
I'm Still Standing (The Real Fight)

The Fight of Holiness

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Sermon: The Fight of Holiness: I'm Still Standing (The Real Fight)

Lesson Text

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

All this year we have been teaching and preaching about holiness; that is the power that God gives us when we accept His Holy Spirit within us to give us the ability to live Holy.

We've learned about the Joys of Holiness, the Requirements of Holiness, the Secret Place of Holiness, the Kingdom of Holiness, the Keys of Holiness, the Fruit of Holiness, and finally the Walk of Holiness.

For the final teaching of 2020, we will explore the Fight of Holiness!

We are in a constant and persistent battle that is designed to ultimately take us out; an unrelenting, unending, unyielding battle to get us to lose our faith.

Luke 22:31–32 (AV)³¹ And the Lord said, **Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:** ³² **But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.**

Paul in his letter to his son Timothy taught him to keep on fighting the good fight of faith.

1 Timothy 6:12 (AV)¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

And then later in his second letter to Timothy, Paul testified that he did it and it worked!

2 Timothy 4:7–8 (AV)⁷ I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

2020 has been a year of the fight; Pandemic, Social Unrest, Economic Collapse, and every attack that these things bring on the home, job, and family.

(VIDEO CLIP “STILL STANDING”)

As this year comes to an end, it is through our holiness living that we will be found “Still Standing”

Series and Sermon: The Fight of Holiness: I'm Still Standing (The Real Fight)

Now by “Real Fight”, I'm juxtaposing it against the “False of Wrong Fight” in our lesson text.

Ephesians 6:¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood...

“The Real Fight for Power, The Real Fight for Spirit, and the Real Fight for Resistance”

I. The Real Fight for Power

Ephesians 6: ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

The first key to be found still standing is Power!

Power is derived from the Greek word *kratos*, meaning “force, strength, or might”. It means here to have dominion.

Out of the three things that most people want in life, Money, Power, and Recognition; Power is the one that can lead to obtaining all three. But as Christians we must be careful that we don’t seek the wrong type of power, worldly power:

- Matthew 20:20–21 (AV)²⁰ Then came to him the mother of Zebedee’s children with her sons, worshipping *him*, and desiring a certain thing of him. ²¹ And he said unto her, **What wilt thou?** She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.
- Matthew 20:24–28 (AV)²⁴ And when the ten heard *it*, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren. ²⁵ But Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, **Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. ²⁶ But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; ²⁷ And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: ²⁸ Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.**

Worldly power is when people use who they are (position) to dominate others, or what they can do (ability) to take authority over others.

But Jesus said, “it shall not be so among you”! If you happen to be in a leadership role or have great ability, don’t use it to take lord over people, use it to serve and minister to people.

Our true power, the real power of holiness is about fighting the devil. Ephesians 6: ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles (strategies) of the devil.

- The Power to Witness: Acts 1:8 (AV)⁸ **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**
- The Power of the Word: Ephesians 6:17 (AV)¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
- The Power of our Lord and Savior: Matthew 28:18 (AV)¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**
- The Power of Prayer: James 5:16 (AV)¹⁶ Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

- The Power to Overcome: 1 John 5:4 (AV)⁴ For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

II. The Real Fight for Spirit

Ephesians 6: ¹² 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 key to still standing is Spirit.

Too many Christians miss the truth of this passage when it comes to their personal fights. And the reason why they miss this truth is because they take the fight personally.

When they are attacked by people who are territorial, they take it personally. When they are attacked by people close to them, they take it personally. When they are attacked by temptations, they take it personally. When they are attacked by church folks and leaders, they take it personally.

When you take your attacks personally, you will fight the wrong fight; a personal fight based on flesh and blood!

- So, you fight your in-laws because they are territorial; but the real fight is principalities who want you to leave your territory.
- You fight your spouse or others close to you because they attack you; but the real fight is the powers that are throwing rocks and hiding their hands.
- You fight against your personal struggles and strongholds; but the real fight is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.
- And finally, you fight the wrong fight against church hurt and spiritual abuse; but the real fight is Spiritual Wickedness in High Places.

The Holiness fight is not Personal, it's Spiritual!

2 Corinthians 10:3–4 (AV)³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

- We fight Principalities (territorial spirits) by standing our ground.
- We fight Powers (personal attacks) by not being a victim but a victor.
- We fight the Rulers of darkness (temptations) by God ordering our steps.
- And we fight spiritual wickedness by waiting on the King of Kings.

III. The Real Fight for Resistance

Ephesians 6: ¹³ 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 third key to still standing is Resistance!

- The Real Fight for Power is not to dominate people, but to keep Standing with your Witness, with God's Word, and with the Power of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- The Real Fight for Spirit is not flesh and blood, but to keep Standing with God’s Spirit against Principalities, Powers, Rulers, and Spiritual Wickedness.
- And Finally, the Real Fight for Resistance is to not get weary, but to keep fighting.

The devil will never stop fighting, he will never stop attacking, he will never stop destroying.

- John 10:10 (AV)¹⁰ **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**
- Daniel 7:25 (AV)²⁵ And he shall speak *great* words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.
- 1 Peter 4:12 (AV)¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:
- 1 Peter 5:8 (AV)⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
- Psalm 34:19 (AV)¹⁹ Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

So, since the devil will never stop attacking, we should never stop fighting, never stop resisting.

James 4: ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

And when the smoke clears, you will be still standing.

You were attacked on every side, but you resisted and you’re still standing. You had many afflictions, but you resisted and you’re still standing. You went to the fire and through the water, but you resisted and you’re still standing.

“I’m Still Standing”

Donnie McClurkin said:

- What do you do when you've done all you can and it seems like its never enough. And what do you say when your friends turn away and you're all alone
- Tell me what do you give when you've given your all and it seems like you can't make it through.
- Well you just stand when there's nothing left to do, you just stand watch the LORD see you through, Yes after you've done all you can, you just stand!

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: I'm Still Standing (The Real Fight))

Lesson Text

- Ephesians 6:10–13

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. *The Real Fight For Power*

II. *The Real Fight For Spirit*

III. *The Real Fight For Resistance*

Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)

I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. How would you use the Christmas holiday season to share the message of salvation with someone?
2. If you are at the zoo, what animal do you enjoy watching most and why?

II. Into the Bible

1. *Case Study: Luke 11:14-27.*

According to the reference scriptures Luke 11:21-26, there are four principles presented. Use additional scripture to reference your answers to indicate the principles.

- a. (vs 21) Who is the strong man? What is the palace? Who are the goods? What is the first principle?
- b. (vs 22) Who is the stronger one? What is the second principle?
- c. (vs 23) What is the third principle?
- d. (vs 24-26) What is the fourth principle?

What do these principles teach the believers about their life of holiness?

III. Life Application

1. **Identity:** Scripture says, "ye shall be holy for I [God] am holy". Therefore, we must first **BELIEVE** we **ARE** holy and then we will **DO** holy. Give two scriptures that will help you remember your true identity the next time you are in a fight.
2. **Actions:** Using your two scriptures from question one, give two strategies that you will employ to help your actions match your identity while fighting.