

STAND!

NOTE: SATAN'S FIRST RECORDED ATTACK WAS AGAINST _____
_____.

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-6; 8-13 (NASB) Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."... Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

QUESTION: What do you do when you are stuck at the crossroads, and you've done all you can?... **STAND**

You. Just. Stand!

While this advice may seem counterintuitive and illogical to those of you who may be broken and collapsed due to emotional, spiritual, relational (marital), or even physical trials, I believe it is God's answer for you today.

How do we know?

STAND!

Personal, painstaking experience. Some of us have been on a prolonged journey to **STANDING**. And it is in this place of brokenness and pain, fear and insecurity, that God is meeting us and teaching us how to **STAND** again.

Just one simple word. A fairly easy action. Not much thinking required.

But... it is **NOT** our “go-to” position... is it?

Usually, we rely on the automatic “**fight or flight**” response when we face an obstacle or adversary. Sometimes we pull ourselves together, gather our resources, and prepare to **fight**. Other times, we **run** for cover hoping to protect ourselves from the flying shrapnel, waiting until the storm passes.

WHO are our enemies?

The World:

1 John 2:15-16 (NASB) Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

The Flesh:

Romans 7:18-20 (NASB) For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

The Devil:

Ephesians 6:12 (NASB) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

GOD OFFERS AN ALTERNATIVE to “fight” or “flight”: “STAND”.

Ephesians 6:10-13 (NASB) “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to **STAND FIRM** against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the **spiritual forces of wickedness** in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to **STAND FIRM**.”

STAND!

The phrase that keeps resonating is the inspiration for this teaching...

“...and after you have done everything, **to stand.**”

Here is how some other versions of the Bible translate this small phrase:

“and having done all, **stand firm**” (ESV)

“then after the battle, you will still be **standing firm**” (NLT)

“to stand firm in your place—fully prepared, **immovable**, victorious” (AMP)

“so that when it’s all over but the shouting you’ll **still be on your feet**”
(MSG)

WHEN TO JUST STAND

Before, after, and during the battle (spiritual).

There is **NEVER** a time God tells us to **stop standing**.

Did you catch that? He does **not** give us an out. He does **not** say there is a time to run and hide. He does **not** mean that after we have given it our best, we can quit and sit down.

James 1:2-4 (NASB) Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

WHAT GOD SAYS HE WILL DO FOR US WHEN WE STAND

God will use his strength and power to deliver us.

...Don’t be afraid. **Stand firm** and watch God do his work of salvation for you today.” **Exodus 14:13 (MSG)**

God will protect us with his armor.

Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to **stand firm** against all strategies of the devil.” **Ephesians 6:11 (NLT)**

God will stay by our side and never leave us alone.

Joshua 1:5 (ESV) No one will be able to **stand** against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

STAND!

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NASB) Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

HOW TO JUST STAND

Our struggles in this life are real, powerful, and inevitable. God knows this and wants us to prepare us for the onslaught of schemes and devices the enemy will throw at us to knock us off our feet.

Whether your battle is internal or external, temporary or permanent, life-altering or mildly annoying, **God's command does not change.**

God's Word tells us we are **not** to be passive participants but to **proactively prepare for battle by arming ourselves.**

The hard days are sure to come. There **will be battles.** And when they come... **we have to choose to stand our ground.**

While our hard-wired response when we face danger may be the "fight or flight" response, **we can choose God's option instead: STAND.**

Don't **attack** or react aggressively. Don't **run** away and hide in fear.

- **Stand** in truth.
- **Stand** in God's protective armor.
- **Stand** in freedom, knowing the battle is ultimately the Lord's.
- **Stand** in the **knowledge** of **who God is** and **who you are in Him.**

You. Just. Stand!

.... STAY TUNED, MORE TO COME.