

AUGUST 2008 Week 3 TEACHING

Stand Wobbly or Stand Strong

Those of us who are lovers of mathematics possess great affinity for it because you can prove an equation to its nth degree and it will always be true. It will hold up against any argument and provide the foundation of which future proofs can be made. As fundamental and necessary as mathematics is to our everyday living, it doesn't hold a candle to the Word of God.

Last week we talked about the contrast between the abundant life that Jesus Christ made available, and the destruction that can envelop our lives without him. John 10:10 very clearly lays out this difference and declares the existence of the thief and his mission. If August 2008 Week #2 Teaching is a little foggy in your brain cells, I strongly suggest that you re-read it. It works in tandem with this lesson to build a foundation of understanding that will really blow your socks off. It may very well open the door for more new and exciting revelations, the likes of which you have not experienced heretofore.

1 Peter 5:8 KJV

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

1 Peter 5:8 admonishes us to be careful and be on watch because our adversary, the devil—the thief, is on a mission to devastate our lives. He is constantly seeking a way to kill, steal, and destroy as it says in John 10:10.

THE QUESTIONS

The verse above brings to mind two questions regarding the thief and his shenanigans: #1 *“If I have to constantly stand guard against the thief, how do I focus on standing for Christ?”* and #2 *“If the thief is relentless in his pursuit to reap havoc in this world and on my life, why haven't they both been destroyed by him?”*

Ephesians 6:10-11 (NLT) makes the answer to question #1 relatively easy. It says *10 A final word: Be strong with the Lord's mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil.*

As Christians, we are commanded in Ephesians 6:10-11 (NLT) to *“be strong with the Lord's mighty power.”* We do that by putting on God's armor so that we are able to stand steady and strong when the devil whirls his darts at us. If human strength was enough to stand firm against the thief, then God would not

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have had to provide us with spiritual armor. He has provided it because we need it. We need it not only to stand firm against the devil, but to also stand as beacons of love and light through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

There are only two choices for the Overcomer, either he or she will stand wobbly or stand strong. To be wobbly is to be unsteady; to lack stability. As it relates to our walk with God, most of us would balk at owning that this word “wobbly” defines any aspect of our relationship with Him. Well, if there are circumstances that are causing us to experience any shakiness in our mental, physical, and emotional resolve—we shouldn’t fix our lips to say that God is putting us through it. We have to get brutally honest and be willing to take a closer look at our stand on His Word.

Ephesians 3:20(KJV) says that God is able to do “*exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.*” Most of us don’t have a problem with God doing the “*exceeding abundantly*” part. We have all the confidence in the world in His power. It’s the “*power that worketh in us*” part that trips us up.

If God has told us to do something, He will not do it for us because He will never, ever overstep our freedom to choose. We have to make a decision and do what is necessary to carry that decision out. We have to give up the baby’s milk and realize that there comes a time when God holds us accountable for measuring up to the standard of His Word.

Ephesians 6:12 (NLT) says “*12 For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms.*” This is not a verse for the faint of heart. It may even cause a few folks to get a little wobbly, but for those who understand the nature of challenge and victory, it’s a call to arms. It’s a cue to bring out the weapons of champions.

Ephesians 6:13-18 (NLT)

13 Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm. 14 Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. 15 For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News, so that you will be fully prepared. 16 In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. 17 Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 Pray at

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all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere.

Not only must we believe in the power of God, but we must have every confidence that it is unleashed from within us as we stand strong in it. We have to know that girding ourselves with the accoutrement He has provided will enable us to exercise His strength from day to day. I'm sure that you have witnessed God move a few mountains on your behalf. Now its time for YOU to speak to it and say "*mountain, move out of my way in the name of Jesus Christ!!!*" You and I must know who we are, what we're made of, and what we can do through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We have to literally put on the sturdy belt of truth by saturating our minds and hearts with God's Word. The body armor of righteousness will cover our every move as we live by the example of Jesus Christ. Every step will take us higher and higher as we walk in shoes that are covered with the peace of the gospel, and the shield of faith will ensure that no weapon formed against us will prosper (Isaiah 54:17). Wisdom and knowledge will chase us down when salvation is our helmet, and the sword of the spirit guarantees our victory as we stand guard and bare witness of the matchless Word of God.

This is how we can "*be strong with the Lord's mighty power*" as it says in Ephesians 6:10, by putting on the armor that God has given us.

There's an old saying that says "*If you don't stand for something you will fall for anything.*" The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ made the armor of Ephesians 6:13-18 available. If you don't stand on the Word of God and use your spiritual armor you will fall! You'll stand wobbly and therefore be defenseless against the attacks of the enemy.

Romans 5:1-11 NLT

1 Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. 2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of highest privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us—they help us learn to endure. 4 And endurance develops strength of character in us, and character strengthens our confident expectation of salvation. 5 And this expectation will not disappoint us. For we

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know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

6 When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. 7 Now, no one is likely to die for a good person, though someone might be willing to die for a person who is especially good. 8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. 9 And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's judgment. 10 For since we were restored to friendship with God by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be delivered from eternal punishment by his life. 11 So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God—all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in making us friends of God.

It is through God's Word that you and I came to develop a relationship with Him and to learn of what He accomplished on earth through His son. We trusted His Word, and verse 1 of Romans 5 says "*we have been made right in God's sight*" because of it. Now that we have faith and trust in Christ, verse 2 says that you and I stand in a place of highest privilege. We can look down on the challenges of this world as if they were little, tiny darts that will soon disappear as we grow higher and higher in the things of God. We know that facing those darts will help us to endure and become strong, but they are temporary and cannot penetrate our armor.

When it seems as though others are progressing even though they haven't put in a fraction of the work that we have; when it feels like our heart is breaking into a thousand tiny pieces and we don't think we have the strength to fight on; and when everyone has abandoned us and we don't have a friend in the world, we need to know that we don't have to give up and throw in the towel. We can press into God and look towards a closer, more powerful walk with Him.

To stand strong is to stand flatfooted, fully persuaded, and completely sold out on the Word of God. You can trust that He has your back, and that He won't leave you in your time of need. You can trust that He desires the absolute best for you and He will partner with your efforts to acquire it. You can have confidence that there isn't a second that goes by where He is not helping you to grow and develop into the Christian He knows you can be.

God's Word works with a mathematical precision. It never fails and no matter how you slice it—it comes out true. It is perfect through and through. God

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backs the promises contained in His Word, and as you stand on those promises you will receive all the rewards of a spiritual champion, on earth and in heaven too!

So the answer to question #1 is this, our stand for Christ is a stand against the thief. When we stand firmly anchored in the things of God, you and I don't have to wonder whether or not the indwelling Holy Spirit is strong enough to get us through the difficulties of life. We don't have to tiptoe around, always fearing that we are without the hedge of protection and blessings that God's love provides, but we do have to make a choice—and that choice is whether or not we will stand wobbly or stand strong on His Word!

We'll answer question #2 next week...stay with us!

AUGUST 2008 Week 3 Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for blessing my life to come to know Jesus Christ in the pardon of my sins. Help me to stand guard by keeping my heart flanked with an attitude of thankfulness, my mind sharpened on the truth of Your Word, and my mouth filled with praise for all that You are, and all that I am through Your son Jesus Christ. Help my unbelief as I lean on my ability to overcome any situation through his power. In the extraordinary name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.

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AUGUST 2008 WEEK 3 Scriptures:

Scriptures link to [New Living Translation.com](http://NewLivingTranslation.com)

Day 1:Ephesians 6:10,11

Day 2:Romans 5:1-4

Day 3: Ephesians 3:20

Day 4: Romans 5:5-8

Day 5: Ephesians 6:12

Day 6: Romans 5:9-11

Day 7: Ephesians 6:13-18

Spiritual Focus for the Month of AUGUST 2008:

The Choices of An Overcomer

WEEK3Prayer FOCUS:

Standing Firm on the Word of God (Remember to pray for those on the SMS Prayer List.)

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