?

3 *2 Cor 10:2-6, ESV – ² I beg of you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh. ³ For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, ⁶ being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.*

1 Pet 5:8-11, ESV – ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

When reading passages about the “warfare” of life, we see that our battle is not a flesh battle, but a spiritual battle. Why is this important to remember when interacting with other people (spouse, family, friends, co-workers, etc.)?

Why does Paul instruct us to be watchful? How does the devil scheme and “prowl around”?

TAKING IT HOME

Paul’s exhortation to put on the full armor of God should be done in preparation for battle. The goal and purpose are to stand firm in the midst of spiritual warfare. In what ways do you stand firm? In what ways do you give in? what can you do about the later? Share what God is teaching you with an accountability partner and pray together.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Joshua 1:9
Isaiah 59:17
Romans 13:12-14
2 Cor 2:11
1 Thess 5:5-8
2 Thess 2:3
1 Peter 4:1