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# I'm Still Standing in Holiness, Part I (Knowing Your True Enemy)

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## The Requirements of Holiness

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***Sermon: The Requirements of Holiness: I'm Still Standing in Holiness, Part I (Knowing Your True Enemy)***

***New Series Messages: "The Requirements of Holiness"***

- Theme Scriptures:
  - 1 Peter 1:15–16 “To Be Holy”
  - Micah 6:8 “The Requirements of Holiness”
- Sermon: The Righteousness of Holiness (Doing Justly)
- Sermon: The Forgiveness of Holiness (Loving Mercy)
- Sermon: The Meekness of Holiness (Walking Humbly)
- Sermon: Standing Still in Holiness (Seeing the Salvation of the Lord)
  - Standing Still in the Wilderness
  - Standing Still in Fear
  - Standing Still in Salvation

***Lesson Text***

Ephesians 6:10–13 (AV)<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> 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*. <sup>13</sup> 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.

***Introduction***

Last week we minister to you a message entitled “Standing Still in Holiness”. We learned that we must Stand Still when we’re lost in the Wilderness, Stand Still when we’re gripped with fear, and Stand Still when confronted by the Enemy and see the Salvation of the Lord!

Today I want to reverse our Sermon from “Standing Still” to “Still Standing”!

The former deals with one’s posture at the start of an attack, whereas the latter deals with one’s posture during and after an attack.

What do you do when the enemy attacked and devastated the very thing you love, the thing that you serve, or the thing that you’re called to?

Put a pin in it and let me answer those questions a little later in this introduction!

Sun Tzu, the author the book *The Art of War* said, “If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle.”

Most people fall in the final category, they don't know the enemy or themselves, and they lose every battle. Others fall in the second category, they know themselves, but they don't know the enemy. So even when they win, they end up suffering.

Ephesians 6: <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we wrestle not against flesh and blood...

What Apostle Paul is teaching us here in our lesson text is the importance of knowing ourselves and our enemy. To know who our real enemy is, to know how he fights, and to know who we truly are so that after the fight we will still be standing.

So, to answer my earlier questions, what do you do when you're under attack and the enemy has hit you with his best shot? You tell him "I'm Still Standing"!

Micah 7:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; ...

***Series and Sermon: The Requirements of Holiness: I'm Still Standing in Holiness, Part I (Knowing Your True Enemy)***

***"I'm Still Standing Against the Wiles of the Devil, I'm Still Standing Against the Unclean Spirits of the Devil, and I'm Still Standing Against the Evil Days of the Devil"***

### ***I. I'm Still Standing Against the Wiles of the Devil***

Ephesians 6: <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

In order to Stand and fight the enemy, the first thing we must know is how he fights.

Standing against the wiles of the devil means to stand firm against his tricks, subterfuges, or strategies.

Ephesians 6:11 (NLT)<sup>11</sup> Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

In the next point, we look at how four of those strategies are carried out, but if we are to deal with the real fight, we must know and understand Satan's wiles, tricks, and devices.

2 Corinthians 2:11 (AV)<sup>11</sup> Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

2 Corinthians 2:11 (NLT)<sup>11</sup> so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.

The enemy has devised wiles, strategies, schemes, tricks, and subterfuge to deceive us, demolish us, to destroy us; but we will not be ignorant of this plot against us, because God's got a plan for us.

Jeremiah 29:11 (AV)<sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts (plans) that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts (plans) of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

“The enemy had a plot against me, but I’m still standing because God has a plan for me!”

## ***II. I’m Still Standing Against the Unclean Spirits of the Devil***

Ephesians 6: <sup>12</sup>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.

The second thing we must know in fighting the enemy, is the enemy himself.

When Apostle Paul said in our lesson text that we wrestle not against flesh and blood, he was declaring that the enemy that we are fighting is not each other.

When Jesus ran into a naked man possessed by unclean spirits, living in a graveyard, uncontrollable, and out of his mind cutting himself; Jesus asked him his name because he wanted to know his enemy.

Mark 5:9 (AV)<sup>9</sup> And he asked him, **What is thy name?** And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.

It’s not the people who present themselves as our enemies, it’s not the coworkers and business partners that have worked against us or betrayed us, it’s not friends and loved ones who appear to have hurt us, it’s not the church members that have created division against us.

The True Enemy that we are fighting is the unclean spirits that the enemy has unleashed against us from his wicked and satanic army. And if we are to be victorious, we must know him.

The enemy throws rocks of wickedness and hides his hands, but we must know him:

- Our True Enemy is Principalities: Territorial Spirits that try to drive us out of the territory that God gave us. But we must stand our ground.
- Our True Enemy is Powers: Personal attack spirits that push us to attack each other and cause us to take these attacks personally. But we must stand our ground.
- Our True Enemy is the Rulers of the Darkness of the World: Temptation Spirits that tempt us off the path that God has placed us. But we must stand our ground.
- Our True Enemy is the Spiritual Wickedness in High Places: Unclean Spirits assigned to religion and churches attacking us in our place of worship. But we must stand our ground

It’s not the in-laws or out laws, but the principalities that we must stand against. It’s not my husband or wife, but the powers that we must stand against. It’s not people or worldly things that tempt us, but the rulers of darkness that we must stand against. It’s not the church and religious folk that frustrate us, but the spiritual wickedness that we must stand against.

“The enemy sent unclean spirits to attack me but I’m still standing because I know their names”

## ***III. I’m Still Standing Against the Evil Days of the Devil***

Ephesians 6: <sup>13</sup> 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.

- The enemy had a plot against us, but God had a plan, and I'm still standing
- The enemy sent unclean spirits, but God told us their name, and I'm still standing
- Finally, the enemy attacked us with evil, but God prepared us for it, and I'm still standing

Ecclesiastes 12:1 (AV)<sup>1</sup> Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

The Evil days are the days in which you have no pleasure in them. It's the days when you have no happiness, the days when you are frustrated and depressed, the days when you weep in sorrow.

The Evil days are coming, but the question is are you prepared and ready for them?

But God says, before the evil days come, make sure you remember your creator. Before the attack comes, remember the creator. Before the heartbreak comes, remember the creator.

When you remember the creator, you will be able to withstand the evil days.

***You may not be able to stop the Evil Days, but you will be able to withstand them!***

- Isaiah 59:<sup>19</sup> ... When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.
- Deuteronomy 28:<sup>7</sup> The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.
- Psalm 27:2 (AV)<sup>2</sup> When the wicked, *even* mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.
- Ephesians 6:14–17 (AV)<sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; <sup>15</sup> And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup> Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

**Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: I'm Still Standing in Holiness, Part I (Knowing Your True Enemy))**

**Lesson Text**

- Ephesians 6:10–13

**Sermon Outline (Notes)**

**I. *I'm Still Standing Against the Wiles of the Devil***

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**II. *I'm Still Standing Against the Unclean Spirits of the Devil***

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**III. *I'm Still Standing Against the Evil Days of the Devil***

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**Questions**

**I. Getting to Know “Me”**

1. Describe your past week in weather terms. Was it sunny, cloudy, rainy, stormy, foggy, or what?
2. One fact about me that might surprise you is \_\_\_\_\_. (Fill in the blank.)

**II. Into the Bible**

1. Read Colossians 2. What is the significance of verse 15, “*And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*”? How does this affect how we fight the enemy?
2. Ephesians 6:13 tells us to put on the whole armor of God, so we may be “able to withstand in the evil day” or the day of danger. How does dwelling in the secret place of the Most High help us to withstand in the day of danger? (reference Psalm 91)

**III. Life Application**

1. What truths must you know about yourself in order to ably and successfully defeat your spiritual enemy?
2. What practical steps will you commit to take in order to know the tricks of the devil and be prepared to withstand them?