

Discuss

The final key to putting the last 15 months behind us: Keep Getting Vaccinated.

The Bible teaches us that we need to keep taking steps to get and stay spiritually healthy, and we must guard ourselves against what might infect us spiritually. The idea is to self protect and prevent an effective attack on our faith. Paul lets us know how to do that:

“Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.” ([1 Corinthians 16:13. NLT](#))

Be on guard. When you let your guard down you become vulnerable. The last 15 months has exposed areas where many of us may have already been vulnerable and made them worse. While we shouldn't be living in a constant state of fear, wisdom would teach us to regularly look and think about our areas of weakness and where we might be attacked.

- Where were you successfully ambushed during the last 15 months? Is there an area of your life that you had your guard down?
- Do you acknowledge that it happened or disregard it?
- How are you going to guard yourself going forward?

Stand firm in your faith. When Paul wrote this he was almost always concerned about false teachings infiltrating the local communities of faith. So he always encouraged standing against things that distort or distract from the message of Jesus.

- Where did you let a false teacher into your world during the pandemic?
- What relationship, blog, website, podcast or book did you engage in that hurt your faith?
- Is there something or someone you should separate yourself from to protect your faith?

Be courageous. Paul is encouraging us to grow up and bring maturity to our lives. All of us have pockets of immaturity, but if we own where we are immature, then we can help reveal the areas we need to grow.

- Where do you need to grow up?
- What steps can you take today to grow?

Be made strong. Coming to Christ is not the same as keeping in step with Christ. It is an ongoing process and way of doing life and allowing His Spirit to occupy, guide and control ever-increasing areas of your life. The more you follow the Holy Spirit, the more

you are filled. The more you are filled, the more you are led. The more you follow those leadings, the more you are filled. It's a relational dynamic.

"[Now that you have the Holy Spirit]...be filled with the Spirit." ([Ephesians 5:18, NIV](#))

- Are there patterns of sin that you need to bring to God?
- Have you read the Bible or spent time with God lately?

Next Steps

We can end the distancing, take our masks off, stop hoarding, clean up our messes and be being filled by continually being vaccinated against all that the last 15 months did to us or we allowed to do to us. What step(s) can you start and keep taking now that will bring you into the new day ahead of us? Choose to take a step today!

July 7: [Online Book Club: Improve Your Serve](#)

July 10: [Crisis Assistance Ministry](#) & [Hope Vibes](#) Serve Days

July 18 & 21: [TeamLife \(In-Person or Online\)](#)

Continued Reading

Read [1 Corinthians 16:13](#); [1 Timothy 6:20-21](#); [2 Timothy 1:13-14](#); Ephesians [4:21-32](#); [5:18](#).

Prayer

God, thank you for the wisdom you have given us through your Word. Help us to take what we've learned during the last few weeks and apply it. Help us to use it to honor you, build a healthy community around us and serve the people who don't know you and/or need to know that they are loved by you. Amen.