

Connected
Be Strong in the Lord
Ephesians 6:10-13

I. Message – Be Strong in the Lord

a. Strengthen yourself in the Lord

i. Be strong IN Him

1. “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord...”

2. This is a command

a. Christians should not be spiritual weaklings

b. Why?

c. 1 John 4:4

d. Ephesians 3:20

e. Ephesians 1:18-20

f. John 15:4 “Abide **in** me, and I **in** you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide **in** the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide **in** me.”

i. Your identity as a believer is “IN Christ”

ii. **Baptism (submerged in Christ)**

iii. Your strength as a believer is to be found in your relationship IN Christ

iv. **The hymn writer said, “The arm of flesh will fail you. You dare not trust your own.”**

v. David when approaching Goliath: “The battle is the Lord’s!”

ii. Draw strength FROM Him

1. “...and in the power of **his** might.”

2. As a child of God, you can draw strength FROM the Lord’s strength!

3. **Philippians 4:13**

4. **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

b. Strap on the whole armor of God

i. “11 Put on the whole armour of God

ii. Notice why this is absolutely necessary!

1. Satan wants to deceive you!

- a. "...that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."
- b. This is why you need strength in the Lord and from the Lord
- c. This is why you need to put ALL the armor on daily
- d. Satan is the master deceiver
 - i. John 8:44
 - ii. 2 Corinthians 11:14

2. Satan and his forces are formidable – v.12-13

- a. Flesh and blood (man) is not the enemy
 - i. Important to remember
 - ii. Otherwise, you start to hate the sinners
 - iii. But hating that person is not Jesus' way
 - iv. He loves sinners
 - v. Because He knows they are just duped by Satan and his minions
 - vi. He knows that "the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not."
- b. Satan and his minions are the REAL enemy
- c. And they are organized
 - i. **Principalities and powers** – high-ranking demons that make decisions and rule other demons
 - ii. **Dark rulers of the world** – a particularly dangerous group of demons that have infiltrated political powers
 - iii. **Spiritual wickedness** in high places
 - iv. **The result: The evil day we live in** – v.13

iii. Stand no matter what

- 1. "...and having done all, to stand."
- 2. At the end of the day, keep standing!
- 3. 1 Corinthians 16:13 "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. 14 Let all your things be done with charity."
 - a. This is not a call for stubborn belligerence

- i. This has been wrongly applied by many believers
 - ii. **Be careful, stand fast, be strong, do it with love**
 - iii. “Stand”: a loving refusal to compromise
- c. What should we stand (hold our ground) for?
 - i. **The reputation of Jesus**
 - ii. **The gospel of Jesus**
 - iii. **The Word of Jesus**
 - iv. **The priorities of Jesus**