

113 - Able to Stand - Ephesians 6:10-14 - 2016-10-16

Call to Worship: Psalm 18:1-3

Scripture Reading: Psalm 18:28-36

Sermon: "Able to Stand" Ephesians 6:10-14a

Benediction: Psalm 18:46

INTRODUCTION

Think of a mature man standing on his new land on the frontier, when Texas was being settled. He has a large parcel of land right on the river. He has a good farm going, a cotton crop coming up, and a garden flourishing doing well. He has two cows he is milking, and each has a calf. He has a cabin built, where he is living happily with his wife and children.

But the Apaches do not want him there. They resent him being there. And their way of dealing with people on land they claim is to kill them.

Think of what will happen to him if that enemy attacks, and he is not watchful, and is neither armored nor armed. He will have to flee, losing his farm, seeing it sacked and burned. Or, of course, he might just be killed, and will lie there dying and then dead, with his family sobbing out their grief, then left destitute. That man will not be left standing on his land, but will be either running away or lying dead.

Think of what will happen to him if an enemy attacks, and he is watchful, and is well armored and well armed, and skilled in the use of his weapons. He will be able to fight off the enemy, keeping his farm and defending his family. He will survive to bring joy and sustenance to his family. He will be able to stand.

That is the goal, or purpose, or end, of the Lord's work in you individually and in His church---for you to be able to stand. That is the apostle's purpose in writing as he has to us in Ephesians 6, starting in verse 10, which we begin to study together today.

I do not plan to preach and teach a sermon series on "the full armor of God." Instead, I plan to preach and teach a sermon series on "Being Able to Stand." Putting on the full armor of God is not the end, but the means. Being "able to stand" is the goal or end, and putting on the full armor of God is just a means to that end.

TEXT

Ephesians 6:10-18

BODY

- I. Being Able To Stand Is Our Lord's Purpose for Us (and putting on the whole armor of God the means to that end)
 - A. see that being "able to stand" is the goal
 1. verse 11 that you may be able to stand
 2. verse 13 that you may be able
 - a) to withstand
 - b) having done all, to stand
 3. verse 14 Stand therefore
 - B. See that putting on the whole armor of God is the means to that end
 1. verse 11 Put on the whole armor of God, **that** you may be able to stand.
 2. verse 13 take up the whole armor of God, **that** you may be able to withstand
 - C. Understanding that being able to stand is the point of this passage, of course we must learn what it means "to stand"
- II. What It Means to Stand
 - A. There are some challenges to knowing what Paul means by "stand"
 1. he is speaking figuratively; he does not mean literally to stand up; and the figure is not explained right here
 2. he does not say "stand *in* so and so" or "stand *for* so and so" We are used to the metaphor of standing being used with something, like
 - a) you need to stand up for what you believe in
 - b) I stand on principle
 - c) I'm standing up for the little guy
 - d) He stood his ground
 3. "stand" does not appear elsewhere in Ephesians, for us to learn right within the letter what Paul means by it
 - B. Those interpretive challenges are not necessary difficult to overcome, but for most of my life, I have not met those challenges well. There have been errors in my method.
 1. I have read this passage as separate from what has gone before in Ephesians, and listened uncritically to teachers who have done so
 - a) "now we're going to have a bible study on the armor of God"
 - b) "now we're going to study spiritual warfare"
 2. I have indulged pride in my flesh, thinking of myself powerfully armed for battle, standing victorious, looking like a character in a novel or movie
 3. I have left our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ mostly out of it

- C. Lately, by God's grace, I have done better in trying to understand what Paul means by writing that our goal is "to stand"
1. the church's offering money pay my family's expenses, and the upkeep of this building
 2. so I sit in the study alot of the time, or go somewhere else sometimes, and I read and listen, trying to understand rightly what the Word of God says to us in the bible
 3. so, the past few weeks I have done much better than previously in overcoming those interpretive challenges, to understand what Paul means by "to stand"
- D. Think for a moment about how the study of the Ephesian letter is done one concept at a time, once each week, over the course of some years; but the reading of the Ephesians letter is done in one session, over the course of a few minutes. I'm going to read a few lines from Ephesians, to remind you what kind of things have been said leading up to where we are now.
1. (1:3ff) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace
 2. (1:16ff) I pray that God may give to you knowledge of Christ, that you may know the greatness of His power toward us who believe, which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and put all things under His feet
 3. (2:1ff) You were dead in trespasses and sins. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, made us alive together with Christ. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.
 4. (2:14ff) Christ Jesus, by His death on the cross, has abolished the ordinances of the Old Testament, making all who are in Christ to be one new man, and one holy temple in the Lord.
 5. (3:8ff) It was God's eternal purpose, now accomplished in Christ Jesus, to show His grace and wisdom in what He has done for the church. I pray that He will grant you to know the love of God for you in Christ Jesus, and so to give glory to God by Christ Jesus in the church forever and ever.
 6. (4:1ff) Since God has shown you such grace and love in Christ Jesus, in calling you to Himself through Christ, walk in a way that is worthy of that calling. Walk so humbly and kindly with the church, and together hold so strongly to what is true that you maintain a peaceful unity of the Spirit in Christ's church. Do not resent the fact that there are certain men who are made leaders over you---this is the way in which Jesus Christ strengthens us and matures us and binds us together as His church, His very body,

bringing us from being like little children to being like a mature man, so we will not be tossed around by every false doctrine that comes along.

7. (4:25ff) Do not lie to each other; do not sin in anger toward each other; do not steal any more, but work; do not speak the corrupt talk you used to speak, but be kind to one another, forgiving one another even as God in Christ forgave you.
8. (5:1ff) Imitate God, as His children, and walk in love as Christ has loved us. Get rid of all kinds of sexual sins, so that they have no part in the life of God's people. Walk no longer in darkness, but in the light of the Lord. Walk not as fools, but as wise, knowing and doing the will of God.
9. (5:18ff) Be filled with the Spirit, doing such things as worshiping the Lord in singing, giving thanks for all things, and submitting. Wives, submit to your husbands; children, obey your parents; servants, obey your masters. For your part, husbands, love your wives as your own bodies, just as Christ loved the church; fathers, do not provoke your children, but nourish them with the training and admonition of the Lord; masters, do right for your servants, knowing that your own Master is in heaven.
10. Finally, put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand
11. Taken in that way, not separate from the rest of the letter, but as the conclusion of it, I understand Paul to mean: "What I have just written to you, what you have just read, keep these things. I have taught you about God's grace toward you in Jesus Christ--now believe it and keep believing it. I have taught you the commands of God from Jesus Christ--now obey them and keep obeying"

E. So, you can understand what Paul means by "to stand" by that method. But we also can check ourselves by reading a verse that helps us know what the apostle means by "stand: The letter to the Colossians, which runs parallel to Ephesians at several points, talks about being able to stand, but says more about it. Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may **stand [G2476 *hístemi*]** perfect [ESV, NIV mature] [**G5046 *teleios***] and complete [NIV, ESV, RWP "fully assured"] [**G4135 *plerophoreo***] in all the will [**G2307 *thelema***] of God.

1. here Paul writes about the same subject: "that you may stand"
2. but instead of stopping there, he goes on to describe what condition you are to stand in
 - a) to stand mature or perfect, and
 - b) to stand fully assured or complete
3. and he says what we stand mature and fully assured in: in all the will of God
4. to stand is to be mature and fully assured in all the will of God

F. So, when Paul writes "to stand" we can understand him to mean

1. to stand perfect or mature

- a) Ephesians 4:11-16 And He Himself gave some ~~to be~~ apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, (12) for the ~~equipping~~ perfecting of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, (13) till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a **perfect** man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; (14) that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, (15) but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- (16) from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
 - b) by the doctrine of the apostles, you are being built up to where you have a unity in the faith and knowledge of the Son of God; you are like Christ, speaking the truth, and doing so in love; you are like a mature or perfect man, like Christ; to stand is to stand mature in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God
2. to stand fully assured
- a) Romans 4:20-21 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, (21) and **being fully convinced** that what He had promised He was also able to perform.
 - b) not wavering in unbelief
 - c) but strengthened in faith
 - d) being fully convinced that God can do what He has promised
 - e) you have heard the promises of God in Jesus Christ, and believe; to stand is to stand fully assured of what you have believed about Jesus Christ
3. in all the will of God - The will of God is a prominent theme in Ephesians. three places in Ephesians
- a) Ephesians 1:1-12 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the **will** of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: (2) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, (4) just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, (5) having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of **His will**, (6) to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. (7) In Him

we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace (8) which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, (9) having made known to us the mystery of **His will**, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, (10) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him. (11) In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of **His will**, (12) that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

(1) verse 1 He, Paul, is an apostle not by his own will, but by the will of God

(2) verse 5 God has predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, not by any decision of our will, but according to the good pleasure of His will, to be praise of the glory of His grace

(3) verse 9 God has made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself.

(4) verse 11 We have been predestined by God to obtain an inheritance in Christ, according to the Purpose of God, who works all things according to the counsel of His will

b) Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the **will of the Lord** is.

(1) 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as **you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; (2) for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.**

(3) For **this is the will of God, your sanctification:** that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

(2) 1 Thessalonians 4: 3-7(4) For **this is the will of God, your sanctification:** that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, (5) not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; (6) that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. (7) For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

(3) To stand mature and fully assured in the will of God is to be wise; that is, to receive the commands of Jesus Christ by His apostles, as to how you are to live in holiness, and to walk in that way, abstaining from all forms of sexual immorality and all other wrongdoing

c) Ephesians 6:5-7 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; (6) not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the **will of God** from the heart, (7) with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

(1) to stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God is knowing and obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ as to how we act in our family and work relationships, and doing so unto the Lord Jesus, as His servants

4. Summary

a) Gill: [to stand is to] have a perfect knowledge of the revealed will of God, both as to doctrine and practice, and be enabled to act according to it

b) Clarke: [to stand is to be]perfectly instructed, and fully persuaded of the truth of those doctrines which have been taught you as the revealed will of God

c) JRY: to stand is to believe what our Lord Jesus Christ has told us to believe, and to do what our Lord Jesus Christ has commanded us to do

III. How the Threat of Attack from the Devil Changes When You Attempt to Stand Mature and Fully Assured in All the Will of God

A. The devil does not mind you being like a weak child, but minds very much if you become mature

B. The devil does not mind you being unsure of what you believe about Jesus Christ, but minds very much if you become fully assured

C. The devil does not mind you being mature in the ways of the world, or fully assured of things that are not even true, but minds very much if you become mature and fully assured in all the will of God

1. The will of God as to salvation

2. The will of God as to personal holiness

3. The will of God as to conduct in relationships

D. illus. Texas settlers and the Apaches

CONCLUSION

Ephesians 6:10-14 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. (11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (13) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (14) Stand therefore

able to stand

Ephesians 6:10-14a Finally, [my brethren,] be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. (11) Put on the whole armor of God, **that you may be able to stand [G2476 *histemī*]** against [G4314 *pros*] the wiles of the devil. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (13) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, **that you may be able to withstand [G436 *anthistemī*]** in the evil day, and having done all, **to stand [G2476 *histemī*]**. (14) **Stand [G2476 *histemī*]** therefore . . .

Ferguson:

In the latter part of the verse, he showeth the end why they should be strong in the Lord, and put on this armour, even that they might be able to stand; that is, to hold on their Christian course, as a soldier standing orderly and keeping his ground

Satan's great design in all his temptations is to drive the party tempted from his station . . . for, while he saith, "that ye may be able to stand against his wiles," he implieth that Satan's aim is to drive us from our station

The great work of a Christian is to guard against them, and to keep our station notwithstanding of them, even when we are assaulted by them

by "standing" as it is distinguished from "withstanding" presently mentioned, must be meant the posture not of a soldier, but of a conqueror, who useth to stand when the conquered are thrown upon the ground

Psalms 20:7-8 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God. (8) They have bowed down and fallen; But we have risen and stand upright.

the weakest of saints will be enabled to receive, without losing ground, the most furious of Satan's assaults

he forewarneth of an ill day approaching, and will have them arm themselves before it come

Hodge:

That you may be able, after the conflict is over, to maintain your ground as victors.

Poole:

either to fight, or rather to overcome. He that loses the victory is said to fall; he that gains it, to stand

Gill:

stand against him, oppose him, and fight, and get the victory over him

JRY: to stand meaning?

to be perfect and complete in all the will of God

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may **stand [G2476 *histemī*]** perfect [ESV, NIV mature] [G5046 *teleios*] and complete [NIV, ESV, RWP "fully assured"] [G4135 *plerophoreo*] in all the will of God.

Ephesians 4:13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect **[G5046 teleios]** man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

You have been taught what is true about the great salvation God has worked in you in Jesus Christ our Savior by the Holy Spirit.

You have been taught how you are to walk, as worthy of that salvation.

You now, in effect, stand as a mature man.

JRY: to stand instead of

Fall

Romans 14:4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls [G4098]. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him **stand [G2476 histemi]**.

1 Cor 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he **stands [G2476 histemi]** take heed lest he fall [G4098].

Be cut off

Romans 11:20-22 Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you **stand [G2476 histemi]** by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. (21) For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. (22) Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

Luke 21:34-36 "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. (35) For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. (36) Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to **stand [G2476 histemi]** before the Son of Man."

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not **stand [G2476 histemi]** in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may **stand [G2476 histemi]** perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Gill:

have a perfect knowledge of the revealed will of God, both as to doctrine and practice, and be enabled to act according to it

Clarke:

That ye may stand firm, perfectly instructed, and fully persuaded of the truth of those doctrines which have been taught you as the revealed will of God: this I believe to be the meaning of the apostle.

Ellicott:

prays that this perfection may belong to all, and that it may have its basis not in the secrets of heavenly knowledge, but in the revealed "will of God."

JFB:

"Perfect" implies the attainment of the full maturity of a Christian.

EB:

The first petition is for steadfastness. To stand has for opposites-to fall, or totter, or give ground; so the prayer is that they may not yield to temptation, or opposition, nor waver in their fixed faith, nor go down in the struggle; but keep erect, their feet planted on the rock, and holding their own against every foe.

The prayer is also for their maturity of Christian character, that they may stand firm, because perfect, having attained that condition which Paul in this Epistle tells us is the aim of all preaching and warning. As for ourselves, so for our dear ones, we are to be content with nothing short of entire conformity to the will of God.

"fully assured" in all the will of God. There can be no higher blessing than that-to be quite sure of what God desires me to know and do and be-if the assurance comes from the clear light of His illumination, and not from hasty self-confidence in my own penetration. To be free from the misery of intellectual doubts and practical uncertainties, to walk in the sunshine-is the purest joy. And it is granted in needful measure to all who have silenced their own wills, that they may hear what God says, -"If any man wills to do His will, he shall know."

Henry:

We must stand complete in all the will of God; in the will of his precepts by a universal obedience, and in the will of his providence by a cheerful submission to it: and we stand perfect and complete in both by constancy and perseverance unto the end.

Acts 26:22-23 Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I **stand [G2476 *histemi*]**, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come-- (23) that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (2) through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we **stand [G2476 *histemi*]**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:11-12 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. (12) Therefore let him who thinks he **stands [G2476 *histem*]** take heed lest he fall.

Isaiah 11:1-5 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. (2) The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. (3) His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; (4) But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; **He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. (5) Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness [LXX G225 *aletheia*] the belt of His waist.**

Isaiah 59:16-17 He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him. (17) For **He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.**

-righteousness as a breastplate

-a helmet of salvation on His head

Psalms 18

Psalms 18:32 It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect.

Psalms 18:35 You have also given me **the shield of Your salvation**; Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great.

Psalms 18:39 For You have armed me with strength for the battle; You have subdued under me those who rose up against me.

2 Corinthians 10:2-6 But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. (3) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. (4) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, (5) casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, (6) and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

1 Thessalonians 5:6-8 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. (7) For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. (8) But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on **the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.**

Ephesians 6:14-18 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, (15) and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (16) above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. (17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; (18) praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--

1 Samuel 2:1-10 And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation. (2) "No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God. (3) "Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the LORD is the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed. (4) "The bows of the mighty men are broken, And those who stumbled are girded with strength. (5) Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, And the hungry have ceased to hunger. Even the barren has borne seven, And she who has many children has become feeble. (6) "The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up. (7) The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up. (8) He raises the poor from the dust And lifts the beggar from the ash heap, To set them among princes And make them inherit the throne of glory. "For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, And He has set the world upon them. (9) He will guard the feet of His saints, But the wicked shall be silent in darkness. "For **by strength no man shall prevail.** (10) The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces; From heaven He will thunder against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. "He will give strength to His king, And exalt the horn of His anointed."

In this letter, we, the church of Jesus Christ, have been told what is true, that we may believe in our Lord Jesus Christ, and what is commanded us, that we may obey our Lord Jesus Christ.

The devil and all the hosts of wickedness with him hate our Lord Jesus, and hate us because we are His. They do not want us to believe in Christ as we have been taught here, and they do not want us to obey Christ as we have been commanded here.

We stand here, on the ground laid out for us in this letter.

The devil and all who are with him will be trying to knock us off of it.

Our Lord's apostle tells us what to do so that we may be able to stand here.

Our commander has shown us our rightful position, and has told us to hold this ground.

This is the ground that belongs to the church, having been given it by the Lord Jesus.

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. **He was a murderer from the beginning**, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Think how often the bible speaks of God's people as being in violent conflict with the forces of evil.

You have your own sinful flesh to deal with

You also have the world to deal with

But think now for a while about the fact that you have the devil and his hosts to deal with

He is a foe whose ultimate defeat is sure. But that does not mean he is not a vicious and dangerous enemy still for now.

It is good, as Ephesians chapter 2 taught us, to be made by God to be one new man in Christ Jesus. It is good to do as Ephesians 4 teaches us, and grow into the maturity of a full-grown man. But many full-grown men have lost possession of what they had because they have been driven off the ground they had gained by the attacks of an enemy. And many full-grown mature men have been wounded and killed by the attacks of cruel enemies.

Finally

Clarke:

Having laid before you, your great and high calling, and all the doctrines and precepts of the Gospel, it is necessary that I should show you the enemies that will oppose you, and the strength which is requisite to enable you to repel them.

JRY:

Of the several matters that make up this letter, here is the last.

When we think of obeying the things we are commanded, as in Ephesians, we think of it as just obeying or disobeying in the individual instance. But we are taught here that obeying or disobeying in any given instance of temptation is also a matter of how we live overall

-filled with the Spirit

-being strengthened, taking up the whole armure of God

Hodgins:

our wealth

our walk

our warfare

OR

sitting
walking
standing - holding your ground and fighting

Hoehner:

10-13 putting on the armor
14-16 standing with the armor
17-20 receiving the final pieces of armor

be strong in the Lord

Philippians 4:13
2 Timothy 2:1
Ephesians 1:19
Ephesians 3:16

Deut 31
Josh 1
Zech 10:12
JRY:

Joshua received this word when about to go conquering the promised land.
had we not gained this ground, we would have no need to keep it
If we had not in mind to believe and do according to what we have learned in Ephesians,
the devil would have nothing to do to get us out of it.

Ferguson:

necessary for practising all or any of the forementioned duties
in the Lord Christ
It is not enough for Christians to know what they ought to do by virtue of their several
relations, except they also set about the practice of their duty
the duties of a Christian life will not be discharged by us without a battle and conflict with
strong difficulties and terrible adversaries

Hodgins:

“be strengthened”
we do not have strength of our own; it must be infused by Christ
ordinary means of grace - not automatic

Calvin:

summon up courage and vigor
when our weakness is considered, an exhortation like this would have no effect, unless
the Lord were present, and stretched out his hand to render assistance, or rather, unless
he supplied us with all the power. Paul therefore adds, in the Lord

Poole:

be courageous, and constant in the practice of your duty
not in yourselves, but in the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom your strength lies, and from
whom by faith you may obtain it:

Gill:

since there is strength in him, which is communicable to them, they may expect it from
him, and depend upon it

they may strengthen themselves in it, and by it, by meditation on it, by prayer for it, by
waiting on Christ in his own ways, by exercising faith upon him, and through the Spirit,
who strengthens them from him with might in the inward man.

Eadie:

(as also Ellicott) the verb is passive, "be strengthened in the Lord"

JRY:

we could look at some who have had strength, and see what we know about how they
got it

and in the power of His might

Poole:

Though your own strength be but weakness, yet Christ's power is mighty, and he can
communicate enough to you.

Put on the whole armor of God

Hodge:

Instead of relying on the arms which God has provided, men have always been disposed
to trust to those which they provide for themselves or which have been prescribed by
others. Seclusion from the world (i.e. flight rather than conflict), ascetic and ritual
observances, invocation of saints and angels, and especially, celibacy, voluntary
poverty, and monastic obedience, constitute the panoply which false religion has
substituted for the armor of God. Of this fatal mistake, manifested from the beginning,
the apostle treats at length in his Epistle to the Colossians, Col_2:18-23.

Trapp:

Or else never think to do the afore mentioned duties

JRY:

ILLUS: Gas chamber during basic training
the gas mask is not pleasing to the flesh

Hodgins:

[paraphrasing]
-Paul not referring to organizing for political action

- Paul not referring to missionary endeavor
- Paul referring here to the everyday mundane matters

Isaiah 59:16-21 He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him. (17) For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak. (18) According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay, Fury to His adversaries, Recompense to His enemies; The coastlands He will fully repay. (19) So shall they fear The name of the LORD from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him. (20) "The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," Says the LORD. (21) "As for Me," says the LORD, "this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants' descendants," says the LORD, "from this time and forevermore."

Borgman:

Paul is not thinking of Roman soldier armor, but of Isaiah 59:17 armor

Griswold:

This armor is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

"I am the truth"

"Christ, our righteousness"

"He is our peace"

Rom 13: "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ."

When a soldier goes into battle, his armament is already chosen for him.

If you are not interested in these weapons, you fear men rather than God.

that you may be able to stand against

Hoehner:

to stand defensively (not to conquer) against the onslaughts

to stand defensively against the spiritual wickedness in the heavenlies

the wiles of the devil

gird your waist with truth *G225 aletheia*

Isaiah 11:5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And **faithfulness [G225 *aletheia*] the belt of His waist.**

breastplate *G2382 thorax of righteousness*

Isaiah 59:17 For He put on **righteousness as a breastplate**, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.

1 Thessalonians 5:8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

having shod your feet [G4228 *pous*] with the preparation [G2091 *hetoimasia*] of the gospel [G2098 *euaggelion*] of peace [G1515 *eirene*]

Isaiah 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who **brings good news [LXX G2097 *euaggelizo*]**, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

shield [G2375 *thureos*] of faith [G4102 *pistis*]

helmet of salvation

Isaiah 59:17 For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And **a helmet of salvation** on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.

sword G3162 *machaira* of the Spirit G4151 *pneuma* the word G4487 *rhema* of God