

WE MUST DISCIPLINE OURSELVES

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

We left off last time in verse 12. And as we pick up in verses 13 and 14, we find 5 simple phrases that speak of 5 basic disciplines of the Christian life.

- "Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."

I. WATCH: BE ON THE ALERT

This vitally important aspect of "watching" requires identification and preparation.

A. IDENTIFICATION

NEED to properly identify the enemy.

- The surest way to lose a battle is to not know you're in one.
- The second surest way is to know you are in a battle but fight against the wrong enemy.

This phrase is used by Simon Peter in **1 Peter 5:8** -

Ephesians 6:12 -For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

NEWSFLASH: You are in a war and it's a fight to the death. Your enemies are the world, the flesh, and the Devil.

- The flesh wants to entangle you,
- the Devil wants to enslave you,
- and the word wants to entice you. And if you don't know that you're going down

If you think the problem is your kids...your ex...your boss...your parents...your teacher...your coworker...Then while you're fighting them, your REAL enemy is moving in for the kill.

A. IDENTIFICATION

B. INSTRUCTION

Jesus said, if the homeowner had known at when the robber was coming, he would have stayed awake and not been robbed. **Knowledge prompts preparation.** The motto for the Coast Guard is, "Semper Paratus," or "Always Prepared."

I. WATCH: BE ALERT

II. STAND: BE ASSERTIVE

This word "stand" literally means to "keep standing" or "persist."

It implies standing in the face of opposition

It speaks of persevering in times of hardship

The word is used in an interesting way in the Greek translation of the Old Testament in

Exodus 14:13. Israel has left Egypt and now Pharaoh's army has them pressed against the Red Sea. As Israel grumbles and complains, **Moses said, "STAND STILL and see the salvation of the Lord."**

Our convictions should be SETTLED and SCRIPTURAL.

A. SETTLED CONVICTIONS (STAND FIRM)

The picture here is being steadfast and immovable.

The 3 Hebrews in the fiery furnace actually told the king they didn't need additional time to make up their mind about whether or not they would bow. Those boys had a made-up mind. They didn't wait until the pressure was on and the king was waiting before they decided what they were going to do, how they were going to live, and who they were going to worship.

Some matters are so important that if you wait to decide, you've already lost.

If Joseph had waited until he was in the arms of Mrs. Potiphar, he'd have gone from the bed to the cemetery instead of from the prison to the palace.

A. SETTLED CONVICTIONS (STAND FIRM)

B. SCRIPTURAL CONVICTIONS (IN THE FAITH)

THIS stand isn't marked by bowing your back but by knowing your Bible.

(Psalm 119:11)

Because you can't stand firm in the faith if you don't know the faith.

The mandate here is NOT to be a stubborn jerk who stands by your opinions but a mature disciple who stands on the WORD.

By the way, if your beliefs are based on the Bible, they won't change. **(Isaiah 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.)**

When you are expressing your decisions about moral, ethical, and spiritual matters, how do you begin your sentence?

Immature believers say, "Well I just think..."
REAL disciples say, "The Bible says..."

Immature believers act based on personal feelings. REAL disciples act based on Divine revelation.

Some Christians are blown around from church to church, doctrine to doctrine...in and out, up and down, hot and cold...

The man who is planted in the Word is immovable.

He's not driven by polls and every wind of doctrine.

He doesn't swing on a pendulum. He stands on a book.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 - Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

One foggy night at sea the admiral of a ship saw what looked like the lights of another ship heading straight toward him. He had his signalman contact the other ship by light. The message was this: "Change your course 10 to the south."

The reply came back, "No, you change your course 10 to the north." The admiral answered, "You change your course 10 to the south; I am an admiral." The reply came back, "You change your course 10 to the north. I am a Seaman First Class." This infuriated the admiral. He signaled back, "Change your course 10 to the south; I am a battleship." The reply came back, "Change your course 10 to the north; I am a lighthouse."

I. WATCH: BE ALERT

II. STAND: BE ASSERTIVE

III. QUIT YOU: BE ACTING LIKE MEN

Quit. It means, "to act a certain way."

It literally means "strong man" or "man of strength."

A. WE ARE TO GROW

1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

IF YOU GOT SKINNED UP MY DADDY WOULD SAY RUB DIRT ON IT BUTTERCUP

So, you didn't get the solo? Rub some dirt on it, Buttercup!

Somebody offended you in the SS? Rub some dirt on it Buttercup!

You're tired and thinking about not teaching again this year? Rub some dirt on it Buttercup!

You didn't get a pat on the back? Rub some dirt on it, Buttercup!

A. WE ARE TO GROW

B. WE ARE TO GAIN

Heb 6:1 ¶ Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward GOD.

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ; seeing ye have lost so much time already, and made so little progress in learning Christ, let us not therefore stay any longer in the principles of it, but proceed to some higher degree:

Leaving is letting go, as to standing there, so as to make no further progress in that spot, but to gain higher degrees of knowledge in the doctrine of the gospel,

I. WATCH: BE ALERT

II. STAND: BE ASSERTIVE

III. QUIT YOU: BE ACTING LIKE MEN

IV. BE STRONG: BE ACTIVE

Again, the focus here is not on the strength but the strengthening. Not the results but on the process.

A. HE IS BUILDING HIS SELF

Jude 1:20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

Building up yourselves; he compares them to a house, which is to be built up, whereof faith is the foundation:

A. HE IS BUILDING HIS SELF

B. HE IS BATTLING HIS SELF

Most holy FAITH; so he calls faith, as being the means of purifying their hearts, and working holiness in them;

A. HE IS BUILDING HIS SELF

B. HE IS BATTLING HIS SELF

C. HE IS BOWING HIS SELF

Praying in the Holy Ghost; i.e. by the assistance of the Spirit, who teacheth what to pray for, and how;

I. WATCH: BE ALERT

II. STAND: BE ASSERTIVE

III. QUIT YOU: BE ACTING LIKE MEN

IV. BE STRONG: BE ACTIVE

V. WITH CHARITY: BE AFFECTIONATE

1Co 16:14 Let all your things be done with charity.

I believe it's the most important of the 5. For in the spirit of what Paul said about LOVE back in **chapter 13**

A. THAT IS THE BALANCE

"Love complements and balances everything else...It keeps our firmness from becoming hardness and our strength from becoming domineering. It keeps our maturity gentle and considerate. It keeps our right right living from becoming self-righteousness."

B. THAT IS THE BEACON

Of all the things our church could be known for, I'd love for us to be known as a warm and loving church FILLED WITH SPIRIT. For if we don't love and care about people nothing else will matter.

Paul does, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."