

Sit, Stand, Walk, Run, Pray

Part 2: Stand

A Teaching by Ron Brown

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God so that you will be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.” Ephesians 6:10–11

Continuing in our series, “Sit, Stand, Walk, Run, Pray,” today we’re going to talk about “Stand.” Galatians 5:1–4 talks about standing in the Lord. “It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.”

Don’t Be Cut Off From the Anointing

This is a powerful defense that Paul was giving to the gospel of grace because there was a group of people who had come into the church and were perverting the gospel message. They were saying that in addition to receiving the grace of God for salvation, you also had to keep the law. And what Paul was saying is that those who come in to teach those types of things are causing us to move away from the liberty of who we are in Christ Jesus. So the admonition or the commandment of the Lord to us in Galatians 5:1 says that we are to keep standing or stand fast or stand firm and do not allow ourselves to be entangled with a yoke of bondage again because Christ came to set us free. We cannot take what God has done in bringing salvation and liberation to us through the power of the Cross and then add religion, add rules, add things on top of that, and say we need to have this in addition to these other things in order to be saved and to walk in the freedom of Christ.

As a matter of fact, in verse 4 Paul said when we begin to

do this, that we have been severed—we have been cut off from Christ. In other words, we’ve been cut off from the anointing. We cannot access the power of God to be who God has called us to be. The word “Christ” is not the last name of Jesus but it means “The Anointed One.” It’s also the same word for “the anointing” and the anointing is God’s supernatural ability to be and to do what God has called us to do in our lives as believers.

Paul is saying that when you try to take the message of the gospel and add something to it other than the grace of God, you are actually moving yourself away from accessing the anointing—and we need the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Without the power of the anointing of the Holy Spirit operating in our lives, all we have is religion; all we have is rules and regulations. So Paul was vigorously defending the gospel of the grace of God. In Acts 10:38, the Word of God says how Jesus Christ of Nazareth was anointed with the Holy Ghost in power. He went about doing good, healing all who were oppressed of the devil, for God was with Him. It was through the anointing, through the power of the spirit, that Christ was able to defeat the enemy.

The Anointing of the Holy Spirit Brings Victory

Paul is saying that if we’re going to stand in the freedom where Christ has made us to be free, we must also access that same anointing. The word “Christ” is used in the New Testament over 340 times, which lets us know how important it is that we understand the anointing.

The anointing of the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to have victory over demonic forces. The anointing of the Holy Spirit also is needed for us to increase and to have harvest. We just



Stirrings—inspired by 2 Timothy 1:6, Amplified Version—is an abridged summary of devotionals and leadership teachings by Ron Brown, Executive Director of Teen Challenge of Southern California. They are presented at regular meetings of the TCSC Leadership Team as part of its commitment to excellence, personal growth, and spiritual vitality. **Complete audio is available at <http://www.teenchallenge.org/stirrings> or scan this QR code.**



celebrated our Harvest of Promise of 50 years of faithfulness to the ministry of Teen Challenge that the Lord has given to us. And there's still a great harvest that is out in front of us. In Psalm 115:12–15, the Word of God talks about how God is faithful to the generations and He wants to increase our ability to gather the harvest. This is all under our ability to walk in the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Also, we need the anointing of the Holy Spirit to be able to interpret the times. 1 Chronicles 12 talks about how the sons of Issachar were able to interpret the times and the seasons and they understood and knew what to do. It was all by the anointing. The anointing of the Holy Spirit is extremely important to us. In the book of Ruth, chapter 3, Naomi told Ruth after she had lost her husband to anoint herself and to change her widow's garments because the anointing represents physical refreshment.

How many of you need some physical refreshment in your life? Bodily exercise is good. We need to do that. But when the anointing is on you, you are able to labor under the strength and power of the Spirit and not under your own strength and there is a continual flow of the River of God that brings refreshing to you. We need the anointing for refreshing. So Ruth anointed herself with oil and that's when she went to the threshing floor and found her kinsman redeemer.

We also need the anointing of the Holy Spirit so that we're not given to depression and to sadness. Hebrews 1:9 says that we are to be anointed with the oil of gladness. We need to have that gladness that comes from the Holy Ghost so that we will have the strength because the joy of the Lord is our strength.

In John 9:6, Jesus told the man who was blind—after he rubbed some mud on his eyes—to go and wash, and the word “anoint” means “to smear and to rub on.” Usually it was done with oil, but Jesus, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, spit on the

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ground and made some clay that he put on this man's eyes. The man went

and washed and his eyesight was restored. We need the anointing of the Holy Spirit so that we will have vision, so that we will be able to see the future, so that we will be productive in all that God has for us and we will be able to walk in revelation knowledge of God's purposes and will for the ministry and for our lives individually. The anointing is extremely important for us to fulfill what God has called us to do.

Put On the Armor of God and Stand Firm

In Ephesians 6, the word for “stand firm,” which is the same word that was used in the passage we read from Galatians, is repeated several times in the space of three verses. I want you

to know that God doesn't say things over and over again because He doesn't know what to say. When God repeats something, it is for emphasis because it is extremely important and we need to understand it.

Ephesians 6:10–12 says, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength [or the power] of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” And he goes on in verse 13 and says again, “Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to [stand and] resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.” In verse 14 he says, “Stand firm, therefore, having girded your loins” and then goes on to

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talk about the pieces of the armor that we are to have. And so, continually, in the space of those verses, three times the Lord has told us to stand firm. It is a military term. Remember, we're in a spiritual warfare. We're in a spiritual battle and will be until the day that the Lord calls us home.

In some translations, this military term of “stand firm” is to “stand fast.” It is used when a military unit is standing together in formation and they're waiting for the commandment or the commander to tell them how to attack the enemy. The Word of God tells us we are to stay in formation, we are to stand firm and be ready to move out when the Commander in Chief, the Lord Jesus Christ, tells us how to move out against the forces of darkness. Unfortunately, many times we have folks in the body of Christ who are lone rangers and renegades and they don't know how to walk in unity with one another. But God places us in the body as it pleases Him and we are connected to one another. And when we're in proper order and in our place in the body, we are able to move with power. We are able to move with a force that is able to defeat the enemy.

So it's important that you stay in your place. It's important that I stay in my place. It's important that we stay in our places. Stay in the military formation waiting for the Commander in Chief. Jesus said, “I only go where my Father tells me to go. I only do what my Father tells me to do.” Why? Because He stood firm. He stood fast. And He waited for the Commander in Chief to tell Him what to do next. It is important that we keep our ears inclined to the Lord in prayer so that we're able to hear when God speaks to us and we move out under His command.

Ephesians 6:10 says, “Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.” Verse 11 says, “Put on the full armor of God so that you will be able.....” The words “strength” and “able”

are also translated from the same Greek word for *dunamis* or power. In Acts 1:8, Jesus said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

In other words, we ought to stand firm until we are imbued with power from on high and get our marching orders from the Commander in Chief of the armies and the hosts of the armies of the Lord, from the Lord Himself, and then we are to move. We need to have the power of the Holy Ghost.

Stand Firm and Experience God's Grace and Leading

And it's when we are standing firm waiting for God to empower us that we are able to access the fullness of God's grace, this same grace that Paul was talking about in Galatians 5. He says, don't let anyone move you away from God's grace because God's grace is His favor. God's grace is His power. God's grace is His anointing. God's grace is the gifts of the Spirit. God's grace is His supernatural ability to do the works of God. And he says, don't let anyone come in and start teaching you another gospel, telling you that you don't need just that, but you need this plus you need a degree from some university. He said, "No, no, no, no, no." You need to depend on the anointing. You need to

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stand in this evil day. And so, let us value that in our lives and let us expect that and let us look for it.

The armor gives us the ability to stand. Galatians 6:14–15 says, "Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace." And he begins to talk about the different parts of the armor.

In those days, the Roman soldiers wore a leather apron around the waist and this leather apron was attached to a metal breastplate. And so Paul looked at what Roman soldiers wore in their warfare regalia, and he used that as the background for explaining how we are to be prepared as soldiers in the Army of the Lord.

This leather apron covered the loin area and a metal breastplate was attached that covered the chest area. Then a sword was on the side of the leather apron. Paul said to stand firm with the apron attached to the breastplate with the sword at your side, ready to go. So this is the stand that we take and we stay in that spiritual formation until we are engaging the enemy.

Then Paul says that we are to have our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. The shoes that they wore were sandals that had metal spikes similar to nails underneath

so that you were able to dig into the ground and take a firm stand. Those spikes were under the bottom of those sandals so you could dig in and you took your stand against the enemy. This was a wrestling. This was a hand-to-hand combat. It was not with a long sword. The sword actually looked more like a dagger and was a short sword. So this was meant to be up close combat.

Preparing for Hand-to-Hand Combat

We are in a wrestling with the powers of darkness. The battle is a lot closer sometimes than we want it to be. But we have to wrestle. That's why Paul says in verse 12, "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers...against spiritual wickedness in high [heavenly] places" (KJV)—because it is hand-to-hand combat. When we're serving in the ministry of Teen Challenge, we are doing hand-to-hand combat with the enemy every single day. We see when the students come in and they are bound and oppressed by the devil and they're under the influence of drugs and demonic sorcery. And sometimes it is a wrestling match in the spirit, not physically, but in the spirit as we wrestle in prayer, as we wrestle in giving out the Word of God, as we wrestle in words of encouragement and wisdom and counsel. We are wrestling with those demonic forces with weapons that are not carnal but they are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:4).

So not only were these metal spikes on the shoes (which was the preparation of the gospel of peace) to keep you stable and firm so that you wouldn't get knocked off balance when you were in the struggle and in the battle against the enemy, but also, once you got the enemy on the ground, you could pick your foot up and you could use those spikes to drive your point home that, "Devil, you aren't winning up in here. You are losing and I'm going to make sure that you aren't getting up from this struggle." So not only were the spikes to help you with your standing firm, but they also could be used to stop your opponent into giving up.

But also, I believe, that the shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace represent that you don't quit. When you dig those spikes into the dirt, you are committed. You are committed to the battle. You are not going to run away. You are going to stand your ground. That's why Paul said, "After having done all, you stand firm." And so when you dig in, it's like there's nowhere to go because you can't even get those spikes out of the dirt too quickly. If you turn coward, you can't run too fast because you

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are committed to the battle. So when we're standing firm, and the admonition from the Word of the Lord to us today is when we are standing firm it's no time to think about quitting. It's no time to think about giving up even though we get tired and sometimes we're weary. The Bible says don't be weary in well doing, for in due season you will reap if you don't faint (Galatians 6:9). But you dig your feet in and you are committed to the battle. You're never going to give up.

The shield of faith was a wooden shield that was long enough, it was big enough that you could literally kneel down behind it and it would cover your entire body. And this big shield was soaked in water. Sometimes the enemy would put fire on the end of the arrows and when those flaming arrows came and hit that wooden shield, the water on the wooden shield would quench and put out the fire. So Paul says that we're to take the shield of faith with which we're able to quench all of the fiery darts of the wicked one.

So when you had on this metal breastplate, you had the leather part covering your loins, you had the dagger, you had this huge wooden shield that was able to cover your entire body, and it was drenched in water—this thing was heavy! Then you had to have good shoes on—the right shoes, which is the preparation of the gospel of peace—so that you could dig in and hang on and get ready for the battle.

Now the helmet of salvation that Paul talks about—the helmet portion of the armor—was actually the most expensive. Out of all of the pieces—the wooden shield, the leather piece around your loins, the metal piece on your breastplate, and the helmet—the most expensive portion of the armament was the helmet. It

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was fashioned out of a very heavy-duty metal that was able to protect your head. If you didn't have a helmet, you did not go into battle. And it cost more than all of the other pieces of the armor. I want you to know that Jesus paid the ultimate price. The helmet of our salvation was paid for by the blood of Jesus. He paid the ultimate price. And so even in this analogy, Paul is alluding to the fact that Jesus Christ, who purchased our salvation, paid the greatest price.

The sword, as I mentioned earlier, was a Roman short sword. It looked more like a dagger and it was used for hand-to-hand combat. So Paul is saying to us to get ready to stand firm. The battle will be intense and the battle will be fierce. Sometimes you may even feel the breath of the enemy blowing upon your organization. You may even feel the breath of the enemy blowing upon the leadership role that God has given you in the Kingdom. But understand and know that you are committed,

you are not going to run, you are going to stand and face the enemy, and you have the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. God's Word will not return void, but it will accomplish everything that it goes out for. His Word is sharper than any two-edged sword. It can pierce asunder every strategy and assignment of the enemy and can even help you to discern your own thoughts and intents of your own heart so that you can guard your own heart with diligence, for out of the heart flows the very issues of our lives.

The enemy may attack you early in the morning. He may attack you late in the evening. That's why the armor has to stay on at all times. He says, "Take up the full armor." The full armor. You can't leave one part of the armor off. He says, "Take the full armor." You cannot go into battle and not be prepared fully to take the enemy out. This is not a time for us to lose, but God has anointed us to win.

Standing Before God as a Worshipper

There's one last thing I want to say about standing. In Exodus 3, there's another standing where Moses encountered the angel of the Lord in the burning bush. And as he was standing there, the angel of the Lord spoke to Moses and talked to him about taking off his shoes. Now we just talked about how important it is to have your shoes on. But here, in the first 6 verses of Exodus 3, it says Moses was pasturing in the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law. And verse 2, it says, "The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed." And so Moses wanted to turn aside to see exactly what this was all about.

Then in verse 5, the angel of the Lord said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And then God began to say to him (verse 6), "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God."

Now here, Moses had on his sandals, his work boots if you will, and he encountered God at this burning bush. When the glory of God comes and the power of God's presence is manifest, we are to stand in a different posture than the posture we stand in when we're facing the enemy. When we're facing the enemy, you keep your shoes on and you stand firm for battle. But when you are standing before the Lord, you're not standing in a warfare posture but you are standing as a worshipper. So the Lord was saying to Moses, "You are standing in My presence now, and you are standing here as a worshipper. So you don't need to have those shoes on, son, because you are standing in My glory. You are standing in My power. You are standing in My anointing." And as worshippers of God, we are to raise our hands in

awe to the splendor and the majesty and the glory of God and worship Him.

Indeed, I must say to us, that it is only from this place of understanding how to stand in worship that we will have the ability to stand as a warrior. David was anointed as a worshipper before he was anointed as a warrior. So in all of our understanding and meditation about what it means to stand for the Lord in this evil day, first of all understand that we need to stand in God's presence as a worshipper. Be anointed and filled with His power. Then we are to be suited up with the armor of God and we are to take our position in our ranks, as it were, and we are to stand firm against the enemy, and we are to wrestle in the full

armor of God's mighty weapons that He has given to us, and we will see the victory of the Lord.

In Revelation 7:9, John said he saw a multitude from every tribe, from every tongue, from every nation, standing before the throne of God and they sang the song of salvation. One day we will stand with that throng before the throne of God and we will worship in His presence. We see through a glass darkly now, but then we will see face-to-face and we will stand in His presence as the people of God, worshipping and giving glory to the Lamb.

God bless you as you continue to stand in this evil day and fulfill the purposes of God.

