

## Stand Firm, Stand Strong Ephesians 6:10-20

### INTRODUCTION

Because we're engaged in deadly spiritual warfare, we need God's help to stand firm and to stand strong. Living a life pleasing to the Lord and engaging in the mission of the church is not easy because there are powerful supernatural beings that strategize and attack. Because of this, God makes available His power and divine resources to His own so they can resist the assaults of these hostile spirits and advance His kingdom in the world.

**We're to live daily prepared for spiritual battle. The Spirit empowers us to do so. But what does it mean to live prepared for spiritual battle?**

*Let's dig in and get some answers...*

I. The \_\_\_\_\_: we are \_\_\_\_\_ in deadly spiritual warfare (6:11-12)

A. We have \_\_\_\_\_

B. They have \_\_\_\_\_

When you read this passage, you may have pictures of wild spiritual battles and direct spiritual attack. But there are a variety of ways that he can come after us.

**Here are some examples:**

- **placing before us something enticing but sinful (Matt 4:8-10; Luke 4:5-8)**
- **exploiting a sinful tendency, such as anger, and causing it to flare out of control (Eph 4:27)**
- **inspiring others to create a principle, teaching, or idea that sounds plausible, but is wrong and dangerous to our souls (2 Cor 11:3, 15)**
- **afflicting us with a physical illness or condition (2 Cor 12:7)**
- **enticing us to lie (Acts 5:3)**

Most of the time, Satan and his demons don't use a direct attack. What we experience most of the time is much more subtle than that. That's why the devil's so wily. Satan doesn't usually tip his hand. He likes to use trickery and deception. As one person said, ***"Evil rarely looks evil until it accomplishes its goal; it gains entrance by appearing attractive, desirable, and perfectly legitimate. It is a baited and camouflaged trap"*** (Klyne Snodgrass).

C. The \_\_\_\_\_ is up \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_

II. The \_\_\_\_\_ : be \_\_\_\_\_ by  
the Lord so we can stand \_\_\_\_\_ and stand  
\_\_\_\_\_ (6:10, 13)

A. We're not \_\_\_\_\_ in this battle

B. We can be \_\_\_\_\_

The *“in the Lord”* phrase is Paul's common way of referring to our relationship with God made possible through our union with Christ. We are in Him: covered by His blood, robed in His righteousness, members of His household, sons and daughters, in union with Him, beloved. We may dread the exposure of our weaknesses in our battle against sin, but the apostle reminds us that the strength of our relationship with our God is provided by Christ. Because we are in Him, we have access to a power that is greater than we.

**Here's what this means for us.** We must fill our minds with what God has done for us. We're going into battle, but we need to remember that God has already defeated Satan through Jesus Christ.

I want you to think of three verses in particular:

- ***Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil...*** (Hebrews 2:14)
- ***He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.*** (Colossians 2:15)

- ***But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...*** (Ephesians 2:4-6)

As a church, we want to keep coming back to the reality that Jesus has done for us what we can't do. We want to keep coming back to the gospel. We want to fill our minds with what he's done, and then live in that reality.

**The great news is that the weakest among us can be strong in Jesus Christ and what He accomplished at the cross.** Jesus has accomplished everything that we need. We can trust in his work and believe that he has abundant strength for us. He has everything we need. We can draw on that strength continuously. We can know the greatness of his power and live in that reality.

### **CONCLUSION/INVITATION**

What can we take with us this morning? I want to finish today with some good news. What is it? **The good news is that we can stand.**

**Here's the great news.** Paul says that if we strengthen ourselves in God, and take up his armor, then we will be able to stand against the enemy of our souls. The word *“stand”* repeats itself four times in this passage (6:10-14). **Stand means that we hold our position.** It means that the devil doesn't gain an inch in our lives or move us off course. When the devil advances, we are to hold our position and refuse to be moved. It doesn't mean that we only play defense, but we can also play offense.

Here's what I want you to hear **today: Because we're engaged in deadly spiritual warfare, we need God's help to stand firm.**