



BE ON GUARD; STAND FIRM  
*in the faith*

BE MEN OF COURAGE;  
BE STRONG.  
DO EVERYTHING IN *love*

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14



*"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith, be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love."*  
1 Corinthians 16:13-14

What a strong conclusion and exhortation from Paul in the letter for the church of Corinth. The Lord, through Paul, is calling all Christians to be spiritual warriors on the front lines of the battle with the enemy. We have an enemy who is not backing down and is prowling like a lion wanting to bring division among believers and to kill, steal and destroy us - BUT God doesn't leave us alone to defend without preparing us for what's ahead.

God, through Paul, starts the battle instructions with being on guard, being watchful. We need to be aware this battle exists and that we actually might have to stand firm one day, be courageous and strong in our faith. Maybe that day hasn't come for you yet, or you are standing firm in the battle right now, or the attacks have ceased and the Lord faithfully brought you through it. Any place we find ourselves, we need to start with awareness so we can see clearly what is going on around us.

Standing firm and being strong is a common urging Paul has throughout his letters, this just being one to the church in Corinth but also to the churches in Galatia, Ephesus, and Phillipi. This must be a real threat to believers if Paul is concerned with our understanding of struggles and battles in the faith. We are even given an illustration for how to prepare for battle in Ephesians from him; "Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power...put on the full armor of God so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."  
(Ephesians 6:10-17).

Doing everything in love is the perfect conclusion to how we accurately execute the previous call to action. Paul is reminding us, just as Jesus did, that love is the most powerful force. "You, as brothers...serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command, "Love your neighbor as yourself". If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other" (Galatians 5:13-15). Be on guard, stand firm, be courageous, BUT we MUST do all of these in love.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### ● ● ○ FOR PARENTS

*Suffering for Christ is more common than not on our walk with the Lord. Phillippians 1:29 says, "it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in Him, but to suffer for him..."*

*Suffering comes in all different forms. How has this looked for you in your life? What did you learn from our verses that might help in your battle(s)?*

### ● ● ○ FOR KIDS

*Is life sometimes hard? Are other kids unkind or bully you? If you are a believer in Jesus then you have the promised helper in these hard times.*

*Pray for His help, His courage, His boldness to show love to those who try to hurt you and your feelings.*



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