

## STANDING FIRM

### Invisible Battle For Visible Success

Ephesians 6:10 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

### Strength From The Cross

Colossians 2:9 For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.

10 So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

11 When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature.

12 For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

13 You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins.

14 He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

15 In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

Romans 13:10 Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law.

11 This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

12 The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living.

### Strongholds

2 Corinthians 10:3 We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do.

4 We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.

5 We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

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Strong + Hold

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Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

Romans 6:12 Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires.

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The Lie

2 Timothy 2:25 Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth.  
26 Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.

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With God's Truth

John 17:17 Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.

1 Corinthians 2:13 When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths.

14 But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.

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### Your Thoughts

Ephesians 4:21 Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him,  
22 throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception.  
23 Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.  
24 Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

Romans 12:2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

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### Dressed In Spiritual Armor

Proverbs 10:28 The hopes of the godly result in happiness, but the expectations of the wicked come to nothing.  
29 The way of the Lord is a stronghold to those with integrity, but it destroys the wicked.