

“I Am A Keeper”

Part V

WHY THIS SERIES....

The aim of this series is to highlight that faith is not only about how we begin,
but *learning to preserve* through every season of life.

Many people have enough faith to start, but struggle to **CONTINUE**.

We *start* praying, *start* believing, *start* serving, *start* giving,
start trusting and *start* walking with God.

BUT when **THE ANSWER** is delayed, **THE OPPOSITION** increases, **THE EXCITEMENT** fades,
or **THE CIRCUMSTANCES** become difficult...

CAN WE **KEEP** PUSHING AND **KEEP** BELIEVING

Week One...

Keep Believing Through The Delays

Keep Waiting ~ Keep Watching

Keep Believing Through The Difficult Seasons

Keep Trusting ~ Keep Walking

Keep Believing Despite The Doubters

Week Two...

Keep Pushing Through The Predicament

Keep Pushing Through The Pain

Keep Pushing Until Your Perspective Changes

Week Three....

Principle #1 — Keep Digging Because What God Promised Is Still There

Principle #2 — Keep Digging Despite Who or What Comes Against You

Principle #3 — Keep Digging Until You Receive What God Has Promised

Week Four

Principle #1 ~ The Foundation of My Expectation Must Be Certain

Principle #2 ~ The FAITH of My Expectation Must Be Clear

Principle #3 ~ The Faithfulness of My Expectation Must Be Continuous

Tonight

Keep Standing and Keep Fighting

Key Verses

Ephesians 6:10-13 (NLT)

10 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

11 Put on all of God's armor *so that* **YOU WILL BE ABLE TO STAND FIRM** against all strategies of the devil.

12 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.

13 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.**

Introduction....

One mistake that many believers make is that they **THINK** the Christian Journey is **a playground and not a battleground**. Many people go through life as if it is **fun and games**. They are surprised to find they must deal with **hardship and temptation** after they have **decided to follow Christ ...**
The moment a person is converted to Christ, **HIS FAITH** is constantly under attack.

Luke 22:31-32 (NKJV)

31 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, **that he may sift you as wheat**.

32 But I have prayed for you, **THAT YOUR FAITH SHOULD NOT FAIL...**

Christians **fall into the trap of thinking** that this journey with Jesus is **walking down a road of comfort and convenience**.

Many Christians feel that once they have given the preacher their hand and the Lord their heart; they would **NOT EXPERIENCE** heartache, headaches, hurt, harm, and harassment.
As a result, very few of the God's people are **armed**, **equipped** and **prepared** to handle spiritual warfare.

Whether we ever believe it or not, **WE ARE ENGAGED IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE**.

It is critical that we be **well informed** regarding Satan.

Inadequate Awareness of Warfare... leads to insufficient preparation for battle...

We must understand that **every day is a spiritual battle** for those who are **serious about salvation**, **committed to Christ**, motivated for ministry and excited about evangelism...

The more effective a believer is **in his witness**; **THE MORE THEY EXPERIENCE WARFARE...**

Introduction....

Paul uses *the language* of standing repeatedly...

1 Corinthians 16:13

“Watch, *stand fast in the faith*, be brave, be strong.”

Philippians 1:27

“That you *stand fast in one spirit*, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.”

Philippians 4:1

“*Stand fast in the Lord*, beloved.”

2 Thessalonians 2:15

“Therefore, brethren, *stand fast* and hold the traditions which you were taught...”

Galatians 5:1

“*Stand fast* therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free...”

To *STAND FIRM* means to *remain spiritually established* when something is *trying to move you*.

It means...

I will not be moved from what I believe ~ I will not be moved from what God has said..

I will not be moved from my commitment to Christ ~ I will not allow pressure to change my mind

I will not allow opposition to make me abandon my position...

HOW DO WE STAND?

*THIS LESSON TONIGHT WILL SHOW US THREE PRINCIPLES
TO KEEP STANDING:*

Principle #1 ~ Recognize Your Weakness In Warfare

Principle #2 ~ Recognize The Adversary That Is Attacking

Principle #3 ~ Recognize The Ammunition That Is Available

Recognize Your Weakness In Warfare

Ephesians 6:10 (NLT)

10 A final word: *Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.*

The strength required for spiritual warfare does not originate in us.
Before Paul talks about *the adversary* or *the ammunition*, He begins with *AN ADMISSION*
I CAN'T DO THIS WITH MY OWN STRENGTH

Warfare Does Not Require Me To Manufacture Strength, *JUST RECEIVE IT*
BE STRONG ~ NOT GET STRONGER

Philippians 4:13 (NLT)

13 For I can do *everything through Christ*, who gives me strength.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NLT)

9 Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. *My power works best in weakness.*"
So now I am glad to *boast about my weaknesses*, so that *the power of Christ can work through me.*
10 *That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses*, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions,
and troubles that I suffer for Christ. *For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Isaiah 40:29 (NKJV)

29 *He gives power to the weak*, And to those who have no might *He increases strength.*

YOU STAND When You *Stop Pretending* You Are Strong Enough *On Your Own*

Difference Between An Extension Cord and A Battery

Recognize Your Weakness In Warfare

Ephesians 6:10 (NLT)

10 A final word: *Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.*

YOUR STRENGTH HAS LIMITATIONS

Mental strength has limits ~ *Emotional strength* has limits ~ *Physical strength* has limits

Experience has limits ~ *Intelligence* has limits

GOD'S POWER IS LIMITLESS

1 Samuel 30:4-6 (NKJV)

4 Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept,
until they had *no more power to weep.*

6 Now David was *greatly distressed*, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was
grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David *strengthened himself IN THE LORD HIS GOD.*

David Did Not Rely On The Power Of Positive Thinking.... Or Draw Encouragement From Past Victories

He turned his attention, trust, and dependence toward God Himself.

David's Circumstances Had Not Changed ~ The Source Of His Strength Had Been Restored

IN THE LORD Requires *Relationship* and *Reliance*

John 15:5 (NLT)

5 Those who *remain in me*, and *I in them*, will produce much fruit. *For apart from me you can do nothing.*

Recognize The Adversary Who Is Attacking

Ephesians 6:11-12 (NLT)

- 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm *against all strategies of the devil.*
12 *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.*

After Paul tells us *where our strength comes from*, he tells us to *become clear* about *who the real enemy is.*

Misidentifying Your Enemy Leads To Fighting The Wrong Battle

Every Misplaced Fight Drains Strength That Was Meant For The Real War

It is hard to defeat an enemy you have not defined...

WHO IS THE ADVERSARY?

1 Peter 5:8-9 (NLT)

- 8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, *THE DEVIL*. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour....9 *STAND FIRM AGAINST HIM* and be strong in your faith.

Various Names....Same Nature

In Genesis ~ The Serpent

Matthew 4 ~ The Tempter

In Isaiah ~ Lucifer

John 10 ~ The Thief

John 8 ~ Father of Lies

2 Corinthians 11 ~ The Angel of Light

You do not need to be afraid of the enemy, BUT you do need to recognize that you have one.

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Recognize He Has Strategies ~ He Will Not Attack The Same Way

*Sometimes he uses temptation ~ Sometimes discouragement ~ Sometimes Manipulation
Sometimes division ~ Sometimes fear ~ Sometimes pride ~ Sometimes distraction ~ Sometimes weariness*

SOMETIMES THE ENEMY DOES NOT HAVE TO DESTROY US...

He only has to distract us long enough to make us stop doing what God called us to do.

The Enemy Studies Patterns ~ So He Will Devise A System/Strategy Based On Patterns

2 Corinthians 2:5-11 (NLT)

- 5 I am not overstating it when I say that *the man who caused all the trouble hurt all of you more than he hurt me.*
6 *Most of you opposed him, and that was punishment enough.*
7 *Now*, however, *it is time to forgive and comfort him.* Otherwise he may be overcome by discouragement.
8 So I urge you now to *reaffirm your love for him.* 9 *I wrote to you as I did to test you and see if you would fully comply with my instructions.* 10 When you forgive this man, I forgive him, too.
And when I forgive whatever needs to be forgiven, I do so with Christ's authority for your benefit,
11 *so that Satan will not outsmart us. FOR WE ARE FAMILIAR WITH HIS EVIL SCHEMES.*

Recognize The Ammunition That Is Available

Ephesians 6:13-17 (NLT)

13 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.

14 Stand your ground, *putting on the belt of truth* and the body armor of God's righteousness.

15 For shoes, *put on the peace that comes from the Good News* so that you will be fully prepared.

16 In addition to all of these, *hold up the shield of faith* to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.

17 Put on *salvation as your helmet*, and *take the sword of the Spirit*, which is the word of God.

God never commands us *TO STAND* without *GIVING US* what we need to *REMAIN STANDING*.

God Has *GIVEN US* The Gear To Stand

You Don't Need *New Weapons...* *You Need To Stop Leaving It Hanging In The Closet*

We can know the Word and not use it ~ We can believe in prayer and not pray

We can understand faith and still operate in fear.

As Believers We Would Rather Looked Blessed... Than Guard Our Blessings

Notice The Majority Of The Weapons Are Defensive

You Are Not *Trying To Win* ~ *YOU ARE ALREADY VICTORIOUS*

You Are Not *Trying To Defeat The Enemy* ~ *HE IS ALREADY DEFEATED*

God Is Commanding Us *TO SECURE* What Has Already Been Given

The Goal Is To Stop Allowing The Enemy To Take What Is Rightfully Yours In Christ

Keep Standing And Knowing When To Fight

Remember This....Every battle does not require the same response.

Sometimes you fight by praying ~ Sometimes you fight by speaking the Word

Sometimes you fight by resisting temptation ~ Sometimes you fight by refusing to argue.

Sometimes you fight by walking away ~ Sometimes you fight by staying where God told you to stand.

THAT IS WHY DISCERNMENT MATTERS.

Not every conflict is your assignment ~ Not every criticism deserves your energy.

Not every person who opposes you deserves your attention ~ Not every battle deserves your participation.

Exodus 14:10-11, 13-14 (NLT)

10 As Pharaoh approached, the people of Israel looked up and panicked when they saw the Egyptians overtaking them. They cried out to the Lord, 11 and they said to Moses, “Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? Weren’t there enough graves for us in Egypt?”

13 But Moses told the people, “Don’t be afraid. JUST STAND STILL AND WATCH the Lord rescue you today.

The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again.

14 The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm.”

2 Chronicles 20:15, 17 (NLT)

15 This is what the Lord says: Do not be afraid! Don’t be discouraged by this mighty army,

FOR THE BATTLE IS NOT YOURS, BUT GOD’S.

17 But you will not even need to fight. Take your positions; THEN STAND STILL AND WATCH the Lord’s victory.

He is with you, O people of Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged.

In Conclusion

Principle #1 ~ Recognize Your Weakness In Warfare

Principle #2 ~ Recognize The Adversary That Is Attacking

Principle #3 ~ Recognize The Ammunition That Is Available



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Preparing For Our

**NEW
SEASON**

"THE SEASON TO LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP"

SUNDAY
SEPT 6
2026

**WEAR YOUR
FAVORITE TEAM JERSEY**
As We Celebrate The Beginning Of A New Season


11AM

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This Sunday!!!

The Start Of A New Season...

We Are Declaring It's Due Season!!