

Don't Just Do Something... Stand There!
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I'm sure you've heard the phrase – Don't just stand there... do something! Well – I'm preaching a message today entitled, "Don't Just Do Something – Stand There!" My text is Ephesians 6:10-14

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 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. Stand therefore...

Then it goes on to list the spiritual armor. In this passage – the word "stand" is used three times and the word "withstand" is used one time. Evidently – when it comes to spiritual warfare – standing is important.

I mean think about it – you can't win a fight sitting down or lying down – you've got to stand up to fight. If you don't stand up, you're a sitting duck – an easy target.

Think of all the different ways we use the word stand:

If you are someone who can be counted on – you're a stand-up person.

If you fill in for someone else – you're a stand-in.

If you support yourself – you stand on your own two feet.

If you're defending someone – you stand by them.

If you're not very friendly – you're standoffish.

If you're doing nothing – you're just standing around.

If you're great at what you do – you're a standout.

If you have character – you stand on your principles.

Some Christians believe they are doomed to live a life of falling. But Jude 24 says:

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless and with great joy.

God is able to keep you from falling and able to keep you standing. In fact, Thayer's Greek Lexicon says that the Biblical word translated "stand" means "to cause a person to keep their place; to be kept intact, to uphold and keep safe and sound."

In military terms – to take a stand means to guard and maintain a position on a battlefield.

Once we take some ground, we must stand guard over it. We must become unmovable!

Here's the first thing I want you to see -

1- The ability to stand requires the power of God

Ephesians 6:10 says:

Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

If you try to stand in your own strength, you will fall.
If you try to fight in your own strength, you will lose!

You need something greater than your strength – you need the power of God. The Bible does not say be strong in yourself – it says be strong in the Lord!

Notice that there are three words for power used in this one verse: strong, power and might. The Bible Knowledge Commentary says we should receive in us an outward manifestation of what is in God. We are strong in Him – not in ourselves.

Wuest's Commentary says the better translation is to "be strengthened in the Lord" rather than be strong.

"Be strong" implies you can be strong in your own effort.

"Be strengthened" causes us to depend on God to supply that strength.

The Bible warns us in 1 Corinthians 10:12 not to try to stand in our own strength. It says-

Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

When it comes to spiritual warfare – never try to stand on your own – stand in the Lord's power. God is able to make you stand and keep you from falling. But that takes total dependence upon Him and His power.

Philippians 4:1 says, *Stand firm in the Lord.*

Romans 5:2 says: *We have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.*

2 Thessalonians 2:15 says: *Stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you.*

In other words – stand on God's Word!

Romans 14:4 says: *Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.*

We stand in the strength of the Lord! If you try to stand on your own, you will fall. But if you are strong in the Lord, you will stand.

I encourage you today – don't think you can stand in your own strength.
Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might!

In the natural, Moses at the Red Sea was just an old man with a stick in his hand – but He was in the hands of God and the mighty power of God parted the Red Sea.

In the natural, David was just a boy with a slingshot facing a giant – but He was in the hands of God and the mighty power of God defeated Goliath.

In the natural – the disciples were just a scared group of people mourning the loss of their leader – but they were in the hands of God and the mighty power of God came upon them on the day of Pentecost and changed them into mighty men and women of God!

In the natural – you are just who you are with whatever you have in your hand – but if you are in the hands of God – His mighty power can take what you have in the natural and make it supernatural.

He can take what is ordinary and make it extraordinary.
The ability to stand requires the power of God!

2- The ability to stand requires the armor of God

Ephesians 6:11 says:

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand.

That means if you are going to defeat the enemy you must:

- Have on the belt of truth and take your stand on the word of God
- Put on the breastplate of righteousness by being grounded in who you are in Christ and who Christ is in you
- Put on the sandals of peace by standing against fear and worry
- Take up the shield of faith by putting your faith to work
- Put on the helmet of salvation and stand on the fact that you are saved by faith through grace to the uttermost
- Take up the sword of the Spirit and speak the word of God
- Put it all to work by praying at all times with all prayer in the Spirit

You must have on the armor of God to be able to stand!

If you are not grounded in truth – you will fall for a lie

If you don't know you are righteous in Christ – you will fall into sin

If you don't have peace with God – you will fall into fear

If you don't stand in faith – you will give in to doubt

If you don't know you are saved – you will live like you are lost

If you don't stand on God's word – you will fall for Satan's words.

You see, you must stand for something before you stand against something.

3- You must stand for God before you stand against Satan

A few years ago, the “Just Say No” campaign was trying to get young people to say no to drugs and sex before marriage. It was admirable, but they found out that “Just say no” does not work. You must have something you say yes to before you say no. You see, if you don’t stand for something – you’ll fall for anything! That’s why James 4:7 says-

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

You must submit to God before you resist the devil.
 You must say yes to God before you say no to Satan.
 You must stand for God before you stand against Satan.

Too many people forget who they are fighting. Instead of fighting Satan, they are fighting God. Let me tell you something – if you fight God, you will lose! You can’t fight demonic spirits and the Holy Spirit at the same time. So, make sure you are standing for God before you stand against Satan.

I want to give you some practical help in fighting temptation. You cannot overcome by trying not to think about what is tempting you. In fact, the more you try not to think about it, the more you dwell on it, and the more likely you are to give in to it.

And you won’t overcome by praying prayers like this – God, don’t let me do this, God don’t let me fall. The key to victory is to get off the defensive and go on the attack!

Instead of praying not to fall, designate prayer targets to begin attacking the enemy’s territory. These can include: lost people who need salvation, sick people who need healing, relationships that need restoration, addicted people who need deliverance.

The key is these targets must be predetermined. Then, when you are tempted, immediately begin to pray for your prayer targets. Doing this instead of just thinking, I can’t think of this, I can’t do that – will help you say yes to God and no to Satan.

The gates of hell cannot prevail against you. You can stand against temptation!

4- Not only must you stand – but you must also withstand

The biblical word for withstand means to stand against, to oppose, to resist. That word is used in places like 1 Peter 5:8-9

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith.

That word resist is the same word translated withstand.

I want to give you some more practical help today – when it comes to resisting, you must know when to put on combat boots and when to put on running shoes. There are times to stand and times to run. You must know when to stand and fight and when to cut and run. Too many people are standing when they should be running and running when they should be standing.

I heard about a man who was set free from a lifestyle of homosexuality. He had a legitimate concern for his friends in that lifestyle, so he went to their clubs to witness to them. However, he kept falling into sin.

He went to his pastor and told him about his struggle. His pastor told him not to go back to those clubs again. The man said, “But somebody needs to reach out to them.” And the pastor replied, “True, but that someone is not you.”

If something easily causes you to fall, you need to stay away from it. Put on your running shoes and get out of there as fast as you can.

1 Timothy 6:10-13 tells us to flee the love of money and greed.

1 Corinthians 10:14 tells us to *flee from idolatry* – that’s putting anything before God.

1 Corinthians 6:18 tells us to *Flee sexual immorality*.

Joseph showed us how to do this in Genesis 39:6-21. Joseph had been sold into slavery, but God gave him favor and he was put in charge of his master’s house. While he was there, his master’s wife kept trying to seduce him and he kept refusing her.

One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

She then lied and made up a story that Joseph had tried to rape her. Joseph ended up in prison,

But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.

Even though Joseph went to prison – that was the next step to the palace. Joseph was successful because Joseph knew when to run!

I hate it when people have an affair and say, “It just happened.” No, it didn’t! Nobody forced you into it. You should’ve put on some running shoes!

When somebody starts flirting, you should start running.

When somebody starts having inappropriate conversations, run!

When someone of the opposite sex wants to be alone with you, run!

Psalm 1:1-3 describes the downward slide into sin:

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

Do you want to prosper? Then you need to know where to sit, where to walk and where to stand.

The downward slide into sins starts with walking. You walk by and sin tempts you – you have a choice: either stop or run! If you stop – you will soon be standing with sinners. The Amplified version says standing there submissive and inactive. You're not taking a stand. You're not fighting. You're standing around doing nothing.

And if you keep standing around there you will eventually be sitting right in the middle of a mess! It did not just happen! When you were walking by you should have kept on walking! You should have put on your running shoes.

In the words of that old Dionne Warwick song – “Walk on by.”
 If you see someone on the street who catches your eye – walk on by.
 If you get a note from someone and you should not reply – walk on by.
 If people are passing something around to get you high – walk on by.

There's a time to stand and fight and there's a time to run!
 Are you tempted to watch that questionable television program? Run!
 Are you tempted to put together a deal that isn't totally honest? Run!
 Are you tempted to toy with a relationship that isn't Christ-centered? Run!

But when you want to run from your financial obligations, Stand and fight!
 When you want to run away from your marriage or family - Stand and fight!
 When its tough to be honest and ethical in the work place - Stand and fight!
 When you are tired of spiritual warfare - Stand and fight!

5- Having done all, stand

Stand with your armor on! Stand in the power of God!
 After we've done everything we know to do – we must keep on standing!

We do not quit – we do not give up – we do not fall away – we keep standing – NO MATTER WHAT!

You see, it's one thing to take ground from the enemy – it's another thing to stand your ground and hold that ground.

The book of Daniel tells about Daniel and 3 Hebrew friends named Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They had been captured and taken to Babylon – but God gave them great favor because of their faithfulness. They had been given positions of honor – but others did not like it. So, they tried to get rid of them.

They set up a golden idol and commanded everyone to bow down and worship it. Those who refused would be executed by being thrown into a fiery furnace. When it came time to bow - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused because God said not to bow to anyone but Him. They were taken before the king and he told them that they would be given one more chance to bow or they would be thrown in the fire. Their answer shows us how to take a stand. Daniel 3:17-18 says:

If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.

The story ends with these guys getting thrown into the fire - but without being burned! They came out without a hair singed and they did not even have the smell of smoke on their clothes!

Sometimes God delivers you from the fire – sometimes He takes you through the fire. But if you do go through the fire – He’ll be with you.

But your faith in God cannot be determined by the fire.
If you are going to stand you must have “but if not” faith.
This kind of faith trusts in God no matter what the outcome.
This kind of faith takes a stand and refuses to bow to pressure.

When you take a stand - you are saying:
No matter who or what comes against me, I’m not moving!
No matter what I see or hear, I’m not moving!
No matter how I feel, I’m not moving!
No matter how difficult the battle, I’m not moving!
Not matter how bad I want to quit, I’m not moving.
No matter how long it takes, I’m not moving!
I’m not moving until God says move!
People can’t move me!
Circumstances can’t move me!
Satan can’t move me!
Only God can move me!
And until God moves me, I’m still standing.

Sometimes your victory is won by simply refusing to give up and continuing to stand!

The devil tried to steal my job, but I’m still standing!
The devil tried to ruin my reputation, but I’m still standing!

The devil tried to divide my family, but I'm still standing!
The devil tried to steal my health, but I'm still standing!
The devil tried to turn people against me, but I'm still standing!
The devil hit me with his best shot, but I'm still standing!

I even fell down – but I got back up and by the grace of God, I'm still standing!
By faith in God, I'm still standing!
By the power of God, I'm still standing!
I'm standing on the promises!
On Christ, the Solid Rock I'll stand - All other ground is sinking sand.

Having done all - everything I know to do, I will keep on standing!