

STAND FOR SOMETHING
Ephesians 6:10-14

It was about 8:30 am when my telephone rang. The voice with its troubled sound asked to see me at my office at noon, if my schedule allowed. So at noon we met: a troubled mind, a weary spirit, a bewildered soul, and an aching heart set with me for about 2 hours. He talked about what he categorized as a spiritual and non-spiritual problem. In December of the previous year he had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and had been on the mountain top for months. He had lost the desire and taste for the things that were hindrance to his Spiritual Enrichment and development. Lately, however he's been in the valley: temptations were sharp and keen. He was ashamed of his feelings and the desires which said "go back to your old ways. He didn't understand it. He wrestling, fighting, in hand to hand combat with his mind over the wiles - the tricks and deceptions - of the rulers of the darkness in this world. Because he had taken his stand in Christ, the conflicts of evil were in an all out effort to menace, jeopardize and nullify his enriched Christian Experience.

He had taken a stand in Christ. He stood for something and he was being attacked and challenged now because he was...

"Standing, when the morning shineth,
Standing, when the noon is bright.
Standing, when the day declineth,
Standing, in the hush of the night."

Directed and guided by the Holy Spirit, the Scripture was searched and answers were found to solve the puzzle of his dilemma. Out Scripture search included and concluded with this passage from Ephesians 6:10-14:

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh

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and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

"STAND FOR SOMETHING"

I Ephesus: The City & Church

The Ephesian Letter was written by the Apostle Paul while he was in prison at Rome. Ephesians is one of 4 letters to the saints of God that Paul wrote while in jail: the other 3 are Philippians, Colossians and Philemon. Ephesians was intended as a circular letter for the various churches in Asia as well as for the church at Ephesus.

The theme of this letter gives emphasis to the unity of the Church. Paul is saying there is one church. Not a Jewish church and a Gentile church, but one church. He did not want Gentile Christians to become Jewish proselytes. Every church must dwell in unity in Christ. Stand for unity in the church. Moreover, there are several Gk words for "stand" and they refer to and/or are defined as "arise; establish; to abide, remain; to come up to assist; and stand "in the Lord," i.e., in the willing subjection to His authority."

Paul essentially says that Christ is a great big somebody. There is room for everybody in the church regardless of ethnic background, culture, viewpoints and prejudices. Jesus Christ is the One who has the power to solve all the problems we have collectively and individually; and Jesus can bring into unity and harmony with God all earthly, social and family life.

The city of Ephesus was a vitally active center commercially, intellectually and religiously. One of the 7 wonders of the ancient world, the temple of the goddess Diana was found there. In the first century, Ephesus called herself the first city of Asia.

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The church here had a solid Spiritual capacity. The Church

was well grounded in the faith. The church had received the Apostle's teachings for over 2 years. However, in the mist of all the wholesome, healthy activity, evil - the devil - evil spirits, false teachings, truth mixed with error, spiritual laziness, lack of seriousness and improper and unbecoming behavior threatened crippling damage to the church. The result was many believers fell from the faith and were falling away from the ways of righteousness. Some quit the congregation. That's what folk do now: they just quit! Listen. Listen. Don't you let anyone cause you to turn around; to quit; to leave your post; or to neglect your duty. Let this be your motto in the fellowship of the church, at home, on the job, or wherever.

**“When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must - but never quit.**

**Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about
When he might have won if he'd stuck it out;
Stick to your task, though the pace seems slow
You may succeed with one more blow**