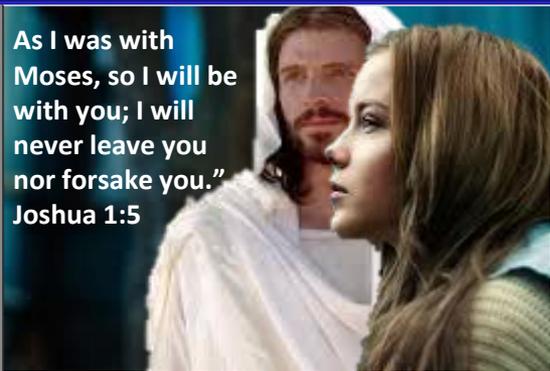


flight" response when we face an obstacle or adversary. Sometimes we pull ourselves together, gather our resources, and prepare to fight. Other times, we run for cover hoping to protect ourselves from the flying shrapnel, waiting until the storm passes. Yet, God offers an alternative: Stand. The Apostle Paul tells us to **"Take Up"** the full of armor God. This is something we all can do. We do this not only to stand against the devil, but also so that we are **"Able to withstand in the evil day."** The evil day represents those times where we are facing a seeming onslaught of uncertainty and tests. This "Evil Day" can happen to us personally, as a family, a church or even as a nation. Whatever the case, after we have done what we know to do, then we STAND in the midst of the "junk", knowing that God is powerfully working in the unseen realm on our behalf. Praise the Lord!

"Every Person Has Unresolved Issues"



As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you." Joshua 1:5

Every person has unresolved issues. Whether it is a lingering problem with another person, a circumstance that hasn't changed for years, an emotional struggle or habit that keeps reappearing, or a new tough situation that has just emerged; we all have challenges before us. It's in these that we learn "To Stand."

When faced with unsettled matters, scripture teaches us two steps to take:
 1) Do all we know to do. Seek God for wisdom. Take the steps He leads you to take in action, prayer and faith.
 2) After doing all we know to do, STAND. Standing is purposing to not be moved from the belief that God is working in the situation in a mighty way. Standing is resting, trusting, thanking and obeying the last thing that God said about the circumstance. We might have found it too easy in our lives to fret over what is now out of our control. Yes, if there is more to do, by all means we need to do it. But if we don't have a clear word on further steps to take, we must stand in the midst of uncertainty and unresolved issues. We cannot miss what God says He will do for us as we stand: **God Will Use His Strength And Power To Deliver Us.**"... **Don't be afraid. Stand firm and watch God do His work of salvation for you today.**" (Exodus 14:13) Whether your battle is internal or external, temporary or permanent, life-altering or mildly annoying, God's command does not change. "After You Have Done Everything, To Stand.

"The Lord Will Fight For You. Be Still."

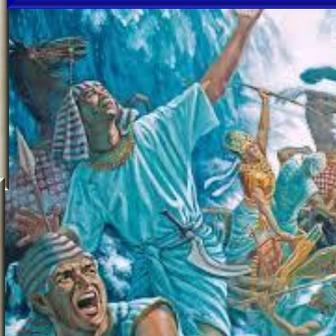
Exodus 14:14



The Lord will fight for you. Be still. (Exodus 14:14) That's what Moses said to the Israelites who were standing at the edge of the Red Sea. The Egyptian army was on their heels, ready to destroy them, and the

deep, uncrossable sea was right in front of them. They were stuck. I can imagine they were standing still and the last thing they wanted was to be planted there — don't you think there were some in that crowd who were paralyzed with fright and others who were itching to fight? When we find ourselves in hurtful situations and difficult trials, it isn't our instinct to just stand there. If we're honest, we often really do want to fight back. Sometimes we just don't have any other choice except to just stand there and wait. That is our best choice because it really isn't our fight anyway.

"You Are God's Child And The Battles You Face Are His Battles"



The battle that was supposedly between the fleeing Israelites and the angry Egyptians wasn't actually between them at all. The Israelites were God's people and this was His fight. You are God's child and the battles you face today are His battles. When we stand still, we get out of God's way so He can take care of us and the situation. Now, this is not to be mistaken for doormat theology! No... this minister is not saying that you should just lay down and let everybody and every situation stomp on you. I am not recommending complete passivity, but I am suggesting that you and I can be slow to anger, turn the other cheek and trust that victory belongs to the Lord. (Proverbs 21:31) We can be slow to anger, turn the other cheek and trust that victory rests with the Lord. What I do know is that every battle we face is not ours. Our battles are the Lord's, and He fights for us in the way and timing He chooses. He uses only weapons of love and mercy and justice as He fights.



"He Took Principalities And Powers And Nailed Them To His Cross"



Stand: This is the Christian word. There is an aspect of the struggle indicated by this word stand. It indicates to us the character of the battle the Christian faces. We are to stand because this is a defensive action, primarily. The proper defense will win the day. I know

this is oftentimes misunderstood, for we frequently hear the proverb, "The best defense if a good offense." But if a castle is under attack from an army, the battle is not won by those in the castle venturing forth to overwhelm the army outside. The battle is won by repelling all invasion. This is a picture of our Christian life. This is a defensive battle, not offensive. We are not out to take new ground; we are to defend that which is already ours. In the Christian battle the offensive work was done over 2000 years ago at the cross and the resurrection. The Lord Jesus is the only One Who has the power and strength to take the offensive in this great battle with the prince of darkness. But He has already done that. All that we possess as believers is already given to us. We do not fight for it. We do not battle to be saved, or fight to be justified, or forgiven, or accepted into the family of God. All these things are given to us. They were won by another, who, in the words of Paul in Colossians, "Took principalities and powers and nailed them to His cross, triumphing over them in it" (Colossians 2:14-15), and led them captive who had held the world captive.

"In The Cross All That The Devil Had Risked Was Defeated"



The cross looked like the supreme achievement of the devil, the supreme moment of victory when all the powers of darkness were howling with glee as they saw the Son of God beaten and wounded, rejected and despised, hanging upon a cross, naked, before all the world. It looked like the triumph of darkness. Jesus said it was: "This is your hour, He said, "and the power of darkness,"" (Luke 22:53). But it was that very moment when the devil lost. In the cross all that the devil had risked was defeated, beaten down, and

the devil and all his angels were disarmed and openly displayed as defeated by the power of Jesus Christ. This is what God does all through life. The devil sends sickness, defeat, death, darkness, pain, suffering, and tragedy. It is all the work of Satan. But that is not the whole of the story. God takes those very things -- those very things! -- and uses them to strengthen us and bless us, to teach us and enlarge us and fulfill us, if we stand. This is the whole story.

"Contend Earnestly For The Faith"



The enemy is trying to keep us from realizing what we have and using it to the full. This is where the battle lines are. We do not need to take new ground as Christians. We cannot. All has been accomplished; all is given to

us. As Jude says, in almost the last word of the New Testament, "Earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints," (Jude 1:3) We are to hold on to that which God gives us and not let any of it be lost or taken from us, as to our use of it. This is what the phrase "Contend Earnestly For The Faith" means. It means to hold on to what God has already given you and utilize it to the full. As Paul writes to the Corinthians, "Stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong," (1 Corinthians 16:13). Do not surrender an inch of ground, even though others do. The fact is, the Christian who learns to stand, to give up no segment of his faith, but to put on the armor of God and to pray and thus be immovable, is the only Christian who in any way will reflect the love of Christ in the midst of unlovely situations. He is the only one who will be able to manifest peace and certainty and poise and assurance in the midst of a very troubled and unhappy world.

"This Is Not Our Go To Position"



"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers,

against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand." (Ephesians 6:10-13) Just one simple word. A fairly easy action. Not much thinking required. But it is not our "go-to" position, is it? Usually, we rely on the automatic "fight or