Watch Ye, Stand Fast In The Faith,
Quit You Like Men, Be Strong

Intro: Paul has heard some disturbing words about the church at Corinth from the house of Chloe. Thus, he wrote the first epistle to the Corinthians to correct the problems that had crept into the church. As he comes to the close of the book, he gives them some very pointed commands recorded in 1 Corinthians 16:13: “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.” Many claim these are militaristic terms, but whether they are or not, they can be used in a militaristic application.

I. The Lord’s Army

A. We enter it upon obedience to the Gospel.

B. Being in His army, our marching orders are to fight.
   1. 1 Tim. 1:18 “This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;”
   2. 1 Tim. 6:12 “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.”
   3. 2 Tim. 2:3 “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”
   4. 2 Tim. 4:7 “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:”
   5. Jude 3 “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

C. These four imperatives are important.
   1. They were important for the Corinthians as they battled against the errors in the congregation and against the worldly forces of evil.
   2. We also battle the forces of evil so they are important for us.
      a. Eph. 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.”
      b. The kingdom of darkness uses falsehoods and lies.
         (1) It appeals to our lusts and pride: 1 John 2:16 “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”
         (2) It makes sin pleasurable: Heb. 11:25 “Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;”
         (3) It tries to enslave us to it: John 8:34 “Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.”
   3. We also have a battle in the church.
      a. Mat. 7:15 “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”
      b. 2 Pet. 2:1-2 “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.”
      c. Thus the admonition: Jude 3 “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”
II. Watch Ye

A. To offset the element of surprise there is the need to watch:

1. Based upon the Uniform Code of Military Justice a soldier who sleeps while on duty “shall be punished, if the offense is committed in time of war, by death or such other punishment as a court-martial may direct, but if the offense is committed at any other time, by such punishment other than death as a court-martial may direct” (Punitive).

2. Failure to watch is a serious offense.

3. Failure to watch in the spiritual realm is even more deadly. Consider Peter:
   a. Mat. 26:41 “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
   b. But Peter slept.
   c. Peter follows Jesus afar off: Mat. 26:58 “But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest’s palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end.”
   d. Peter denies Jesus three times: Mat. 26:69-74 “Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. 70But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. 71And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. 72And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. 73And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. 74Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.”

B. Some means for watching:

1. Prayer.
   a. The two go together as we see with Peter.
   b. Eph. 6:18 “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”
   c. Col. 4:2 “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;”

2. Knowledge of and study of the Word of God.
   a. Each item in the Christian’s armor has direct reference to God’s Word; Eph. 6:10-18 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12For 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. 13Wherefore 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. 14Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”
   b. Jesus overcame the temptations of Satan by quoting Scripture to him: Mat. 4:1-11 “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. 3And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. 5Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 8Again, the devil taketh him
Watch Ye, Stand Fast…

up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them. 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.”

c. Psa. 119:11 “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

C. What Satan will use against us.

1. Satan is real and has many ways to attack us.
   a. Some do not believe Satan exists.
   b. 1 Pet. 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”

2. Satan will use all three avenues of temptation: 1 John 2:16 “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

3. Satan will use temptation:
   a. Mat. 26:41 “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
      (1) Peter would be severely tempted.
      (2) The only way to overcome it was by watching and praying.
   b. Jam. 1:14-15 “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

4. Trials
   a. James discusses the proper use and blessings that come as a result of trials.
      (1) Jam. 1:2-12 “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. 5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. 9 Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: 10 But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. 11 For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways. 12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”
      (2) If we do not use them properly, we will fail and Satan will have accomplished his evil purposes.
   b. Mat. 13:21 “Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.”

5. False teachers and their teachings.
   a. Mat. 7:15 “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”
   b. 2 Pet. 2:1-2 “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways: by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.”
   c. 1 John 4:1 “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”
d. Satan will even appear righteous: 2 Cor. 11:14-15 “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

6. If we are not watchful (vigilant)
   a. Satan will be able to sneak in unawares and destroy us.
   b. This is true even if we know he is the enemy and know his tactics: 2 Cor. 2:11 “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

D. In our watchfulness, we must watch for opportunities to be useful.
   1. Jesus: Acts 10:38 “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”
   2. Gal. 6:10 “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

III. STAND FAST IN THE FAITH
   A. We must be stable.
      1. Too many are vacillating.
         a. Eph. 4:14 “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”
         b. They fall into temptation and sin.
         c. They vacillate between being hot and cold and can never be depended upon.
      2. We are repeatedly called to faithfulness or being faithful.
         a. Faithful stewards of God’s message: 1 Cor. 4:2 “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”
         b. The faithful receive the reward: Mat. 25:21 “His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”
         c. Mat. 10:22 “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”
      3. H. Bremner mentions six results of a lack of steadfastness: it “(1) hinders our spiritual growth; (2) mars our usefulness; (3) imperils our salvation; (4) is a stumbling-block to others; (5) a great offence to Christ; (6) spoils our spiritual joys” (568).
   B. Our standing firm must be “in the faith.”
      1. One must be in the faith.
         a. Rom. 5:2 “By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”
         b. We have access to God’s grace through the faith.
         c. That faith must be obeyed: Acts 6:7 “And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.”
         d. Obedience involves:
            (1) Belief
            (2) Repentance
            (3) Confession of our faith
            (4) Baptism in water for the remission of sin
            (5) Then living according to the faith—standing fast in the faith.
2. **We must know the faith**
   a. 2 Thes. 2:15 “Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.”
   b. It is the Gospel we have been taught: 1 Cor. 15:1 “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;”
   c. We must learn how to apply the faith to the problems and temptations that come our way.

3. **We must have confidence in the faith.**
   a. 1 John 5:4 “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”
   b. Our faith that gives us the victory must be based upon Christ and His teachings.
   c. 2 Tim. 1:12 “For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”
   d. We have that confidence because: 2 Tim. 1:13 “Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”

C. **We must be willing to forgo our rights in optional matters.**
   1. Before something can be optional, it must first be authorized.
   2. Paul was willing to forgo his right to eat meats if it caused his brother to sin: 1 Cor. 8:13 “Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.”
   3. Our attitude in optional matters: Phi. 2:3 “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”

IV. **QUIT YOU LIKE MEN**

A. **The meaning of the phrase:**
   1. BDAG says, “conduct oneself in a courageous way.”
   2. Others have described it in various ways: be manly, be invincible, be resolute, etc.
   3. Vine defines it, “signifies to make a man of (anēr, a man);… to play the man” (242).
   4. Christians are not to be childish and weak, but manly and courageous in their demeanor.
   5. We are in a war and we need to be heroes in the battle.

B. **God’s Word has been given to us to bring us to maturity.**
   1. Eph. 4:13 “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:”
      a. Notice other translations of “perfect man” (Greek—teleios):
   2. 1 Pet. 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”
   3. The Corinthian brethren had not grown properly; 1 Cor. 3:1-3 “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 1I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. 2For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”

C. **Courage is another aspect of this imperative.**
   1. We cannot have cowards in the battle against Satan and his forces.
   2. **Courage** is defined by one as “That quality of mind which enables one to face dangers, difficulties, threats, pain, etc., without fear; bravery, boldness, intrepidity, pluck.”
3. Satan is no weakling but is strong and powerful.
   a. 1 Pet. 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"
   b. Eph. 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.”

4. Lack of courage is condemned.
   a. 2 Tim. 1:7 “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear [cowardice or timidity]; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”
   b. Rev. 21:8 “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

5. We must have courage to contend with what Satan will bring against the faithful.
   a. He is going to do everything he can to destroy us.
   b. We must bear up under the opposition and persecution he brings, and to endure through the temporary defeats that we might face.

6. We must have boldness to proclaim the Gospel.
   a. The apostles:
      (1) Prayed for boldness: Acts 4:29 “And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,”
      (2) Results: Acts 4:31 “And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.”
   b. After Saul’s conversion
      (1) Acts 9:27 “But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.”
      (2) In Jerusalem: Acts 9:29 “And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him.”
      (3) Even when his life was threatened: 2 Tim. 4:6-7 “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:"
      (4) When in Corinth: Acts 18:4-6 “And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ. And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.”
   c. We need brethren today who have the courage
      (1) To further the cause of Christ in the face of great opposition
      (2) To defend the cause of Christ against false teachers and their doctrines
         (a) Damnable doctrines of all sorts are being taught in denominations and in the church.
         (b) It takes courage to take the stand that needs to be made.
      (3) When one takes a stand, abuse will come.
         (a) He will be attacked by those without and within.
         (b) We must be willing to be hated by both the world and our own brethren.
(c) We need spiritual heroes in the strife, and every Christian needs to be one and support those who are.

V. BE STRONG

A. It is connected with “Quit you like men.”
1. No one can be truly courageous without the accompanying strength.
2. William Barclay wrote, “Like a well-equipped and well-trained soldier, be strong to fight for your King” (166).
   a. Our king is the true King:
      (1) 1 Tim. 6:15 “Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;”
      (2) Rev. 19:16 “And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”
   b. He is going into battle and will be victorious along with those who battle with Him;
      Rev. 17:14 “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.”

B. Our strength comes from God.
1. Eph. 6:10-11 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”
2. Phi. 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

C. How the Christian is strengthened.
1. Some falsely teach the Spirit directly strengthens the Christian (Wesleyanism).
   a. Eph. 3:16 “That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;”
      (1) This would absolve man of any action to strengthen himself.
      (2) The Spirit does it for him and does it apart from the exercise of his own free will.
   b. The context:
      (1) Eph. 3:1-3, 5 “For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;”
      (2) The Spirit revealed the message; 1 Cor. 2:10-13 “But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”
      (3) Paul wrote the message down; Eph. 4:4-5 “Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;”
      (4) When we read and understand we are strengthened in the inner man.
      (5) Later Paul says to put on the whole armor of God.
(6) Adam Clark writes, “It becomes obvious that such a person would be made stronger by doing what the Spirit through Paul admonishes him to do, wouldn’t he? Now, does this differ in effect from the prayer he prays in Ephesians 3:16? Surely not! The inner man is strengthened by the Spirit as he learns from the Spirit’s teaching how to be stronger. His convictions are made stronger leading to stronger determination (Col. 1:10-11) (Clark 74).

c. Paul to the Ephesian elders: Acts 20:32 “And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.”

2. By abounding in prayer:
   a. Eph. 6:18 “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”
   b. Mat. 26:41 “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

3. By work:
   a. To gain strength physically one lifts weights, straining and taxing his muscles.
   b. To grow spiritually, we must get to work.
   c. Lack of work makes our muscles atrophy—we waste away.
   d. 1 Cor. 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

4. Avoid evil influences.
   a. Rom. 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
   b. 2 Cor. 6:14, 17-18 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?... 17Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”
   c. Eph. 5:11 “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”

D. Even Paul had to exercise and work to have a conscience void of offense before God

1. Acts 24:16 “And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.”

2. When we exercise properly, we will be prepared for strong meat: Heb. 5:14 “But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

3. As we strive against sin, we become stronger so we are able to face greater temptations.

Conclusion: After these four military imperatives, Paul gives another one: 1 Cor. 16:14 “Let all your things be done with charity.” Charity is the noun agape. It has little to do with the emotions; instead, it is a decision of the mind to do what is in the best interest of another, regardless of what they desire.

Jesus taught the entire Law is summed up with love: love for God and then loving our neighbor as ourselves; Mat. 22:37-40 “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38This is the first and great commandment. 39And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”
We must love God first and foremost and with our entire being (heart, soul, mind). That means loving His Word; 1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.” Thus we will not allow that Word to be altered or attacked by others. When Satan attacks it, we must be watching and stand fast, be manly, and strong. That is letting all our things be done with love.

When we love our neighbor as ourselves, we will enter the fight against evil. Satan is leading souls to eternal torment. If we love those souls how can we not enter the battle to do whatever we can that is inherently right to keep them out of torments? To give in to the enemy is to not love one’s neighbor as one’s self.

Paul had shown the necessity of love: 1 Cor. 13:1-3 “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.”

These militaristic imperatives could make one hardhearted, cold, and judgmental without the injunction to love. Thus, there is this great need for love as we watch, stand fast in the faith, be manly, and be strong.

Paul had previously given the characteristics of love; 1 Cor. 13:4-8a “Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. 5Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8Charity never faileth.”

Some use the guise of love to avoid battle. They will also discourage those who will fight the good fight of the faith and end up battling those who are willing to battle. We must not allow such cowardly brethren to succeed in preventing us from the battle of evil. Let us heed Paul’s advice:

1 Cor. 16:13 “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”

Eph. 6:10-18 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12For 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. 13Wherefore 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. 14Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”

ENDNOTES