



The Grand Theater in Ephesus
(ephesusbreeze.com)

Stand Firm

Ephesians 6:10-24

Stand Firm Introduction

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- The first half of the letter is heavy on doctrine.
- Paul wants us to first know Christ and who we are in him.
- This second half is focused on action.
- He wants our lives to reflect our deepest identity.
- This section shows us our need to fight against spiritual forces and win.

Stand Firm Introduction

Soundbite:

In the ongoing battle with spiritual darkness that rages against us, no treaties can be made. One side will always win and the other lose. Fight to win.

Stand Firm Outline

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1. Be strong 6:10-12
2. Take up God's armor 6:13-17
3. Keep alert 6:18-20
4. Be encouraged 6:21-24

1. Be Strong 6:10-12

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- **6:10** Paul tells us to “be strong,” but adds “in the Lord.”
- We are not strong enough to engage in this battle alone.
- Elsewhere, Paul shows us that much of this battle takes place in the realm of our thoughts.

1. Be Strong 6:10-12

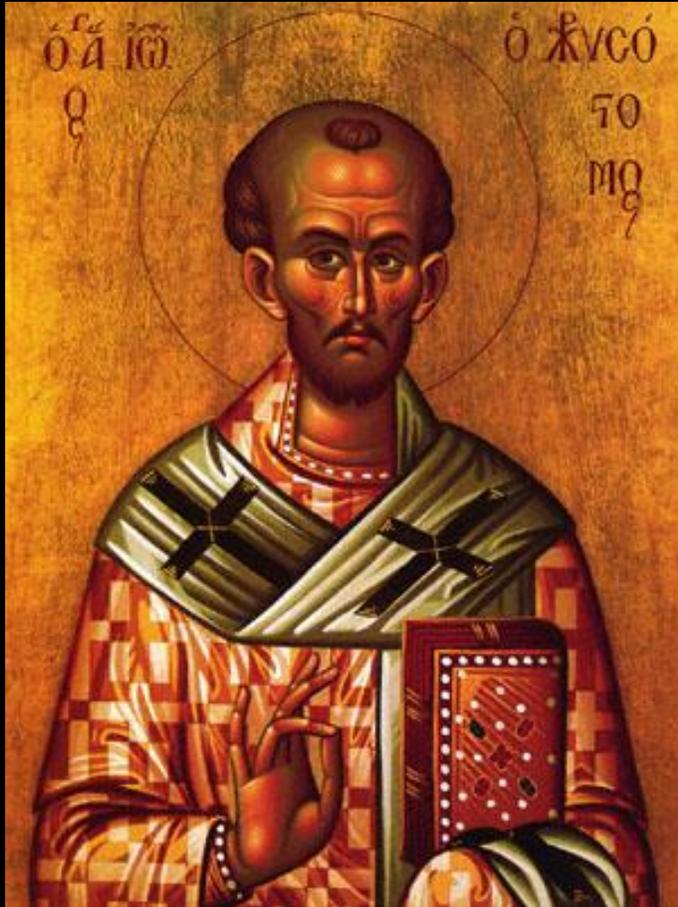
- 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (ESV)

⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.

1. Be Strong 6:10-12

- **6:11** Further, this is a battle to the death.
- There can be no neutrality and there will be no treaties.
- If we are going to stand, we must know our enemy.

1. Be Strong 6:10-12



The enemy does not make war on us straightforwardly or openly ... He does not mention idolatry out loud. But by his stratagems he presents idolatrous choices to us, by persuasive words and by employing clever euphemisms [restatements].

*– John Chrysostom (~345 – 407),
Archbishop of Constantinople*

1. Be Strong 6:10-12

- **6:12** In ancient Jewish thought, demons are prominent.
- The Babylonian Talmud and the mysticism of Kabbalah contain elaborate teachings on both demons and angels.

1. Be Strong 6:10-12

- **6:12** Paul tells us just enough to remind us that the forces of spiritual darkness are real.
- The battle is not optional. We wrestle against one type of enemy and not another.
- He wants us to know that we wrestle against them and wants us to be able to win.

2. Take up God's armor 6:13-17

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- 6:13 Natural weapons are not good enough.
- The armor of God is sufficient to help us withstand every attack and in the end stand firm.

2. Take up God's armor 6:13-17

- 6:14-17 Paul mentions the six main parts of a Roman soldiers equipment.
- Belt
- Breastplate
- Shoes
- Shield
- Helmet
- Sword

2. Take up God's armor 6:13-17

- 6:14-17 He ties them to six bits of spiritual equipment that we need.
- Truth
- Righteousness
- The Gospel
- Faith
- Salvation
- The Word of God

2. Take up God's armor 6:13-17

- 6:14-17 Truth is the belt that holds other pieces together.
- Righteousness is the breastplate that among other things protects our heart.
- The shoes are put on in the readiness given by the gospel.

2. Take up God's armor 6:13-17

- 6:14-17 The **shield of faith** is a movable defense against flaming darts that fly at us suddenly from any side.
- The **helmet of salvation** guards our thoughts since we are truly God's people.
- Finally, **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**, is the one weapon we have for attack as well as defense.

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3. Keep alert 6:18-20

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The best thing, where it is possible, is to keep the patient from the serious intention of praying altogether.

– C. S. Lewis (1898 – 1963), speaking as a senior demon, in The Screwtape Letters

3. Keep alert 6:18-20

- Paul obviously sees prayer as a priority.
- How sad then, that we make so little use of it.
- Paul knew that he needed alert and persevering prayer from others to carry out his ministry.

3. Keep alert 6:18-20

Paul knows that spiritual battles are won only through prayer. If even the Apostle Paul needed prayer, how much more do our church leaders today!

*– Yusufu Turaki,
South African Theological
Seminary*



3. Keep alert 6:18-20

- I would like to especially encourage our men here.
- Last Saturday at our men's breakfast we talked about prayer as we were reading **1 Timothy 2**.

3. Keep alert 6:18-20

- 1 Timothy 2:1-4, 8 (ESV)

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

⁸ I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling.

3. Keep alert 6:18-20

- Paul did not see his chains as a deterrent to his ministry.
- He has emphasized that the battle is spiritual and must be fought using spiritual means.
- Physical chains could not hold back his proclamation of the mystery of the gospel.

4. Be encouraged 6:21-24

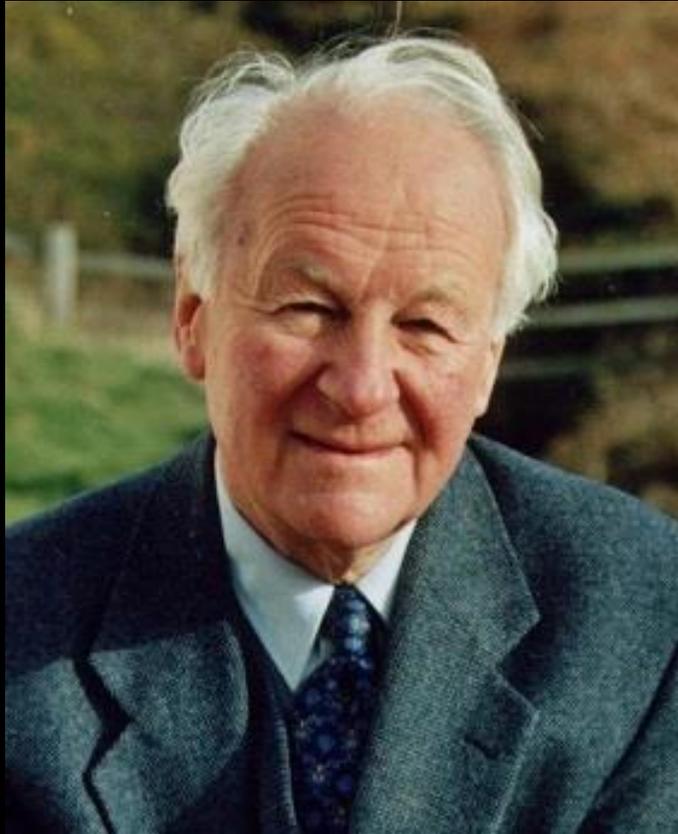
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- **Tychicus** was one of Paul's coworkers.
- Luke describes him as an "**Asian**" in **Acts 20:4**.
- He may have come from Ephesus.

4. Be encouraged 6:21-24

- Paul is being held “in chains,” but he wants the Ephesians’ hearts to be encouraged.
- He wishes them peace, love with faith and finally grace.
- Our battle is serious, but our battle can seriously be won.

4. Be encouraged 6:21-24



The peace which God has made through Christ's cross is to be experienced only in the midst of a relentless struggle against evil. And for this the strength of the Lord and the armour of God are indispensable.

*– John Stott (1921 – 2011),
All Souls Church, London*

Stand Firm

Conclusions

Stand Firm Conclusions

- This concludes Paul's letter to the Ephesians.
- In **Chapter 1**, he reminded us of **all the spiritual blessings** we have in the heavenly places thanks to Jesus.
- In **Chapter 2**, he explained how God was forming us into **his new humanity** in Christ.
- In **Chapter 3**, he prayed that we would have **a life-changing experience of God's love**.

Stand Firm Conclusions

- This concludes Paul's letter to the Ephesians.
- In **Chapter 4**, he emphasized how important it was to work hard maintain **the unity of the Spirit**.
- In **Chapter 5**, he laid out for us what **holiness and love** look like in our day-to-day lives with other people.
- Now in **Chapter 6**, he has taught us about **spiritual warfare** – that we are engaged in it and how we can win.

Stand Firm Conclusions

- Any of the leaders of the church will be happy to pray with you and for you here or at the baptism.
- If you need prayer for anything feel free to ask.
- Paul did not hesitate to request prayer. Why should we?

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