



Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.
1 Corinthians 16:13-14

● We're in a **spiritual battle** that tries to **prevent** us from standing.

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers...2 Corinthians 4:4

Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Ephesians 6:11-13

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers...
Ephesians 6:18

● How we respond to setbacks can determine whether we will experience a **breakthrough**.

Setbacks that **attack** our faith need to be met with disciplines that **build** our faith.

I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!
Daniel 3:25

I looked up and saw a man dressed in linen clothing, with a belt of pure gold around his waist. His body looked like a precious gem. His face flashed like lightning, and his eyes flamed like torches. His arms and feet shone like polished bronze, and his voice roared like a vast multitude of people. Only I, Daniel, saw this vision. The men with me saw nothing, but they were suddenly terrified and ran away to hide. So I was left there all alone to see this amazing vision. My strength left me, my face grew deathly pale, and I felt very weak. Daniel 10:5-8

Our disciplines before God can increase our **encounters** with God.

Just then a hand touched me and lifted me, still trembling, to my hands and knees. And the man said to me, "Daniel, you are very precious to God,... Daniel 10:10-11a

3 things that help us stand in faith:

● God **cares** about **you** more than you do.

...you are very precious to God,... Daniel 10:11a

...you are very precious to God, so listen carefully to what I have to say to you. Stand up, for I have been sent to you." When he said this to me, I stood up, still trembling. Daniel 10:11

God's love to you provides **strength** for you.

● God is doing way **more** than you **understand**.

Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. Daniel 10:12

But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. Daniel 10:13

...for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Daniel 10:13a

● God's strength **begins** when our strength **ends**.

How can someone like me, your servant, talk to you, my lord? My strength is gone, and I can hardly breathe. Daniel 10:17

Then the one who looked like a man touched me again, and I felt my strength returning. Daniel 10:18

Your strength requires an **encounter** with God.

Don't be afraid," he said, "for you are very precious to God. Peace! Be encouraged! Be strong!"
Daniel 10:19



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- What in this story speaks most to you?
- Do you tend to forget that you are in a spiritual battle? How does the battle affect your stand personally? How does the Armor of God protect you? Do you use it daily?
- Why do setbacks that attack our faith need to be met with disciplines that build our faith? What are some spiritual disciplines you practice regularly?
- Have you ever experienced an encounter with God due to your spiritual disciplines before God?
- How does knowing that God cares for you give you strength to keep going when you're ready to give up?
- How does knowing that God is doing way more than we understand give us strength to keep going?
- Why's it important to know that God's strength begins in us when our strength ends? Have you ever been "at the end of your rope" and then felt God's touch that gave you the strength you needed?
- What does it mean to you to know that you are very precious to God?

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