



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Stand!

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-11 -¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

The spiritual meaning of stand is to hold fearlessly to the truth that Spirit is doing its perfect work and that there is no cause for alarm and to remain firm and immovable. Have you ever faced a terrible situation in life? Did you think of different ways that God would move?

Paul wrote the Book of Ephesians to a group of Christians who had to battle the onslaught of a false god and religion to establish an apostolic Pentecostal church in Ephesus. However, in this epistle we find some of the greatest wisdom for winning this war against the devil and gaining new souls for the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Eternity's strongest warrior is on our side, and as we slip our hand into His nail-pierced hand, we can stand strong, no matter who or what tries to break through and break us apart from Him.

What better advice could Paul have given us as an imprisoned missionary who realized that he would never again be in Ephesus? He told us to put on our armor (Ephesians 6:13-18) and fight until we win. **We must not quit!** We must be diligent about our walk with Jesus Christ until we have finished the final round and we must never give in or give up! We should not falter in the face of false teaching or false gods, but our strength begins first with our belief in Jesus Christ. Therefore, we should not despair, for it is Him who made us and kept us until this day; our strength exists in Him.

To be "strong in the power of His might" you must put your faith and trust God to work miraculously among us. It is vital to put on the whole armor of God, not just part of it. Every piece of the armor is vital for the spiritual person of God, so that we are able to keep fighting the fight of faith. **Winning a single battle against Satan does not win the war.** We must continually fight the wicked one that ultimately wins the spiritual war. God has given us everything we need to keep on fighting providing we use all His spiritual armor. The blessing of having God's armor gives us the ability to stand against all enemies and withstand all attacks and quench every fiery dart of Satan.

One of the tactics of Satan is to distract us from the important issues of life. Too many of God's people have fallen over a seemingly harmless vile of the devil! The solution for us is that we continually watch and pray. In an hour that we are neglectful and not on guard, the thief of the soul will attempt to enter and rob us of the victory. **We must stay focused in our spiritual life in Christ and never turn aside or look back!** Every piece of equipment provided in the spiritual armor is necessary to keep us standing and in the battle. We may not think we need the hot and uncomfortable helmet of salvation, the bulky and heavy shield of faith, or the binding girdle of truth; we may view them as inconvenient or unnecessary. But all the equipment is vital and we need it all. Having the whole armor of God is not sufficient. We must determine in our heart that we will stand against the devil and for the Lord at all costs. Even though we have all the defensive and offensive equipment does not assure us of a successful battle.

Paul further admonished the Ephesians to "**pray always.**" It is necessary to continually stay in touch with the Commander in Chief, our Lord. We must establish and maintain communication lines with Jesus Christ if we are to immobilize the enemy of our souls. Life will continually throw situations at us that will try our souls. The trials we face may be subtle; nevertheless, they will come. And somehow, we must reach a point in God where we are anchored in the Rock of Christ Jesus and nothing the devil sends our way will cause us to let go of our faith. We must grab hold of the "**even-if-He-doesn't**" faith as many men and women of God had done before.

We must remember that God's thoughts and ways are much higher than ours. God will always surpass our expectations. He may not always answer our prayers the way we would like, but He will always come through and His purpose will be accomplished in us and through us. In the arena of adversity, the Scriptures teach us three essential truths about God—truths we must believe if we are to trust Him in adversity: **God is completely sovereign. God is infinite in wisdom. God is perfect in love.** God equips us to stand strong! Trust in God must be based in a relationship with Him and not on the situation you may be in. We must stand in faith even if things do not seem to work out in our favor. **May you be blessed with these encouraging words to Stand!**