

Standing Strong – Part I

Ephesians 6:10-13

Introduction

I The Believer's Source Of Strength

- A. Be strong in the **Lord** - 1 Cor 16:13
 - 1. **Love** God - John 14:21
 - 2. **Abide** in Christ - Jn 15:4-6
- B. Be strong in His mighty **power** - Acts 1:8
 - 1. Surrender to the Holy Spirit - Eph 3:16-21
 - 2. **Dependence** on the Holy Spirit - 2 Cor 12:9-10

II The Believer's Source Of Protection

- A. **Put on** the full armor of God
 - Put on** = "Be clothed in"
 - Full armor** = "The **complete** military outfit"
- B. **Stand** against the devil's schemes - 2 Cor 11:14; 1 Pet 5:8-9
 - Stand** = "A military term for holding one's **position**"
 - Schemes** = "Cunning arts, deceit, craftiness trickery"
 - 1. Persecution - 1 Pet 5:8-9; Matt 10:22; 5:11
 - 2. False doctrine - Mk 13:22-23; 1 Tim 4:1-2
 - 3. **Temptation** - Gen 3:1; Matt 4:1; 1 Cor 10:13; Jam 4:7
 - 4. Trials - Job 1:9-11; James 1:2-4; 1 Pet 5:10
 - 5. Personal **conflict** - Ps 109:1-5; Eph 4:26-27; 2 Tim 2:23
 - 6. Unresolved sin issues - 1 Jn 1:9; Matt 5:23-24; 18:15-17
 - 7. **Discouragement** - 1 Kings 19:1-4

III The Believer's Source Of Struggle

- A. **Flesh** and blood?
- B. **Spiritual** warfare?
 - 1. Rulers = "Magistrates or rulers"
 - 2. Authorities = "A spiritual potentate"
 - 3. Worldly powers = "Those who aspire to world control"
 - 4. Spiritual forces of evil = "Demonic deities"

IV The Believer's Source Of Victory

- A. Put on the full armor of God – 1 Thess 5:8; 2 Cor 10:4-5
 - Put on** = "Take up, assume"
- B. Stand your **ground**
 - 1. When the day of evil comes - Ps 1:1-2; Josh 24:15
- C. Stand **victoriously** - Isa 40:28-31; 1 Jn 4:4

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Many people tend toward one of two extremes regarding Satan:
 - 1) Placing too much emphasis and attention on his work.
 - 2) Being ignorant and unaware of his work.What are the dangers of each view? Which view do you take?
2. Paul exhorts us to be strong in the Lord and His mighty power. How would you characterize your spiritual strength at this point in your Christian life? If Jesus were your personal trainer (which He is), what would He suggest in order for you to become more powerful in Him?
3. How do you generally view personal conflict, life's disappointments, and trials -- as battles with people and circumstances or supernatural warfare? How can you know the difference and what difference would it make?
4. If Satan were to go under cover and spy out your Christian life (which he has), what would he discover to be your "Achilles' heel"? How can you shore up this potential weakness?
5. Ask God for eyes to see life from His supernatural perspective. Open your life to Him, to His strength, to His power so that you might be a part of His overwhelming spiritual victory in our community and in the world. He loves you!

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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