

Called to Stand

Pastor Cameron Brice | August 2nd, 2020

I. “A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground ...” - **Ephesians 6:10-14a (NLT)**

1. Since we are called to crisis we need to understand that there are going to be some fights along the way.
 - A. Some of those fights manifest as issues in the culture at large.
 - i. The fight against racism.
 - ii. The fight against abortion.
 - iii. The fight against sex slavery and the trafficking of children.
 - iv. The fight against poverty.
 - v. The fight against COVID.
 - B. We are called to stand and to fight the issues in our culture. But we will never be able to stand against the devil’s strategies in our culture, until we learn to stand against the strategies he uses to challenge us individually.
 - i. As we saw last week, David stood against the cultural issue of his time, Goliath. But, he was only able to

stand against Goliath because he first stood against the lion and the bear.

- ii. “But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep his father’s sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.” - **1 Samuel 17:34-36 (NKJV)**
 - iii. We, like David, must learn to stand against our lions and our bears so that we can defeat the Goliaths in our culture.
 - iv. These days our battles aren’t against physical lions, bears or giants, but against the devil.
- II. “Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.” - **Ephesians 6:11 (NLT)**
- 1. This Scripture makes it plain that the devil uses strategies in the battles he wages against us. Breaking down the words “strategy” and “devil” in the Greek will help expose those strategies.
 - A. Strategy - *Methodeia* - (Where we get our English word methodical.) The following or pursuing of an orderly and technical procedure as it pertains to evil intent. To study and pursue by devious means. To lie in wait. To carefully plot one’s downfall or demise.
 - i. The devil isn’t dumb or impulsive, he is methodical and patient.
 - a. Because the devil is patient and methodical he doesn’t show up in our moments of strength. He studies us, paying attention to how we live, and re-

spond, and moves in at the most opportune moment.

- b. Look at an example of this in the life of Jesus.
- c. “Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” -

Luke 4:1-3 (NKJV)

- ii. The devil comes to us when we are hungry.
 - iii. He cooks up what would be most personally enticing to us as individuals.
 - a. He tempted Jesus with bread, because it seemed like it would satisfy His current situation.
 - b. Because our situations are different, the way he tempts us will be different.
 - c. The other thing we need to realize about the devil is found in his name.
- B. Devil - Diabolos - A false accuser or to throw across.**
The picture painted by the roots of this word would be the image of someone throwing an object to create a noise meant to distract or to create a diversion.
- i. The devil doesn't want us to realize that it is him tempting us, so he utilizes diversions to get us to stand against the wrong things and justify our sin.
 - ii. The question is, what does he use as a diversion to get us to stand against the wrong thing?
 - iii. “For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.” - **Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)**

- a. Paul wanted to define the line between who we are and who we are not standing against. Why?
- b. The most common tactic the devil employs to divert our attention away from his plots is by blaming the root of our temptation on other people.
- iv. The devil knows that if he can keep us fighting against flesh and blood he can continue to pour out havoc in our life.
 - a. The devil might use flesh and blood to inflict pain or destruction on us, but he is the one we need to fight against!
 - b. Fighting against flesh and blood is like trying to attack the arrow not the archer.
 - c. If we attack the arrow we are susceptible to being wounded, if we find and attack the archer, we might get a few scratches, but we will ultimately eliminate the source of the threat.

III. How do we stand against the accuser's strategies?

1. We gird ourselves with truth.

- A. There are three facets to the truth we need to gird ourselves with:
 - i. The truth of God's word.
 - a. Jesus responded to every temptation with a resounding "it is written."
 - b. When we study and memorize God's Word, based on our knowledge of how the devil commonly attacks us, we are loading ourselves up with the truth needed to stand strong.
 - ii. The truth that the devil's temptations aren't anyone else's fault, but that he bases our temptations off of what is in our hearts.
 - a. "The temptation to give in to evil comes from us and only us. We have no one to blame but the leer-

ing, seducing flare-up of our own lust.” - **James 1:14 (MSG)**

- When we find ourselves blaming other people for our behaviors, it is time to look inward.
 - We have to take responsibility of our own lives, and gird ourselves with the third and final facet of truth.
- iii. The truth that we aren't strong enough to stand on our own, We. Need. Jesus.
- a. It is important to be honest about our weaknesses.
 - “But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.” - **1 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)**
 - Being vulnerable about our weaknesses is not weakness, it is strength.
 - When we admit our weaknesses we walk in the reality of Ephesians 6:10
 - b. “A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.” - **Ephesians 6:10 (NLT)**
 - Be strong - to receive strength from, to be strengthened by.
 - What is one way to do this practically?
 - c. “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” - **Isaiah 40:31 (KJV)**