

Take a Stand

Have you ever heard the old saying “you have to stand for something, or you’ll fall for anything”? I remember my father telling me and my older brothers this when we were growing up as he tried to instill in us the idea that a man should stick to what he knows to be right and never compromise his principles. This belief has guided me to this day, and long before my father instructed me to stand on secular truths, the Bible taught that man should stand firm on the truth of His word in the face of the attacks of the devil. In Ephesians chapter 6 verses 10 through 13 Paul instructs thusly:

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

From this instruction by Paul, it is obvious that he understood that in his time and in the times to come, Christians would have to speak out and be firm in defense of the will of God. Here we see a picture of a people being instructed to make preparations in order to remain firmly planted, steadfast, and unmovable in the faith.

In Ephesians chapter 4 and verse 14 we read the following:

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Brethren, this verse compliments the instruction to stand firm in such an elegant manner. Reading this verse you get the picture of one who is unable to come to an understanding of the truth and in that lack of conviction is swept into error by the deceptive tactics of those who would pervert the doctrine of Christ. Shakespeare once wrote of an “ill wind that blows no man to good.” That ill wind that Shakespeare wrote of seems to be blowing with gale force today. Men who will not stand firm in the faith are being tossed about like paper in the wind grasping at doctrines of men for solace and are leading others into error with them. We cannot be silent or timid in the face of this type of activity. Paul’s instruction in the 6th chapter of Ephesians tells us to stand against the wiles of the devil, not compromise the truth in an effort to build a false and feeble peace with evil. The book of Galatians chapter 2 verses 4 and 5 reads:

And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: to whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

Paul’s example before the brethren in Galatia was one of strength. He pointed out in this passage that they did not allow themselves to be brought into bondage by false brethren for even an hour. This is the mindset that we must have today. We must be ready to stand in the face of error and the wiles of the devil and not be willing to compromise the truth of God’s word for even an hour.

Brethren do we stand strong when confronted with evil? Are we unmovable in the faith? Lets make it our goal to be like the wise man who built his house upon the rock in Matthew chapter 7 and verse 24, who when the rains descended, the floods came, and the wind blew, found that his house withstood the torrent; and remember the third verse of the song "Stand Up For Jesus" that says:

Stand up, stand up, for Jesus; stand in his strength alone; the arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own: put on the Gospel armor, each piece put on with prayer, when duty calls, or danger, be never wanting there.