

## The Soldier Stands

*Eph 6:10-17*

*10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*

*11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye **may be able to stand** against the wiles of the devil.*

*12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

*13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye **may be able to withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

*14 **Stand** therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;*

*15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

*16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

*17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*

### I. Introduction

1. The posture of the good soldier is one who is able to stand and to withstand.

2. In his closing remarks in his letter to the Ephesian church, Paul gave his final words on how to stand against the adversary, the devil:

*Eph 6:10-11*

*10 Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord**, and in the power of his might.*

*11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye **may be able to stand** against the wiles of the devil.*

3. Paul tells what a good soldier of Christ does—he takes a stand against the devil.

4. In my early days in the church, I remember hearing a preacher say, “The only time the church loses a battle against the devil, is when they don’t show up to fight.”

5. If we ever lose a battle against temptation to do evil, it is because we gave up the fight and surrendered to the evil.

6. But when we stand up to it with God’s armor on, we will win against it. That is a promise of the Word. That is the final word on the matter. Finally, my brethren, as Paul said, be strong and stand.

7. The Soldier Stands.

### II. What to do in the day of adversity

#### A. Certainty of adversity

1. Recently in my morning devotion, I addressed this passage:

*Prov 24:10 If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.*

2. “**Faint**” here means to show yourself slack, to do nothing, to let go, to give up.

3. The “**day of adversity**” means when the battle intensifies, when you get in a bind, or in a tight spot.

4. Yesterday, Emma and Grace put Sis. Warner and me through school. We had math, reading, art, recess, and lunch.

5. Well I learned something in the Emma Grace school yesterday, that helped me prepare for this message.
6. They taught me something about figuring out from a sentence or story, the **context clues**. You ask the questions about what you read to figure out clues of what you can learn from the statement.
7. What clues I see in this statement is that **there will be** a “**day of adversity**” that everyone will face.
8. That is not the statement with the “if”. The **day of adversity** means: temptation, when you are in a tight spot, when the battle increases. And that is going to happen for all of us.
9. We all have battles to face, so we should not expect that life will not include battles with temptation to do wrong.
10. In fact, there are situations that we just know are going to put us face-to-face with great temptation. Stay away from those places when you can!

B. Donut illustration

1. A preacher told a story about a guy who was trying to lose weight and said he was going to give up donuts.
2. But he said that when he drove by the donut store and saw a parking space available right next to the entrance, he thought God was giving him a sign it was ok to go in.
3. But what he didn’t tell, was that parking space didn’t open up until the sixth time driving around the block.
4. It is not as though he did not know there would be temptation there. He should have had a better plan of dealing with that temptation.

C. Uncertainty of failure

1. But let’s get back to finding the context clues from this verse:  
*Prov 24:10 If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.*
2. So far, we have discovered that the day of adversity will come. We just need to prepare for it.
3. Next, notice the word “**if**.” This is a context clue from which we learn that something may or may not happen, depending on what the “if” is addressing.
4. What you learn from the statement, “if you faint,” is that it is not a guarantee that you will faint, show yourself slack, or give up. Failing is not guaranteed. It only happens if...
5. The “if you faint” is connected with “thy strength is small.”
6. The day of adversity, temptation, battle, is guaranteed to happen.
7. **Giving up in failure only happens when your strength is small.**
8. Some people will use the excuse, “Well he made me do it, she made me do it, I couldn’t help it.” Some even say, “the devil made me do it.”
9. It is the weak that give that excuse.
10. But, no, that is not the case. You faint because your strength is small.
11. Instead of casting blame on others for your failure, mistake, or sin, use the context clues of this verse and address the problem: small strength.

12. Today we are talking about **The Soldier Stands**. He doesn't fall. The reason he stands, is because he is prepared with armor, boldness, and confidence.
13. We cannot allow adversity to put us down.

### III. Illustration of Pillow vs. Grant

#### A. Advance to victory

1. I read a book called, *Men of Fire*, by Jack Hurst, who describe two military men in the Civil War.
2. It spoke about an untried Union general who was about to be court marshalled and removed from command because of a charge of public drunkenness and conduct unbecoming of an officer, and also because he had never won a battle. His name was General Ulysses S. Grant.
3. It was on February 15, 1862, in one of the most decisive battles of the Civil War, that the battle for the confederate Fort Donelson, took place.
4. The fort was near the border of Tennessee and Kentucky, and if General Grant could take this fort, it would open up the Cumberland River which would open the path for a full invasion of the south, starting with Nashville.
5. But if the Confederate army could win the battle, it would allow them to invade north and turn the tide of the war in the favor of the Confederacy.
6. The morning began with the Union's most formidable weapon, their **ironclad boats [image]**, approaching the fort.
7. The confederate army feared these boats, because with them, the Union had easily conquered Fort Henry, just days before.
8. But on this morning, the placement of Fort Donelson high on a hill overlooking the river, put the Confederate army in the advantage.
9. That cold, snowy morning in February 1862 the Confederate cannons on the high ground were able to fire on the boats and sink some of the leading ironclads and sent others away in retreat.
10. The confederates had a decisive victory in the early part of the day, with their infantry advancing two miles through brutal and bloody combat against the Federal armies.
11. The Confederates were well stocked with provisions enough to continue to pursue the Union solders even further north, and it looked almost certain the Confederate army had won the day.
12. At this point, the Union General Ulysses Grant was fearful of the Union's sound defeat.

#### B. Retreat to defeat

1. However, the Confederate **General Gideon Pillow**, gave an bad order that cost them the battle.
2. He ordered that their army retreat two miles back to regroup.
3. He thought the Union army was preparing a major counterattack with a larger army than his, but that was not the case.

4. The Union General Ulysses Grant, arrived with his forces to see the retreat of the Confederates, and was able to skillfully retake the ground they had lost and capture the Fort Donelson.
  - a. “Grant was grimly elated. In the space of not much more than three hours he had pulled back from the brink of a defeat that would have been disaster for the life of the Union and his own career—and had **pushed to the threshold of the greatest Federal triumph** so far in this war.”<sup>1</sup>
5. This caused a rapid Confederate abandonment of Fort Donelson, retreat of several of their soldiers, and the surrender of a large contingent of Confederate soldiers.
6. Merely three hours after Union defeat was almost certain, the Union victory was nearly in their grasp.
7. Rather than standing and taking their victory, a poor decision of a Southern general, sealed their defeat.
8. If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.
9. But good soldiers stand.

#### IV. The Mighty Men of David

##### A. Jashobeam against 300

1. David had many great soldiers, but Chronicles tells of a group that were called “**The Three Mighties.**”
2. **First** was **Ja-sho-be-am**, who all by himself, faced the day of adversity:  
*1 Chron 11:11 And this is the number of the mighty men whom David had; Jashobeam, and Hachmonite, the chief of the captains: he lifted up his spear against three hundred slain by him at one time.*
3. Jashobeam would not have been looked down upon if he had fled in this day of adversity. But “at one time” in one battle, his strength was not small. He was a good soldier, and **The Soldier Stands.**

##### B. Eleazar defends the harvest

1. The **second** of David’s top three mighties was **Eleazar**. Notice a problem he had going against him:  
*1 Chron 11:12 And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, who was one of the three mighties.*
2. He might have been the son of Dodo, but he was no Dodo. He was determined that regardless of being inhibited by anything his family name might have limited him with, he would arise as one of the three mighties.
3. The weak might use family history as an excuse to fail, but not Eleazar the son of Dodo.
4. No, Eleazar fought side-by-side with David to against the Philistine army.
5. In this battle, everyone else had fled, but David and Eleazar stood and fought the enemy all alone.
6. But the prize they fought for is what I was amazed by:  
*1 Chron 11:13 He was with David at Pas-dammim, and there the Philistines were*

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<sup>1</sup> Hurst, Jack, *Men of Fire*, Basic Books, New York, NY, 2007. P. 287.

*gathered together to battle, where was a **parcel of ground full of barley**; and the people fled from before the Philistines.*

7. You see, Eleazar recognized how important treasures in the field were to the King, so he stood with him to fight against an overwhelming adversary in the day of adversity, and came out victorious, two against many.
8. It is sad that everyone else gave up on that treasure in the field, but Eleazar didn't faint.
9. The parallel passage in 2 Samuel 23 said that Eleazar fought so valiantly that "**his hand clave unto the sword.**" (2 Samuel 23:10).
10. That is what mighty men do. Their weapon becomes one with them and they don't throw them down in battle!
11. Eleazar fought for the field full of barley because that was the King's priority.
12. Behold the fields are white, it's harvest time! This is not a time to faint. It is not a time of small strength. It's not time to put your sword down.
13. **The Soldier Stands!**

C. Abisai against 300

1. The **third** of the three mighties was **Abishai**.  
*1 Chron 11:20 And **Abishai** the brother of Joab, he was chief of the three: for lifting up his spear against three hundred, he slew them, and had a name among the three.*
2. Abishai was willing to stand, one against 300.

D. Others take a stand

1. The list in 2 Samuel 23 also includes a soldier named **Adino** who alone **stood against 800** whom he slew at one time.
2. That list also includes **Shammah**, the soldier who stood alone against a troop of Philistines **defending a field full of lentils**, a type of small bean. (2 Samuel 23:11-12).
3. While some might say, "It doesn't mount to a hill of beans, why make a deal of this?" but Shammah had learned that the King puts a high priority on the harvest in the field.
4. To the King, that hill of beans is a hidden treasure in the field and worth fighting for!
5. That is what soldiers do. **The Soldier Stands!**
6. The good soldier looks at the day of adversity and says, "I've got this. I'm on it."
7. It is a mindset that he or she puts on.
8. Their courage grows, their posture straightens, their countenance is set, their attention is on alert, their focus is targeted.

V. Standing with the **OUT**standing King

A. Standing with

1. It is important for the Soldier who Stands, to realize you are not standing alone fighting your own battle. We are fighting for the King.
2. You can stand against temptation because God is with you.
3. When you are impressed by God to take a stand, even when it sounds **outrageous** or **outlandish**, and if you are **outnumbered**, or your methods seem **outdated**, we have an **outstanding** God who **outranks**, **outshines**, and will **outperform**, **outdo**, **outpunch**,

**outkick, outreach, and outgun** the adversary, sending him **outbound outside** to the **outhouse**.

4. And for us, His children who are standing with the King by His strength, doing His purposes, He will give us an **outbreak** and an **outpouring** of His Spirit and protect us with His **outstretched** and **outspread** arms to help.
5. How many times has a spirit of fear, the spirit of bondage, the spirit of heaviness, the spirit of lying, a spirit of jealousy, a spirit of infirmity, or an unclean spirit come at you and you were overcome by it?
6. Fear, get out of here! Bondage, God is leading you captive. Spirit of heaviness, God has given me a garment of praise to dispel you.
7. Spirit of lying and jealousy, God comes at you as the Spirit of truth who will zealously fight your jealousy.

#### B. Overcoming

1. Unclean spirit, get out of here. The Holy Spirit lives here! Overcome!  
*1 John 2:14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and **the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.***
2. *1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and **have overcome them**: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*
3. Plus, when we read the book of Revelation chapter 2 and 3, we see that in every occasion, Jesus offers the **church that overcomes** many blessings:
4. *Rev 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that **overcometh** will I give to **eat of the tree of life**, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*
5. *Rev 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that **overcometh** shall **not be hurt of the second death.***
6. *Rev 3:5 He that **overcometh**, the same shall be **clothed in white raiment**; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.*
7. *Rev 3:21 To him that **overcometh** will I grant to **sit with me in my throne**, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*

#### VI. Conclusion: Overcome by the Lamb

1. And even in the final battle of battles, the Battle of Armageddon described in Revelation 16:14, the outcome is summarized in:  
*Rev 17:13-14*  
*13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.*  
*14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and **the Lamb shall overcome them**: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and **they that are with him** are called, and chosen, and faithful.*
2. When we stand beside our mighty and powerful God, Jesus Christ the Lamb, we are among the overcomers.
3. We are not losers! Let the Soldier Stand!