

# Do Everything in Love

*But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! We have victory. Now, note 1 Corinthians 15.58 .... because of that victory...be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. Now, look at 16.13-14: Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong. Do everything in love. This is the other bookend to the thought Paul began in 15.58. This is what victorious faith looks like. This is what every Christian aims for. Spiritual strength. Watchfulness. Courage. A caring heart. We'll talk about these things today.*

## I. 16.13a - Be Alert

- A. 16.13 - Have our senses trained to understand the activity of the enemy.
  - 1. 15.34: *Come to your senses and **stop sinning**; for some people are ignorant about God. I say this to your shame.*
  - 2. We need to understand how Satan operates.
- B. So be on the alert for: new temptations, indifference, and the Lord's return.

## II. 16.13b - Stand firm in the faith

- A. 16.13b - wording here means to be *rooted down*.
- B. 2 Thessalonians 2.14-15 - there are some things that have been handed down by God that are not open to question.
- C. Consider the following passages:
  - 1. Philippians 4.1 - be firm in your commitment to Christ.
  - 2. Philippians 1.27 - be **firm** in unity.
  - 3. Ephesians 6.11, 13 - **stand** firm ... against Satan.

## III. 16.13c - Be Courageous.

- A. 16.13c - Main emphasis here is on maturity. See 14.20: *Brothers and sisters, don't be **childish** in your thinking, but be infants in regard to evil and adult in your thinking.*
- B. It takes courage to stand up for what's right.
- C. We are never alone in the process.
  - 1. Ephesians 4.11-12 - shepherds, evangelists, and teachers encourage us.
  - 2. Ephesians 4.13 provides us with the goal: Growing into the **fullness** of Christ.

## IV. 16.13d - Be Strong

- A. 16.13d - May seem paradoxical. Strength comes by yielding to God.
  - 1. Ephesians 3.16; 6.10. If you think you stand on your own, you are really weak.
- B. Joshua 1.5-7 - Do not **turn** from God's path. That's strength.

## V. 16.14 - Do Everything in Love

- A. 16.14 - it's continuous. See Philippians 2.3-4
- B. 1 Peter 4.8 - the tongue sets things ablaze, but love starves out bitterness.

## VI. Conclusion

- A. Now ... how do we get the world to listen? *Do everything in love.*
- B. We help where we can.