

Who Is Able To Stand?

Revelation 6:12-17

The Scripture teaches we are soldiers in the Lord's army

2Timothy 2:3-4

So, let's view this question from the standpoint of being a soldier in an army fighting against his enemy

There are two basic principles involved in being able to stand

In the army these two principles might be referred to as putting forth a solid front and having the proper equipment

Although we are not in a literal actual army here on earth, we are in a spiritual army and we must have these two things in order to stand. We must have Unity and the proper equipment

We Must Have Unity

Matthew 12:25; John 17:20-21

Jesus prayed that all would be one as He and the Father are one

This is perfect unity - **1Corinthians 1:10**

Present a solid front - **Ecclesiastes 4:12; Philippians 1:27**

Paul gave the plan for unity - **Ephesians 4:1-3**

Walk in a manner worthy (befitting) of calling

With all humility and gentleness (stems from the heart) - Philippians 2:3

With patience - self restraint in provocation that does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish

Showing tolerance for one another in love - bear with , endure because of love

Being diligent - make haste of speed to keep unity of Spirit in bond of peace

Look at these from a secular standpoint (military service)

Soldier must live up to expectations

Cannot be arrogant and be a good soldier

When fellow soldier provokes, good soldier won't immediately retaliate

A good soldier bears with fellow soldier's shortcomings

When a soldier falls, a fellow soldier picks him up while another fellow soldier takes his place in the solid front.

Must Have Proper Equipment

"Put on the full armor of God" Ephesians 6:11-18

Soldier w/out up-to-date equipment is w/out hope of being able stand

Likewise soldier of Christ must have the proper equipment (provided by God) if he hopes to be able to stand against his enemy (the devil)

Just what is the proper equipment or what equipment does God supply (the whole armor of God)

Girded your loins with Truth 14

Girdle (belt) held the whole armor in place

God's word is truth, hold us together - **John 17:17**

Put on the breastplate of righteousness 14

Covered lungs and heart (vital organs)

God's commands are righteousness, they protect us - **Psalms 119:172**

Shod your feet with preparation of Gospel of peace 15

Footwear is very important to a soldier

Christian to be ready to carry gospel - **Matthew 28:19-20**

Take up the shield of faith (approx. 4' long could cover the body) 16

Hebrews 11:1,6

Take the helmet of salvation 17

Ward off blows to the head - gave confidence - **1Thessalonians 5:8**

Sword of the Spirit (offensive equipment) 17

Armor to protect (defensive) Sword to assault - **Hebrews 4:12**

It must be used or will become unusable

Working Together With Proper Equipment

We Still Are In Need Of God's Help

With all prayer and petition (a wanting, entreaty or asking) in the Spirit 18

Be on the alert with all perseverance - endure and God will supply every need

Will You Stand?

The ones that will stand are those who will be unified on teachings of Christ; use armor provided by Lord & depend on God to supply needs

Do not misunderstand: I am not referring to a super organization of all the different congregations. I realize that God made nothing larger than the local congregation and each one must recognize Christ as their head and nothing else or no other organization

I am talking about each person in each congregation working together in unity as Paul described it and using the armor that God has provided.

Jesus has already won the first battle, He was able to stand against the devil, thus He provided a way in which we can stand with Him

If you are not on the Lord's side you will never be able to stand

JerryLHenderson