



**Introduction:** This past Wednesday (9/10/2025) was a very \_\_\_\_\_ day in American history. Our nation has lost it civility.

Therefore, as Christians we must \_\_\_\_ remain silent any longer – we must use our freedom of speech and SPEAK!

So, what do we do to pick up the \_\_\_\_\_ and to run the race?” Well, the Bible gives us many “ups” that describe how believers should live, but in this sermon, I want to focus on just three “Ups”. What are they?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Up** – *Ephesians 5:14*

*“Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”*

What a challenging message today! It’s time for people to \_\_\_\_\_ up – you have slept along enough.

### **Waking the Dead**

There are far too many Christians who are \_\_\_\_\_ **asleep**. They are not engaged in the church, nor the culture around them.

Charles Spurgeon wrote, “A \_\_\_\_\_ church compels God to use rough methods to wake her. He may send trial, persecution, or loss until His people cry out to Him again.”

Romans 13:11 - *“The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.”*

Because the hour is late it is time for the Church to \_\_\_\_\_ up and to allow Christ to shine on you.

**Hear me today** – We cannot allow ourselves to hit the \_\_\_\_\_ button on our spiritual lives any longer.

## 2. \_\_\_\_\_ **Up** – *Ephesians 6:13*

*“...having done all, to stand firm.”*

This verse is found in the passage in Ephesians that reminds us that the Christian life is a \_\_\_\_\_ ground (we are in a spiritual war), and we have a very real enemy – the devil. He is called the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10).

The word “*stand*” means to \_\_\_\_\_ your feet firmly.

God’s people are told three times in Ephesians 6:11-14 to stand:

What does standing look like in today’s culture?

In a world that \_\_\_\_\_ truth we as believers are called to remind the world that truth exists.

Dr. John MacArthur taught, *“The church must be steadfast in the Word of God. When the culture drifts into error, the believer cannot drift; we must stand unmovable in the truth of Scripture.”*

It costs to stand for truth. Listen to this list I prepared:

God people must stop \_\_\_\_\_. We must stand up for God's Word even when it's unpopular.

2 Timothy 4:2 - *"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."*

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Up – Acts 4:20

*"For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."*

The early followers of Jesus were told to be \_\_\_\_\_, and to keep the message of Jesus Christ to themselves. They answered them, *"Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."* (Acts 4:19-20).

And we as the Church must not be \_\_\_\_\_ either.

What is the \_\_\_\_\_? The Gospel message only has three points as found in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4:

2 Corinthians 5:21 - *"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."*

Acts 1:8 - *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

We witness not in our \_\_\_\_\_ strength, but in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit – the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead.

Charlie Kirk said, “You cannot have \_\_\_\_\_ if you do not have a Christian population.”

Witnesses share what they have \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Look back at Acts 4:20).

## **Be Bold 4 Jesus**

### **Your Personal Testimony**

#### **4. \_\_\_\_\_ Up – Ephesians 4:15**

*“...we will grow up to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”*

1 Corinthians 13:11 - *“When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”*

Every Christian must set a goal to \_\_\_\_\_ in their spiritual life. It doesn’t happen by osmosis. You must develop a plan for spiritual growth.

### **Wall Height Chart**

- Maturity means moving from milk to \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Hebrews 5:11-14).
- Pursue deeper discipleship, not \_\_\_\_\_ faith (2 Peter 3:18).

**Here are five practical ways to Grow Up:**

**Conclusion:**