

# Standing Firm

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Ephesians 6:11, 13, 14a

“He’s too big for me!”

Proverbs 24:10 *If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.*

The devil is and isn’t defeated –

The warfare is not a let go, let God thing –

What is it to stand firm – against the devil’s schemes (11); to resist in the evil day and having done all, to stand firm (13); and one last time, Therefore stand firm – 14a? It seems that to stand firm is the same as putting on the full armor of God. It is not be strong to put on the armor; it is be strong in the armor; and being strong in the armor, means standing firm and resisting the wicked one.

A brief look at the pieces in this armory and how they work –

Courage is what is needed!

*Spiritual strength is an undaunted steadfastness of heart, given by God to His children, whereby they, while entertaining a lively hope of acquiring the promised benefits, overcome fear for all danger and opposition, unyieldingly engage in warfare, and courageously persevere in obedience toward God.* Wilhelmus A Brakel

God gives power to the faint and strengthens your heart in four ways (a ‘Brakel):

- A. First He gives a clear view of the glory and certainty of the pure benefits to be attained – Hebrews 12:2 – *fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*
- B. Second, He gives assurance, deep and rich assurance, of His help to you: Isaiah 41:10 “Fear not, for I *am* with you; be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will

strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” This is so even for the most trying times: Isaiah 43:2 “When you pass through the waters, I *will be* with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.” He is nearer to you than the flames.

- C. God impresses the mind with the goodness and righteousness of the matter they undertake, as well as the ungodliness and unrighteousness of those who oppose them – Psalm 118:6, 10. <sup>6</sup> *The LORD is for me; I will not fear; what can man do to me? (Psa 118:6 NAU)* <sup>10</sup> *All nations surrounded me; in the name of the LORD I will surely cut them off. (Psa 118:10 NAU)*
- D. God reveals the limits, lightness, and feebleness of all which opposes your soul, if He is for you. How else but by his overpowering grace and Spirit, can Paul speak of all his tribulation as a light and momentary affliction (2 Cor. 4:17)? He had learned the secret of contentment in the exceedingly great, rich and powerful grace of God in Christ. <sup>4</sup> *Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation. (2Co 7:4 NKJ)*

This is not just a perk for super-spiritual ones! You are under *explicit orders* to not be bothered about opposition in the world. “Blessed are ye, when men *shall revile you*, and persecute you, and shall say *all manner of evil against you falsely*, for my sake.” We are not supposed to give a rip. Jesus said. I love so much what I read this week:

“But if you are alive, vibrant, and forgiven, you now live in a world where you can project that in amazing ways. The gospel is not some tiresome thing that door-to-door salesmen try to talk you into . . . (Acts 3:19). We are actually talking about a cool breeze that blows off the ocean of God’s infinite pleasure and delight. We are talking about times of refreshing, and if we are not talking about times of refreshing, then we are not talking about the gospel as presented in Scripture.”