

Lesson 13

Keep Standing—Don't Quit

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VIDEO OUTLINE

Note: All scriptures used in this lesson are quoted from the *New King James Version*.

- I. When we are standing, believing God for something, many times there is warfare, a fight. As you grow in your faith, as you learn of the things of God, many times there are battles, and you have to fight the good fight of faith.

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1 Timothy 6:12

- A. Because God has declared us winners before we even go into a fight, we don't fight from a position of defeat, or as a victim. We fight from the position of a victor.
- B. It's a good fight because we win.
- C. It's a good fight because we come to every battle as world overcomers, more than conquerors in Christ Jesus.

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Romans 8:37

- D. We've already been made the very righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. So, we don't overcome sin from a position of defeat or as victims. We overcome it by understanding our righteousness in Jesus, and from a position of righteousness, we fight the good fight of faith.

Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

1 Corinthians 15:34

- E. "I am the healed. I am healed by the stripes of Jesus, and I'm fighting against the devil, who's trying to steal my health."
- F. "I am not fighting to obtain anything from God. He's already blessed me with all heavenly blessings in Christ Jesus."

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.

Ephesians 1:3

- G. "I'm not a sick person fighting to get God to heal me. I'm fighting from a position of grace where God has already healed me."

Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

1 Peter 2:24

- II. It's a fight to trust God when you feel something different, or when people tell you something different. It's a fight, and we have to learn to stand.

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

- A. There are many things we pray for that we have to stand and trust God, and it may be days before we see the manifestation. Even though when we pray God immediately hears us, and something begins to happen in our hearts and in the spirit world, sometimes it takes time for it to manifest in our natural world.
- B. We believe we receive the answer to our prayer when we pray, not when we see it.

For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, "Be removed and be cast into the sea," and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

Mark 11:23-24

III. Paul encouraged us on how to fight a good fight. He gave us some principles and keys on how to keep standing, on how to not quit when it appears nothing is happening after you've prayed in faith.

A. Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Many people start off in grace and faith. They're encouraged and believing for a miracle or a healing. However, over time, you have to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Our strength to endure comes from the Lord.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Ephesians 6:10

B. God's armor in our lives is what enables and empowers us to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:11

C. There is demonic activity against the Christian. When we trust God, it doesn't mean things are going to necessarily go smoothly all the time.

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. 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.

Ephesians 6:12-13

D. Paul said that as Christians we must willfully choose to put on this armor. If we do, it will enable us. God's armor isn't something to take lightly. The armor of God will also cause our prayers to be effectual.

1. The first thing the Roman soldier put on was the girdle, the belt around his waist. Everything is connected to the belt. Make sure you're looking to the Word of God and not your feelings. Make sure you're focused on God's Word, not on your symptoms or on what everybody else is saying. God's Word is truth.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness.

Ephesians 6:14

- a. The real battle is believing what God said versus what your eyes say, or what friends say, or what philosophers say. The point is, everything starts with the Word of God and everything connects back to the Word of God.
- b. The Bible says we even see truth through a glass darkly and we just don't have all the answers. We don't understand all the whys. But we have to learn to stand on what we do know.

For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

1 Corinthians 13:9

- c. What I do know is that God isn't making us sick. What I do know is that God's not leaving or forsaking us. He's in the middle of the battle, fighting on our behalf, if we fight by faith.
 - d. I stand in what I do know, and God helps me to (in time) understand what I don't know. So, the battle, and the power to stand, begins with truth.
2. You have to put on the breastplate of righteousness across your heart. You have to believe, "God has made me righteous, and nothing is going to hinder my prayer. I prayed my prayer in the name of Jesus."
- a. The devil will constantly try to get you to focus on a sin, a flaw, or a weakness—anything but the fact that you've been made the very righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21

- b. You'll fight a more successful fight when you know you've been made righteous and truly holy and that God is not holding anything against you. God is not mad at you.

And that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:24

3. "Having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel peace" means that you are walking and living in peace with God and peace with your fellow man.

And having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

Ephesians 6:15

- a. God's at peace with you. He's not mad at you.
- b. People get mad at God in a fight, and instead of fighting the good fight of faith, they start fighting God. Your warfare with God is accomplished. You don't have a battle with God any longer, and you must quit fighting with God.
- c. Many times, we start fighting with people, and we wonder why our prayers are hindered. You can't have unforgiveness, bitterness, and strife in your heart against your spouse, your children, your church, your friends, or coworkers, and not have your prayers hindered.

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

1 Peter 3:7

- d. I need to be at peace with God, with my spouse, and with my children through the blood of His cross.

If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Romans 12:18

- e. Because I have no unforgiveness in my heart, Satan can't find place to steal, kill, and destroy the blessings of God in my life.

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

John 10:10

4. Take the shield of faith. You have to have confidence that it will quench all—not some, not a few—the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Ephesians 6:16

- a. Your faith—your faith in Jesus, your faith in the cross, your faith that by His stripes you are healed—will quench, in time, every fiery dart of the devil, including those of sickness and disease.
- b. Trust God, even when you're confused. Trust God when you don't understand. Trust God when it looks like it's not working. Don't doubt and get worn out.
- c. When you do doubt, because we all do, stop for a minute and think, *My faith is being tested, so I'm going to reengage my shield of faith.*
5. You have to continually be renewed in your mind. You have to put on that helmet of salvation. That helmet protects the head. God is saying, "Allow My salvation, this great grace, this amazing grace, to guard your mind." Keep your mind on God. Keep your mind set on God's goodness and on His will for your life."

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Ephesians 6:17

- a. When you're struggling with sickness, fighting to maintain what Jesus bought and paid for, your healing is a mind battle. It's a war in your mind with thoughts that you have to take captive.

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.

2 Corinthians 10:4

- b. Our weapons come from God. They do not include our flesh, our human reasoning, our abilities, or our wisdom.

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.

2 Corinthians 10:5

- c. Many times, when sickness hits you, one of your children, or another family member, you start praying and the devil wars with you in your imagination. Instead of you seeing healing, the devil will try to put images of death and defeat in your mind.
 - d. True spiritual warfare is between the mind of Christ and my carnal mind. Satan uses my carnal mind to assault me, and I have to take the mind of Christ and counter those assaults.
6. The sword of the Spirit—your offensive weapon against the strategies of the devil—is speaking the Word of God, speaking the truth in love, and speaking what God says.
- a. You have to learn to speak to the mountain and see it removed.

IV. In summary, let's look at God's love for you and methods that He has made available for you to be healed. These things testify of God's will to heal you and to use you to heal others.

A. The number one way God heals is through the laying on of hands. It isn't always necessary, but that might be where you're at in your faith.

And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

Mark 16:17-18

B. Number two is with the anointing of oil.

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will

save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

James 5:14-15

- C. Number three is through the prayer of faith. We have to learn to pray the prayer of faith, not the prayer of doubt and unbelief, of whining and complaining, or of mourning about what is wrong with someone.
- D. Number four is through the prayer of agreement. Get around people who are full of faith, not full of doubt and unbelief.

Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.

Matthew 18:18-20

- E. Number five is through the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12). Get around people who love Jesus, who are filled with the Holy Spirit, and who operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

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