

Don't Be Wobbly

Stand firm

“Wobbly Christians who have no firm foothold in Christ are an easy prey for the devil”

(John Stott, *Ephesians*, p. 275)



Ephesians 6:13 - Message

Wear God's armor so you can stand your ground against spiritual attacks

Ephesians Outline

- I. Discover the vastness of God's love in calling you (1-3)
- II. Walk in a manner worthy of your calling (4-6)
 - A. Walk in unity (4:1-16)
 - B. Walk in holiness (4:17-32)
 - C. Walk in love (5:1-6)
 - D. Walk in light (5:7-14)
 - E. Walk in wisdom (5:15-6:9)
 - F. Stand firm in spiritual warfare (6:10-20)

Ephesians 6:10-20 Outline (in progress)

Stand firm in spiritual warfare

1. Be strong by putting on God's armor (6:10-13)
 - a. Be strong in Jesus' strength (10)
 - b. Put on the armor to be strong (11a)
 - c. You need the ability to stand firm against the devil's schemes (11b-12)
 - d. For this reason wear the armor so you can stand firm (13)



Put on the armor so you can stand firm (Eph 6:13)

Get busy putting on Christ as your armor

Do this because you need the two-fold ability to:

Withstand persistent spiritual threats

Stand your ground adequately prepared

Spiritual warfare can seem overwhelming!

We face:

A variety of evil schemes

A severe threat

Our opponents have supernatural power

There are probably millions of them

But remember: “the strength of the Lord gained by utilizing the full armor of God is stronger than all the power of the wicked”

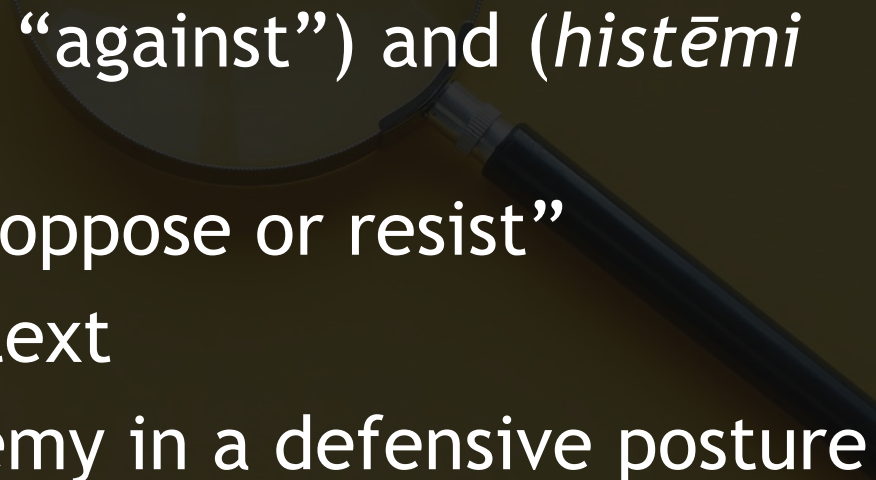
(Harold Hoehner, *Ephesians* pp. 836-7)

Actions related to armor (Eph 6:11, 13)

Put on (v. 11) - focuses on armor as Jesus' character—those qualities that prepare us for battle

Take up (v. 13) - focuses on our effort in taking up the armor to wear it

Resist

- Resist (*anthistēmi*) from (*anti* “against”) and (*histēmi* “to stand” at end of v. 13)
 - “to stand against, withstand, oppose or resist”
 - Typically used in a battle context
 - Thus, resist or oppose the enemy in a defensive posture
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How to “resist” the devil (Eph 6:13)

- 1 Peter 5:8-9
 - Resist = being firm in faith
 - Firm in faith = know and obey God’s word
- James 4:6-10
 - Resisting the devil involves obedience:
 - Humble yourself before God
 - Submit to God (military idea, be ready to await commands)
 - Draw near to God
 - Repent (cleanse hands, purify heart, weep over sin, humble yourself)

Stand your ground (Eph 6:13)

Roman historian Polybius described a Roman centurion as “the kind of man who could be relied upon, when hard-pressed, to stand fast and not give way”

(F. F. Bruce, *Col., Philemon, Eph.*, p. 406, citing Polybius' work “History, 6.24”)