

ABLE TO STAND

PART 6 STAND, WATCH, & PRAY

“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 firm.” Ephesians 6:13 (ESV)



WE ARE ALL SOLDIERS

“Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.” - 2 Timothy 2:3-4 (ESV)



BELIEVERS AS SOLDIERS

The Pauline and Pastoral Epistles develop the metaphor of the Christian life as one of spiritual warfare.

- In 1 Cor. 9:7, Paul cites military provisions for soldiers as an analogy in making his point that ministers of the gospel should be compensated for their work. • 2 Tim. 2:3 refers to the believer figuratively as “a soldier of Christ,”
- Paul designates Epaphroditus as his “fellow-soldier” (systratiōtēs, i.e., “comrade-in-arms,” Phil. 2:25) in a greater spiritual “conflict” (agōn; Phil. 1:30).
- Eph. 6:10–17 likewise enjoins the believer to “put on the whole armor of God” in order to contend with “principalities ... powers ... [and] rulers of this present darkness.”
- In 2 Tim. 2:3–4, Christians are referred to as soldiers of Christ Jesus and, as such, should not become entangled in “civilian affairs,” but should seek only to please their “enlisting officer.”

THE MINDSET OF A SOLDIER

“Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act courageously, be strong. All your actions must be done in love.” 1 Corinthians 16:13–14 (LEB)



STANDING GUARD/KEEPING WATCH

The Prayer in Gethsemane

“And taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be distressed and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, ‘My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death. Remain here and *stay awake with me.*’ 39 And going forward a little he fell down on his face, praying and saying, ‘My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.’

40 And he came to the disciples and *found them sleeping*, and he said to Peter, ‘*So, were you not able to stay awake with me one hour?*’ 41 *Stay awake* and pray that you will not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak!’ 42 Again for the *second time* he went away and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will must be done.’

43 And he came again and *found them sleeping*, [for they could not keep their eyes open]. 44 And *leaving them again*, he went away and prayed for *the third time*, saying the same thing again.

45 Then he came to the disciples and said to them, ‘*Are you still sleeping and resting?*’ Behold, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 *Get up, let us go!* Behold, the one who is betraying me is approaching!’ ”

Matthew 26:37–46, LEB

STANDING GUARD/KEEPING WATCH

- “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock among which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God which he obtained through the blood of his own Son. 29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 And from among you yourselves men will arise, speaking [perversions of the truth] in order to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for three years I did not stop warning each one of you with tears.” (Acts 20:28–31, LEB)
- “But you, brothers, are not in the darkness, so that the day should catch you like a thief, 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 So then, we must not sleep like the rest, but must be on the alert and be self-controlled.” (1 Thess. 5:4–6, LEB)
- “Be on the alert and strengthen the remaining things that are about to die, for I have not found your works completed before my God. (Rev 3:2, LEB)
- “(Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who is on the alert and who keeps his clothing, so that he does not walk around naked and they see his shamefulness!)” (Rev 16:15, LEB)

ABLE TO STAND

“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 firm.” (Ephesians 6:13, ESV)



“Finally, become strong in the Lord and in the might of his strength. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you may be able to stand* against the stratagems of the devil, ... 13 Because of this, take up the full armor of God, in order that you may be able to resist [stand, withstand]** in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand.* 14 Stand therefore***, girding your waist with truth, and putting on the breastplate of righteousness,”

Ephesians 6:11, 13--14 (LEB)

***ἵστημι (histēmi) - Stand firm**

ἀνθίστημι (anthistēmi): Resist, oppose, rebel, set one's self against

*****Hypomeno: To face and withstand with courage [1]**

ENDURANCE: HYPOMENO

This word presumes that the Christian life garners opposition that must be met by spiritual resistance. The oppositions could be formal persecution or simply flow out from the general difficulties of life.

Steadfast Endurance: The power to withstand hardship or stress; especially the inward fortitude necessary.

Tolerate, suffer or “bear patiently: Paul tolerated all things in order that Christ’s gospel would not be an obstacle to some, and stated forcefully that Christians bear all things in love. (Rom. 9:22, Heb. 12:20, 2 Cor. 1:6, 1 Cor. 9:12, 2 Tim. 2:10, 1 Cor. 13:7)

“But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, 33 sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. 34 For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. 35 Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. 37 For,

“Yet a little while,
and the coming one will come and will not delay;
38 but my righteous one shall live by faith,
and if he shrinks back,
my soul has no pleasure in him.”

39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Heb. 10:32–39, ESV

- “But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:13–14, ESV)
- “Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.” (James 1:12, ESV)
- “As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.” (Jas 5:10–11, ESV)
- “The saying is trustworthy, for:
 - If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
 - 12 if we endure, we will also reign with him;
 - if we deny him, he also will deny us;
 - 13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself. (2 Tim. 2:11–13, ESV)

ENDURANCE: MAKROTHYMEO

A second word, makrothymeō or makrothymia, also encourages endurance as a characteristic mark of a Christian but in a different sense.

- This word, most often translated “patience,” views endurance as a quality of personal relationships.
- It is not a response to opposition as much as a voluntary act of love for difficult and irritating people.
- As opposed to becoming angry and upset with others, Christians who endure in this sense control themselves and are able to do so indefinitely.
- *Makrothyme* is used to describe God’s attitude toward humanity, both in the FT and in the NT,

FORGING A BOND OF UNITY

Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

Ephesians 4:1-5 (NIV)

“Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, putting aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us, let us run with patient endurance the race that has been set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the originator and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider the one who endured such hostility by sinners against himself, so that you will not grow weary in your souls and give up.”

Hebrews 12:1–4 (LEB)

WITH ALL PRAYER

*“with all prayer and supplication praying at all times
in the Spirit.” (Ephesians 6:18, LEB)*



“ ... and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, with all prayer and supplication praying at all times in the Spirit, and to this end being alert with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints, 19 and for me, that a word may be given to me at the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for the sake of which I am an ambassador in chains, that [in them] I may speak freely, as it is necessary for me to speak. “

Ephesians 6:17-20, ESV

Eph 6:17-20, LEB