

Main Idea: According to Ephesians 6:10-13, we’re called to fulfill three assignments that are essential for standing in spiritual warfare.

I. The call to depend (10)

- A. Here is why we often don’t.
 - 1. We forget we’re in a battle.
 - 2. We fail to tap into our spiritual resources.
 - 3. We underestimate our enemy.
- B. Here is what we must do.
 - 1. We must rely on the Lord.
 - 2. We must rely on His power.

II. The call to display (11-12)

- A. We need to put on the armor of God.
 - 1. If you know Christ, you have all you need to stand.
 - 2. If you don’t use what you have, you are in danger.
- B. We need to recognize the attack of the devil.
 - 1. We cannot see our enemy.
 - 2. We are in a spiritual battle.

III. The call to defend (13)

- A. Our aim isn’t to attack Satan (he’s already been defeated).
- B. Our aim is to stand.
 - 1. The attack is coming.
 - 2. The time to prepare is now.

The Daily Task: It boils down to three affirmations.

- 1. Affirm how weak you are.
- 2. Affirm how strong Christ is.
- 3. Affirm how much you need Him every day.

In our last series we looked at Gideon in the book of Judges, and in our last message on the life of Gideon, we saw a man who did not finish well. He began to coast. He let down his guard. That burdens me, for I am like Gideon. Ordinary. Prone to wander. I believe we are all like Gideon. So the question is, is it possible to stand for God over the long haul and truly finish well? And if so, how? What does it take? I believe the clearest answer to that question is found in the following passage.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 6:10-18

Stand. Stand. Stand. That word, repeated again and again in the passage I just read, is why we’re launching a new series today entitled, “The Christian and the Armor of God.” So we can stand when far too many are falling.

^{**}Note: This is an unedited manuscript of a message preached at Wheelersburg Baptist Church. It is provided to prompt your continued reflection on the practical truths of the Word of God.

² For a previous look at this passage, see the series on “Living with a Warfare Mentality” at WBC in 2003, as well as “The Armor of God” in 2013.

It's my privileged, God-given assignment as a pastor, according to Ephesians 4:12, to equip you for the work of the ministry. Every sermon ever preached, every Bible study ever led, every visit ever made, every counseling session ever conducted, every business meeting ever led, it's all to that end. The Lord calls His people to do the work of the ministry of making Christ known to the world, and He says that pastors are to equip His saints to do that ministry.

So my aim in selecting message topics and in preaching those messages must never be to be novel, nor clever, nor entertaining. It's to equip you, to prepare you, to give you from the Word of God the tools you need to fulfill the work God intends to accomplish in and through you.

The Bible makes it clear that in Christ we have all that we need to accomplish all that God intends. Now, if that's true, then we need to ask some questions...

Why don't we see more evidences of the work of the ministry being accomplished? Why do we see believers, at times, get sidetracked, and even, at times, throw in the towel on the ministry?

The answer is that we have an enemy who does not want us to do the work of the ministry. Indeed, we are at war. Who is this enemy? What is his strategy? And more importantly, what has the Lord given us to enable us to fulfill our mission while under attack?

It's to answer these questions, to equip you for the work of the ministry in warfare conditions, that I want to launch a series in Ephesians 6 called, "*The Armor of God.*"

I'll be forthright. If you don't take to heart that message of Ephesians 6, you're in grave danger. This passage has literally saved my life time and time again, and if you neglect its message, it's just a matter of time before you're out of the fight and on the sidelines, or worse.

Friends, look around. We all know there are fellow soldiers who were once in the battle with us fulfilling the work of the ministry, and they're no longer in the fight. And it can happen to us, too. And that need not happen, not if we take heed to the battle tactics God's Word gives us in Ephesians 6.

Back in 1655 the Puritan minister William Gurnall wrote a book called *The Christian in Complete Armour*, a development of this text. It contains three volumes, 261 chapters, and 1,472 pages. Gurnall makes the point, "The saint's sleeping time is Satan's tempting time."³

Martin Lloyd-Jones wrote his own exposition of these eleven verses in Ephesians 6. His two volume work, *The Christian Warfare and the The Christian Soldier*, is 736 pages in length.

There's so much in this text, and while we're not going to take 1,472 pages nor 736 pages to cover it, we are going to take about four weeks to immerse ourselves in its message. We begin this morning with verses 10-13. According to Ephesians 6:10-13, we're called to fulfill three assignments that are essential for survival in spiritual warfare.

I. The call to depend (10)

³ Gurnall, in Stott, p. 276.

Verse 10 begins, “Finally.” Obviously, Paul is beginning a new and final subject in this letter. The readers of this letter were special people to him. About ten years prior, the apostle evangelized and started a church in the city of Ephesus. Now, from a Roman prison, he writes this letter to his brothers and sisters in Ephesus.

In Ephesians he taught about two great truths. First, as Christians we have resources (chapters 1-3). Secondly, as Christians we have responsibilities (chapters 4-6). The two go hand in hand. To whom much is given, much is required. Those who are in Christ have great spiritual resources available to them. God expects us to use those resources.

According to Ephesians 4:1, we are to live a life worthy of our calling. We are to walk a certain way through life. We are to walk in unity in the church (4:1-16). We are to walk in purity in the world (4:17-5:17). We are to walk under control of the Spirit (5:18-6:9), as reflected by our attitudes (5:18-20), by our family relationships (5:22-6:4), and by our relationships on the job (6:5-9).

But there’s one more subject on his mind...

“Finally.” We’ve come to the conclusion of Paul’s letter. In some respects what Paul says at the end sums up everything for us.

What’s the last thing Paul wants the Ephesian Christians to know? Verse 10—“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.” Wiersbe reminds us that we don’t live for Christ on the playground, but on the battleground.

There are a lot of frustrated, struggling Christians these days. They’re not doing very well in the battle. Why not?

A. Here is why we often don’t. I’ll mention three common reasons...

1. *We forget we’re in a battle.* We don’t see any bullets flying or hear any tanks crashing through the walls around us, since this isn’t a physical warfare. So we forget. And if we forget, we won’t *depend*.

Know this. You won’t depend unless you acknowledge that you are in a *battle*. You won’t make Bible reading a daily priority. You won’t make the church’s prayer meeting a non-negotiable on your schedule. You won’t hit your knees before you go out the door every day. You won’t do any of this *if* you forget you are in a battle.

Here’s another reason we struggle.

2. *We fail to tap into our spiritual resources.* We have all we need to live for God in this dangerous world. But know this. It’s not in ourselves. It’s *in Christ*. In fact, that’s a great theme in Ephesians. The phrase “in Christ” appears throughout. Ephesians 1:3 says, “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing *in Christ*.” Those who do well in the Christian life are those who tap into their spiritual resources.

3. *We underestimate our enemy.* One of Satan’s strategies is to get people to believe he doesn’t exist. But since we are Bible-believing people, and since he knows he can’t get us to deny his existence, he takes a different approach. He gets us to underestimate him and overestimate ourselves.

So what’s needed?

B. Here is what we must do. Verse 10 says, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.” There’s what we must do. *Depend*.

Notice the passive verb. BE strong. Literally, "Be strengthened by the Lord." It's also present tense, meaning this is a continuous process. That's vital. We'll never survive the battle depending on our own strength, not for one moment.

On what must we depend? It's a two part answer.

1. *We must rely on the Lord.* "Be strong in the Lord." That is, depend on a person. Christianity is highly personal. By faith, we must enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and then live in constant dependence on Him.

Vance Havner once said, a wife who is 85% faithful to her husband is not faithful at all. There is no such thing as part-time devotion to Jesus Christ."

Part-time dependence won't cut it. That's exactly what Jesus told His followers in John 15. In fact, what Ephesians 6 says with a military image, John 15 communicates with an agricultural image. Jesus said, "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me (John 15:4)." And in verse 5 He concluded, "Apart from Me you can do nothing."

2. *We must rely on His power.* "Be strong...in his mighty power." The KJV says, "Be STRONG in the POWER of His MIGHT." Paul used three different Greek words that communicate strength. Each reinforces the fact that we have the resources we need to survive the battle.

Please know that God has provided us with all the power we need to win this battle. You ask, "Just how much power is available to us?"

Take a look at Ephesians 1:20-21. "Which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church."

We have at our disposal the same power God exercised when He raised Christ from the dead. What is our responsibility? We must *depend*, on the Lord and on His power.

I must clarify something. This message is for Christians. If you are not a Christian you cannot depend on the Lord because you don't know Him. You are cut off from God and held captive by the enemy. You are a spiritual POW. This message could be for you, but first you must be saved. You must call upon the Savior. He is the only One who can break your chains. On the cross He died to set sinners free, taking their penalty for them, three days later rising again.

To become a Christian you must stop depending on yourself and place your faith in Jesus Christ. You must trust Him and entrust your life to Him, and I call on you now to do so, and assure you that if you do, He will set you free.

Here's where it starts. If we're going to survive in the battle, we must live a dependent life. We're called to *depend*. Here's our second responsibility.

II. The call to display (11-12)

What do we need to display? Paul tells us...

A. We need to display/put on the armor of God. Verse 11, "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."

According to Wuest, “‘Whole armor’ is panoplia (πανοπλια), made up of pas (πας), “whole,” and hoplon (ὄπλον), “weapon”; literally “all the weapons.” The word is from panoplos (πανοπλος), “wholly armed, in full armor.” It means “full armor, complete armor,” shield, sword, lance, helmet, greaves, and breastplate. The word “panoply” is the English spelling of our word.”⁴

What are we to do with this *full armor*? Paul says, “Put on.” The term “put on” means “to clothe oneself.” It’s a command and the tense indicates we are to put on the armor once and for all. In other words, the armor of God is not a game uniform that you put on and take off one game at a time. It’s armor you put on and leave on the rest of your life.

Many feel when Paul wrote Ephesians 6, he was chained to a Roman soldier. As he looked at the apparel, he saw a perfect illustration of how Christians need to be prepared to fight the enemy.

Next week, the Lord willing, we’ll take a close look at the armor itself in verses 14-17. For now let me spell out two conclusions.

1. *If you know Christ, you have all you need to stand.* You are not lacking. You have sufficient protection. It’s all there. However...

2. *If you don’t use what you have, you are in danger.* What kind of danger? Paul explains at the end of verse 11, “So that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” So here’s the second thing we need to display, a recognition. Of what?

B. We need to recognize the attack of the devil. The KJV says, “That ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

Friends, we have a fierce enemy. Notice, we’re not to fight him. That’s not what the armor is for. What is the purpose? We need it to STAND.

This is key. The Bible never tells us to attack the devil. It tells us to resist him (James 4:7), and when we resist him, he will flee.

Quite frankly, I am concerned about people who take a flippant view of the demonic, for our responsibility is to depend, then display. Display the armor of God with a full recognition of the pending attack of the devil.

MacArthur says it well, “Living for Christ is not like waltzing through a meadow picking daisies; it’s like walking through a mine field with snipers firing at you! And you can’t see the snipers because they belong to a supernatural realm.”

What specifically are we to stand against? Paul says, the devil’s *schemes*. The KJV uses the term “wiles.” The Greek word is *methodeias*. It can be translated as “methods,” “craft,” and “deceit.” It’s the same word used in 4:14, there rendered “deceitful *scheming*.” The wiles of the devil take many forms, but he is at his wiliest when he succeeds in persuading people that he does not exist.

Former British pastor Martin Lloyd-Jones said it well, “I am certain that one of the main causes of the ill state of the church today is the fact that the devil is being forgotten. All is attributed to us. We have all become so psychological in our attitude and thinking.

⁴ Wuest, K. S. (1997). *Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English reader* (Eph 6:11). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

We are ignorant of this great objective fact, the being, the existence of the devil, the adversary, the accuser, and his fiery darts.”⁵

Paul continues his description of our enemy in verse 12, “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.”

Notice two things about our enemy, first...

1. *We cannot see our enemy.* He is not “flesh and blood,” that is, people. Commentator Charles Hodge makes the observation, “If our adversary was a man, who had only human strength, ingenuity, and cunning, we might defend ourselves by human means. But as we have to contend with Satan, we need the armor of God.”⁶

Keep that in mind. Who is our opponent? Flesh and blood? No. People, even the most wicked of them, are not the real enemy, but merely victims of the enemy.

The second thing we learn from verse 11 is that...

2. *We are in a spiritual battle.* A spiritual “struggle,” to be specific. The KJV uses the term “wrestle,” but we’re not talking about an athletic game here. In Roman times when two wrestlers went into the ring, each tried to get his hands around his opponent’s neck. Then he would try to press his shoulders and head to the ground. What happened if he succeeded? Wuest remarks, “When we consider that the loser in a Greek wrestling contest had his eyes gouged out with resulting blindness for the rest of his days, we can form some conception of the Ephesian Greek’s reaction to Paul’s illustration. The Christian’s wrestling against the powers of darkness is no less desperate and fateful.”⁷

Beloved, we’re talking about a life and death struggle. Satan wants to get his hands on our neck and devour us (1 Pet 5:8). He has a calculated strategy. He also has a host of wicked imps that do his bidding.

Paul describes four categories of these wicked angelic creatures in verse 12. Our struggle is against “the rulers [KJV ‘principalities’], against the authorities [KJV ‘powers’], against the powers of this dark world [KJV ‘rulers of darkness’], and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms [KJV ‘spiritual wickedness in high places’].

Those, apparently, are descriptions of different demonic forces. All angelic beings are not the same. Don’t give them too much power, for they’re just creatures. Colossians 1:16 says, “For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.”

And don’t be confused by the term “heavenly” here, either. These are not friendly creatures. Hodge explains, “It is better to take the word heaven in a wide sense. It is very often used antithetically to the word *earth*. ‘Heaven and earth,’ include the whole universe. Those who do not belong to the earth belong to heaven. All intelligent beings are terrestrial or celestial. Of the latter class some are good and some are bad, as of the angels some are holy and some unholy. These principalities and potentates, these rulers

⁵ In Stott, p. 265.

Hodge, C. 1996. Commentary on Ephesians. Index created by Christian Classics Foundation. (electronic ed.). Christian Classics Foundation: Simpsonville SC

⁷ Wuest, K. S. (1997). *Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English reader* (Eph 6:12). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

and spirits of wickedness, are not earthly magnates, they belong to the order of celestial intelligences, and therefore are the more to be dreaded, and something more than human strength and earthly armor is required for the conflict to which the apostle refers.”⁸

So we’re in a spiritual battle with an enemy we cannot see. What must we do? We must *depend*, and demonstrate our dependence by *displaying* the armor of God.

Watchman Nee wrote a helpful book entitled *Sit, Walk, Stand*. The title is based on three great truths communicated in Ephesians, three steps that are vital to an abundant Christian life:

Step #1 We must *sit* (Eph 1-3; see 2:6).

Step #2 We must *walk* (Eph 4:1-6:9; see 4:1).

Step #3 We must *stand* (Eph 6:10-24; see 6:11).

Nee says the order is critical. Sit, then walk, then stand. If you're not seated in Christ, you'll never be able to live (i.e. walk) the Christian life. And if you're not walking in obedience to Christ, you'll never be able to stand against the evil one.

The goal is *to stand*. Four times Paul emphasizes *standing* in verses 10-14. That’s our objective. The Greek verb “stand” with the following preposition “against” in essence means “hold your ground.” Again Watchman Nee remarks, “There is a precious truth hidden in that command of God. It is not a command to invade a foreign territory. . . We are not to march, but to stand.”

Why don’t we need to march against the evil one? Because Jesus Christ has already defeated him. Did you ever wonder why Jesus did so many miracles? The miracles show us the power of Christ over the evil effects of sin and the author of sin. When the God-man invaded enemy territory, He came to recapture Satan’s hostages.

For instance, in Luke 8 Jesus cast demons out of the man at Gerasa. The man had been living in tombs. Luke records, “When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don’t torture me!”²⁹ For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man (Luke 8:27-28).”

When Jesus cast the demons out of this man, He delivered him from the devil's army and enlisted him in His own.

The ultimate show down took place at the cross. Colossians 2:15 says, “And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.” Hebrews 2:14 says the Son of God became a man so that “by His death He might destroy Him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil.”

So at His first coming Jesus defeated the evil one. Furthermore, He's already announced what He's going to do to the evil one at His second coming. Matthew 25:4 says, “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the *eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.*” The prophecy of Revelation 20:10 makes it clear the devil’s days are numbered, for he will be “cast into the lake of fire.”

So Satan’s days are numbered. What difference should this make for us as we live today in the interim? Our task is to **STAND**. Not attack. Not retreat and hide. But stand.

⁸Hodge, C. 1996. Commentary on Ephesians. Index created by Christian Classics Foundation. (electronic ed.). Christian Classics Foundation: Simpsonville SC

What's the difference between defensive warfare and offensive warfare? In an offensive battle, we're fighting for ground that is not ours. In a defensive battle, we've already won the ground and our aim is to keep it.

Jesus fought the offensive battle. He warred against Satan himself. Through the cross, He carried that warfare to the threshold of hell itself, and rescued captives held in the deadly clutches of the devil.

Our battle today is primarily defensive. We don't need to fight to obtain victory over Satan. That's already available to us, through Christ, and only through Christ. We do not fight *for* victory, but *from* victory. Romans 8:37 says, "We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us." Don't miss that. In Christ we are ALREADY conquerors.

Think of it this way. Imagine a city under siege. The enemy that surrounds they city will not let anyone or anything leave. Supplies are running low, and the citizens are fearful. But in the dark of the night, a spy sneaks through the enemy lines. He has rushed to the city to tell the people that in another place the main enemy force has been defeated; the leaders have already surrendered. The people do not need to be afraid. It is only a matter of time until the besieging troops receive the news and lay down their weapons.

That's us. At times it seems like the enemy is all around us, but the truth is, he's a defeated enemy. Christ crushed his head at the Calvary. Things are not the way they seem to be. It is only a matter of time until it becomes clear to all that the battle is really over.⁹

So what must we do? We must heed the call to *depend*. And then *discern*. Thirdly...

III. The call to defend (13)

"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."

For the second time, Paul urges us to dress in the armor of God, *spiritual armor* for a spiritual enemy. In fact, if you don't put on the armor, you won't stand, for you're no match for this enemy.

Case in point, Acts 19. In Acts 19 we meet some people who tried to cast out demons. The problem was, they didn't know Christ, which meant they didn't have Christ's armor. Remember what happened to them? Listen to Acts 19:15-16, "One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?"¹⁶ Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding."

Again Paul uses the term "stand" in verse 13, twice in fact . We can't overemphasize this...

A. Our aim isn't to attack Satan (he's already been defeated).

B. Our aim is to stand.

The *Bible Knowledge Commentary* explains, "Christians are not to attack Satan, or advance against him; they are only to "stand" or hold the territory Christ and His body, the church, have conquered. Without God's armor believers will be defeated by the "schemes" of the devil which have been effective for thousands of years."

⁹ Richard J. Mouw, *Uncommon Decency*, pp. 149-150.

MacArthur illustrates it this way: Suppose you're a soldier in the army, on guard duty. Suppose you see the enemy approaching in a surprise attack. What do you do? Do you run out and start shooting at the enemy by yourself? If you're foolish. What are guards supposed to do? Tell the Commander the enemy is attacking.

So when Satan attacks, don't fight him. He'd destroy you. What should we do? Report to the Commander. How? According to verse 18, by "praying."

So here's our third responsibility. We must defend. Again, Paul tells us to put on the armor, but in verse 13 he gives a fuller incentive. He tells us...

1. *The attack is coming.* He says that the "day of evil" is coming. When? In this interim period. He doesn't say it *might* come, but *when* it comes. It's not a constant assault, but a strategic one. But since we don't know precisely when the enemy will strike, we need to be ready, armor in place.

Paul knew firsthand about wrestling with evil forces. During his ministry at Ephesus (as described in Acts 19:21-41), a riot took place. He came close to losing his life. And the infant church was under attack. Who was the opponent? On the surface, a silversmith named Demetrius, a man who made idols of the goddess Diana. But Paul knew very well who the real enemy was. Behind Demetrius stood Satan and his evil associates.

Brothers and sisters, this isn't fairy tale material. This is reality. The attack is coming. Which means...

2. *The time to prepare is now.* Put on the full armor now, so that you can stand then. Put on truth as a belt, and Christ's righteousness as a breastplate, and the gospel as your boots, and faith as your shield, and salvation as your helmet, and make sure you've got the Bible in your hand as your sword.

Friends, the sad reality is that if we don't use this armor, if we're passive, we will fall prey to Satan's crafty devices. Remember Paul is talking to Christians here. What happens when a Christian doesn't use his armor?

A few years ago I had a conversation with a brother in Christ who used to belong to our church until he retired and moved away. I asked him what he was doing now and he shared his story. He said that when he retired he had a plan. It's the plan that millions and millions of Americans are formulating and living for. His plan was to retire, take his RV, and live a leisurely life.

That was the plan, and then, he said, the stock market went south, and he couldn't do what he had planned.

And then he said something I've never heard anyone say, and it thrilled my soul. He said, "I'm so glad the stock market took my money, for God used that to wake me up and get me back into what the Christian life is all about, investing the Word of God into people."

So you know what he's doing now? He's driving a truck part time, to pay his bills, and actively investing his time serving in his church and the work of the ministry. He told me about a home Bible study he and his wife started with one lady, and that grew to five or six people, that resulted in some being saved. Then he told me about what he's doing with our *Two:Two* materials, our three year leadership training Bible study that he went through here at WBC. He said, "I've taken what I learned from you and have now taken 5 or 6 groups of men through it myself in the past 9 years."

And what impressed me was the joy in his voice. Sure, he'd lost a bunch of money, but he gained something he considers of much greater value! He said, "One of the guys I've led to the Lord is about ready to retire, and when he told me what he was planning to do in retirement, I told him that's exactly what I had planned and you *don't want to do that!*"

Yes! There's a brother who, because the armor is in place, is no longer buying the satanic lie that the purpose of retirement is *me and my leisure*. He's got the shield of faith in place, so he's deflecting that demonic notion. And he's got the gospel of peace boots on his feet, so he's taking the good news of Jesus to his neighbors. And he's got the sword of the Spirit in his hand, so he's looking for opportunities to disciple men with the Word of God.

No, there's nothing wrong with leisure, and there's nothing wrong with a change of pace in retirement (the aging body often demands it). But with the armor of God in place, the retirement years can be some of the most fruitful and joy-filled years in life, as we stay in the fight and do the work of the ministry, for the glory of our Beloved Savior!

The Daily Task: It boils down to three affirmations.

1. *Affirm how weak you are.* It's true. *You* can't stand, not on your own. Will you admit that today?

2. *Affirm how strong Christ is.* Writing in *Moody Monthly*, Carl Armerding recounted his experience of watching a wildcat in a zoo. "As I stood there," he said, "an attendant entered the cage through a door on the opposite side. He had nothing in his hands but a broom. Carefully closing the door, he proceeded to sweep the floor of the cage." He observed that the worker had no weapon to ward off an attack by the beast. In fact, when he got to the corner of the cage where the wildcat was lying, he poked the animal with the broom. The wildcat hissed at him and then lay down in another corner of the enclosure. Armerding remarked to the attendant, "You certainly are a brave man." "No, I ain't brave," he replied as he continued to sweep. "Well, then, that cat must be tame." "No," came the reply, "he ain't tame." "If you aren't brave and the wildcat isn't tame, then I can't understand why he doesn't attack you." Armerding said the man chuckled, then replied with an air of confidence, "Mister, he's old -- and he ain't got no teeth."¹⁰

Do we have an enemy? Yes, but compared to our Savior our enemy "ain't got no teeth!" If you want to stand you must admit how weak you are and how strong Christ is.

3. *Affirm how much you need Him every day.* Depend, display, and defend. That's what it takes, *every day*. Romans 13:12 says, "The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."

Jude 24-25 "To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—²⁵ to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!"

Closing Song: #478 "Soldiers of Christ, Arise" (all three verses)

¹⁰ Our Daily Bread.