



Take Your Stand

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*"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **stand** against the schemes of the devil."
Ephesians 6:11*

*"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." Ephesians 6:13*

*"**Stand** therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness."
Ephesians 6:14*

The voice of the Holy Spirit to the church today is calling us to stand. On your feet! Take your stand under Christ, in Christ, and against the evil one.

The entire book of Ephesians culminates with the trifold exhortation to stand:

- **We take our stand in Christ and under the authority of Christ by putting on the whole armor of God.** Three times we are told to stand and each time we are told to put on the whole armor of God.
- **We take our stand against the schemes of the enemy.** There are schemes of the enemy right now that God is calling you to stand against.
- **Standing is the posture of the watchman, the intercessor, the pastor, the kingdom leader in these last days.** This is part of the nobility of the redeemed people of God; it is our privilege, our heritage, our calling.

For those of us who live and serve in the United States, let me remind us that there are three demonic forces that are teaming up to battle against us.

- 1) Many demons have attached themselves to COVID-19.
- 2) Many demons have attached themselves to racism, social injustice, and anarchy.
- 3) This is an election year, and many demons have attached themselves to the political process.

"Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!" Revelation 12:12

I remember reading this text as a brand-new believer when I was thirteen years old. I have been waiting for these words to be fulfilled my entire life. These words are being fulfilled this summer, and we can be sure that they will be further fulfilled many times in the future. I have felt more demons vomited out of hell in these days than I ever have felt before. At the same time, I became aware, months before the outbreak of COVID, God was pouring out a fresh tsunami of the Holy Spirit of prayer on the church. God's work in our

day is preemptive, not reactionary— that is to say, God initiated the outpouring of the Spirit of prayer, long before the devil reacted by vomiting more demons on the earth.

Now, direct your attention to the verse that immediately precedes Revelation 12:12: *“And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.” Revelation 12:11*

Insights into Winning our Spiritual Battles

- 1) **You win spiritual battles when you come under the authority of Christ.** In the context of Ephesians 6:10-18, the central factor of coming under the authority of Christ, is to put on the whole armor of God. Keep in mind that every piece of armor corresponds to Christ.
“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand,” Ephesians 6:11.
- 2) **You win spiritual battles when you take your stand against the specific schemes of the enemy.** While Christ has won the war, there is a role for you to play in the fight.
“That you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil,” Ephesians 6:11.
- 3) **God wants you to understand that some days are more evil than other days.**
“That you may be able to withstand in the evil day,” Ephesians 6:13.
- 4) **Christ has called you to fight for one reason: He wants to teach you to win.**
“And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death,” Revelation 12:11.
- 5) **Keep your eyes on Jesus.** Christ is glorified in every fight. It’s not about you; it’s not about the devil; it is about Christ. Do not allow the devil to distract you. Keep your focus on Christ before the fight, during the fight, after the fight.
“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might,” Ephesians 6:10.

God never wants us to get tired of fighting, because He never wants us to get tired of winning. (This is not positive thinking, it’s biblical thinking, and it’s true!)

[Over the next few weeks, I will be rolling out a weekly series of kingdom leadership podcasts, “Conquerors: Winning at Spiritual Warfare.”]

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