

## 36. Standing Firm

The Bible contains numerous exhortations to be faithful to God and to hold to the Christian faith. It is a persistent challenge for every Christian to do so, until the end. This chapter provides important insights and instructions on this topic, for every believer.

### Be Faithful to God

#### Be faithful to God and Jesus Christ

[SOLOMON, TO THE PEOPLE:] *May you, his people, always be faithful to the LORD our God, obeying all his laws and commands, as you do today.* 1 KINGS 8:61 GNT

When he arrived and saw how God had blessed the people, he was glad and urged them all to be faithful and true to the Lord with all their hearts. ACTS 11:23 GNT

#### Do not forget God

[MOSES, TO THE ISRAELITES:] *Be sure you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments, ordinances, and statutes that I am giving you today. ...* <sup>18</sup>*You must remember the LORD your God ...* DEUTERONOMY 8:11, 18A NET

### Persist until the End

#### Stand firm until the end

[JESUS, TO HIS DISCIPLES:] *All people will hate you because you follow me, but those people who keep their faith until the end will be saved.* MATTHEW 10:22 NCV™

#### Persist so that you will receive the reward

*So do not throw away your confidence, because it has great reward.* <sup>36</sup>*For you need endurance in order to do God's will and so receive what is promised.* HEBREWS 10:35–36 NET

#### Be ready for Jesus Christ's return

*So you, too, must be ready, because at an hour you are not expecting him the Son of Man will come.*" MATTHEW 24:44 ISV

### Engaging in Spiritual Warfare

#### Resist Satan

Be on your guard and stay awake. *Your enemy, the devil, is like a roaring lion, sneaking around to find someone to attack.* <sup>9</sup>*But you must resist the devil and stay strong in your faith.* 1 PETER 5:8–9 CEV

#### Use spiritual weapons and armor

For this reason, *take up the full armor of God so that you may be able to stand your ground on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand.* <sup>14</sup>*Stand firm therefore, by fastening the belt of truth around your waist, by putting on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup>by fitting your feet with the preparation that comes from the good news of peace, ...* EPHESIANS 6:13–15 NET

Verse 15 is most likely speaking of believers having a strong grasp of the truths of the gospel so as to be ready for action. Possibly a readiness to proclaim this gospel is in view. (Note that other spiritual weapons follow.)

#### Have Faith

*At all times carry faith as a shield; for with it you will be able to put out all the burning arrows shot by the Evil One.* EPHESIANS 6:16 GNT

#### Use God's word

Accept God's salvation as your helmet, and *take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.* EPHESIANS 6:17 NCV™

#### Pray

*Never stop praying, especially for others. Always pray by the power of the Spirit. Stay alert and keep praying for God's people.* EPHESIANS 6:18 CEV