

Here We Stand: A Bible Study

Ephesians 6:10-18

“When the going gets tough, the tough get going.” “Don’t send a boy to do a man’s job.” “Don’t bring a knife to a gunfight.” “Fight fire with fire.” “Don’t get mad, get even.” “Only the strong survive.” With its emphasis on armor and wrestling, flaming darts, forces of the devil, and evil schemes, it may seem these slogans summarize the message of St. Paul’s pep talk to the Ephesian Christians. Then again, Ephesians 6:10-18 speaks the Word of the Lord rather than simply restating the world’s wisdom. So we might suspect a different strength and a better strategy, no?

Ephesians 6:12 – What makes life a wrestling match?

James 4:1 –

Romans 7:19-23 –

Galatians 5:17 –

Ephesians 6:12 – Who (or what?) are the real enemies (and who are not)?

Romans 5:10 –

Romans 8:7 –

1 Peter 5:8 –

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 –

Here We Stand against sin and selfishness, death and the devil, not against one another.

Ephesians 6:11, 13 – Who needs armor and why?

Ezekiel 18:32 –

1 Timothy 2:3-4 –

Matthew 18:14 –

Isaiah 46:4 –

Luke 7:22 –

Romans 3:23 –

- **Here We Stand to declare and defend the precious value of every human being.**
- **Here We Stand for every human life, at each stage, in any state.**
- **Here We Stand for every human life, no matter what she's done, no matter what he can't do.**
- **Here We Stand from the invisible miracle of conception to the moment of natural death.**
- **Here We Stand for anyone vulnerable or victim to violence against life.**
- **Here We Stand for you, wherever you've been, wherever you're going.**

Ephesians 6:14-17 – What kind of armor do we possess? Where does it come from?

Revelation 7:10 –

Philippians 3:9 –

Philippians 1:6 –

- **Here We Stand because of God's purpose, not our own plans.**
- **Here We Stand behind Jesus Christ's passion, not our own pride.**
- **Here We Stand bearing His Holy Spirit's presence, not our own capacities.**

Which victory matters most?

John 16:33 –

1 Corinthians 15:56-57 –

Luke 10:20 –

Here We Stand for forgiveness and not comparison, for salvation and not competition.

Ephesians 6:18 – Who accompanies us in the conflict?

Hebrews 12:1, 22-24 –

1 Corinthians 12:26 –

Hebrews 2:14-18 –

- **Here We Stand with millions of His children around the world and multitudes across the centuries.**
- **Here We Stand with you, wherever you are.**

Ephesians 6:10 – What motivates us in the middle of it?

John 10:10 –

1 John 4:10 –

2 Corinthians 3:12 –

- **Here We Stand to celebrate the many blessings of abundant and everlasting life.**
- **Here We Stand in joy and not out of anger, in hope and not out of fear.**
- **Here We Stand as Gospel-motivated voices For Life.**

Ephesians 6:13 – Why are we instructed to stand instead of advance?

Exodus 14:13-14 –

Deuteronomy 28:13-14 –

Hebrews 12:26-28 –

Here We Stand.

How then shall we struggle, wrestle, and battle?

Ephesians 4:15 –

1 Peter 3:15 –

Ephesians 4:32 –

Galatians 6:2 –

- **Here We Stand to relieve and release, not to accuse.**
- **Here We Stand to listen, assist, accompany, embrace, and befriend—not to attack.**
- **Here We Stand speaking truth and sharing love.**

Here We Stand: A Bible Study/Leader's Guide

Ephesians 6:10-18

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going." "Don't send a boy to do a man's job." "Don't bring a knife to a gunfight." "Fight fire with fire." "Don't get mad, get even." "Only the strong survive." With its emphasis on armor and wrestling, flaming darts, forces of the devil, and evil schemes, it may seem these slogans summarize the message of St. Paul's pep talk to the Ephesian Christians. Then again, Ephesians 6:10-18 speaks the Word of the Lord rather than simply restating the world's wisdom. So we might suspect a different strength and a better strategy, no?

Ephesians 6:12 – What makes life a wrestling match?

James 4:1 – *"What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?"*

Romans 7:19-23 – *"For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members."*

Galatians 5:17 – *"For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do."*

Both God and the devil are at work in our world. In fact, good and evil, death and life, heaven and hell are at war in our bodies and lives and hearts—ours and everyone's. Even for Christians, the new self led by the Holy Spirit and the sinful nature tempted by Satan fight for influence over every moment and every movement.

Ephesians 6:12 – Who (or what) are the real enemies (and who are not)?

Romans 5:10 – *"For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life."*

Romans 8:7 – *"For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot."*



1 Peter 5:8 – *"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."*

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 – *"If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother."*

All human beings, as fallen sinners, are enemies of God apart from reconciliation by Jesus Christ. Every selfish and prideful desire directly opposes our Almighty Maker. Satan also competes against Him and especially hates human lives. However, unbelievers remain our neighbors because our same Lord and Father has created, redeemed, and called even persecutors.

Here We Stand against sin and selfishness, death and the devil, not against one another.

Ephesians 6:11, 13 – Who needs armor and why?

Ezekiel 18:32 – *"For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live."*

1 Timothy 2:3-4 – *"This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*

Matthew 18:14 – *"So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."*

Isaiah 46:4 – *"... [E]ven to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save."*

Luke 7:22 – *"And he answered them, 'Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.'"*

Romans 3:23 – *"... [F]or all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ..."*

Everyone genetically descended from Adam and Eve is equally vulnerable to hell and the devil because of sin and death. Even externally "normal" individuals have damaged and impaired souls. In this way none of us differs from a newly conceived person, a nearly deceased person, or a noticeably compromised person. Each

of us requires outside assistance to survive, dependent at least on God—and dear at least to Him.

- **Here We Stand to declare and defend the precious value of every human being.**
- **Here We Stand for every human life, at each stage, in any state.**
- **Here We Stand for every human life, no matter what she's done, no matter what he can't do.**
- **Here We Stand from the invisible miracle of conception to the moment of natural death.**
- **Here We Stand for anyone vulnerable or victim to violence against life.**
- **Here We Stand for you, wherever you've been, wherever you're going.**

Ephesians 6:14-17 – What kind of armor do we possess? Where does it come from?

Revelation 7:10 – "... [A]nd [they were] crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'"

Philippians 3:9 – "... [N]ot having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith ..."

Philippians 1:6 – "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

Belt, breastplate, shoes, shield, and helmet defend a body. None function effectively as a weapon of aggression. A sword serves a similar purpose, deflecting more blows than it inflicts. The sword of the Spirit prefers breaking captives' chains to cleaving rival brains anyway because truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are works and gifts of Jesus' love and God's grace.

- **Here We Stand because of God's purpose, not our own plans.**
- **Here We Stand behind Jesus Christ's passion, not our own pride.**
- **Here We Stand bearing His Holy Spirit's presence, not our own capacities.**



Which victory matters most?

John 16:33 – *"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*

1 Corinthians 15:56-57 – *"The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Luke 10:20 – *"Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."*

Our Savior's victory over sin and death by coming, serving, suffering, and rising wins all battles and settles all conflicts. His forgiveness and promise assert authority over Satan and self in us, so that we need not seek to establish any superiority of our own. Resurrection to everlasting life in His heavenly kingdom elevates us above having to show how strong we are or prove how wrong anybody else is.

Here We Stand for forgiveness and not comparison, for salvation and not competition.

Ephesians 6:18 – Who accompanies us in the conflict?

Hebrews 12:1, 22-24 – *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses ... you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel."*

1 Corinthians 12:26 – *"If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together."*

Hebrews 2:14-18 – *"Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For*

because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."

God Himself incarnate in the person of His Son Jesus Christ accompanies us in all struggling and suffering. The one holy Christian Church also stands alongside each of us as the worldwide family of faith, sorrowing and celebrating together with us. And the saints triumphant, the angel host, and the whole company of heaven surround us in their understanding and encouragement.

- **Here We Stand with millions of His children around the world and multitudes across the centuries.**
- **Here We Stand with you, wherever you are.**

Ephesians 6:10 – What motivates us in the middle of it?

John 10:10 – *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."*

1 John 4:10 – *"In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."*

2 Corinthians 3:12 – *"Since we have such a hope, we are very bold ..."*

The joy of God's acceptance, the peace of His presence, the hope of His appearing, His powerful mercy, and His compassionate love sustain our faith, our life, and our fight. These sacred forces cast out fear (even if holy) and drive away anger (however righteous). Guilt, grief, and greed can no longer compel us when our Lord Jesus possesses us by means of these abundant blessings.

- **Here We Stand to celebrate the many blessings of abundant and everlasting life.**
- **Here We Stand in joy and not out of anger, in hope and not out of fear.**
- **Here We Stand as Gospel-motivated voices For Life.**

Ephesians 6:13 – Why are we instructed to stand instead of advance?

Exodus 14:13-14 – *"And Moses said to the people, 'Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.'"*



Deuteronomy 28:13-14 – *"And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail, and you shall only go up and not down, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, being careful to do them, and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I command you today, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them."*

Hebrews 12:26-28 – *"At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, 'Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.' This phrase, 'Yet once more,' indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken ..."*

We may proceed only where the Lord God leads. He has already positioned us steadfast in Jesus Christ as the summit of human existence. No further progress remains necessary to attain any greater salvation. Provided we do not deviate from this grace and faith, we stay safe and secure united to Him—immovable, even though evil presses against us from every direction.

Here We Stand.

How then shall we struggle, wrestle, and battle?

Ephesians 4:15 – *"Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ ..."*

1 Peter 3:15 – *"[B]ut in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect ..."*

Ephesians 4:32 – *"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."*

Galatians 6:2 – *"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."*

We struggle alongside and on behalf of others around us, since God so does for them and even now does in us. We serve their survival and salvation, as neighbors and not enemies. We come humbly and attend them gently, forgiving offenses and offering the same compassion, commitment, and confidence with which our Heavenly Father has clasped us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



- **Here We Stand to relieve and release, not to accuse.**
- **Here We Stand to listen, assist, accompany, embrace, and befriend—not to attack.**
- **Here We Stand speaking truth and sharing love.**