



TENACITY

Stand in the Place Where You Live [Ephesians 6:10]

Tenacity is . . . the mental or moral strength to resist opposition, danger, or hardship. It implies firmness of mind and will in the face of danger or extreme difficulty. [Webster's Dictionary]

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

- [1] Leveraging the time we have left . . .
- [2] . . . empowered by the Lord's strength . . .
- [3] . . . to be perfected and completely prepared to stand!

Discussion Questions

1. Read Ephesians 5:15-17. These verses give us insight into leveraging the time we have left. What are the warnings, expectations, and goals as we live our lives that are found in these verses?
2. Read Joshua 1:9 and Isaiah 12:2. God's command to Joshua to trust him and Isaiah's declaration of trust in the Lord teach us so much. Each moment speaks to the promise of the Lord's strength in the lives of His people. What promises from Scripture remind you of God's provision, care, or protection and are an encouragement to you today? [Q - Wiersbe]
3. Read James 1:3-5 and Colossians 1:10-11. God's perfecting of us is a process called sanctification. Jesus gave his life so we could be sanctified [set apart]. Paul challenges believers to stand firm because it is the catalyst to being perfected and completed in Christ. Do you see growth in your life that is evidence of God's perfecting process? [ex. bearing fruit, etc.]
4. Pray for God to help you finish well, and be empowered by His strength, as you are being perfected and completed in Him.

Ephesians 6:10-19 ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. [Eph. 1:19] ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **stand** against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand firm**. ¹⁴ **Stand** therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Ephesians 5:15-17 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Isaiah 12:2 "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."

James 1:3-5 . . . for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Colossians 1:10-11 . . . walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;

Ephesians 1:19-20 . . . and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might, that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places

Ephesians 3:14-19 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

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Key Verse this Week: Ephesians 6:10

Ephesians 6 - Click for Chapter

3588 [e]	3064 [e]	1743 [e]	1722 [e]	2962 [e]	2532 [e]	1722 [e]	3588 [e]	2904 [e]	3588 [e]
Tou	λοιπου	endynamousthe	en	Kyriō	kai	en	tō	kratei	tēs
10 Τοῦ	λοιποῦ	ἐνδυναμοῦσθε	ἐν	Κυρίῳ	, καὶ	ἐν	τῷ	κράτει	τῆς
-	Henceforth	be empowered	in	[the] Lord	and	in	the	strength	of the
Art-GNS	Adj-GNS	V-PMMP-2P	Prep	N-DMS	Conj	Prep	Art-DNS	N-DNS	Art-GFS

2479 [e]	846 [e]
ischyos	autou
ἰσχύος	αὐτοῦ .
might	of Him
N-GFS	Pro-GM3S

“Repetition is a literary device Paul uses throughout *Ephesians 6:10-19* to stress certain ideas. On four different occasions he uses the verb “stand” (ἵστημι) to point to the need for divine enablement and the goal of the struggle (6:11b, 13d, 14a; ἀνθίστημι in 6:13b). He also uses a variety of terms and expressions for power to stress the availability of divine power for believers in the midst of the battle (ἐνδυναμόω, κράτος, and ἰσχύς in 6:10; δύναμαι in 6:11b, 13b, and 16b).” [NIVCNT]

“God makes available his power and divine resources to believers so they can resist the assaults of these hostile spirits and advance God’s kingdom into the world. Believers are called to appropriate these gifts, cultivate their corresponding virtues, and above all, pray in the Spirit as an expression of their dependence on the Lord to receive God’s enabling power.” [NIVCNT]

[1] Leveraging the time we have left . . . [Carpe Deim]

EPHESIANS 6:10a Finally [loipou - making use your remaining time]

Making peace with the Past: Our yesterdays present irreparable things to us; it is true that we have lost opportunities which will never return, but God can transform this destructive anxiety into a constructive thoughtfulness for the future. Let the past sleep, but let it sleep on the *redeeming promise* of Christ. Leave the Irreparable Past in His hands, and step out into the Irresistible Future with Him.

- Oswald Chambers]

Ephesians 5:15-17 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

[2] . . . empowered by the Lord's strength . . .

EPHESIANS 6:10b . . . be strong [endunamo - to be empowered -> receiving strength from an outside source] in the Lord [call to draw on divine power].

Points to 'growing deeper in a present, dynamic, relationship of dependence on the one who is powerful enough to do more that we could ask or even imagine [3:20]

"be strong in the Lord," serves as a summary exhortation that stands over the entire passage and gets at the heart of what he calls his readers to do."

"Western readers might be conditioned to miss the fact that Paul is calling his readers to a relationship of dependence and not urging them to draw on their own internal fortitude and strength. "In the Lord" (ἐν κυρίῳ) clarifies that believers need to draw on divine power." " It is precisely through their relationship with the resurrected and ascended Christ that believers find empowerment. Paul has repeatedly prayed that they gain a heightened awareness of the vastness of God's power that is presently available through Christ for them (1:19). This power is only available through union ""with Christ and participation in his resurrection and exaltation (2:6). This power is not mediated through incantations, formulas, or shamanistic or magical rituals." [NIVCNT]

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua had to take time to read God's Word daily and make it a part of his inner person by meditating on it (Ps. 1:2; 119:97; see Deut. 17:18-20). The Hebrew word translated "meditate" means "to mutter." Consider the benefit of "muttering" God's words throughout the day, either through reading or memorization of Scripture. What an encouragement and blessing for believers!

In the years to come, whenever Joshua faced an enemy and was tempted to be afraid, he would remember that he was a man with a divine commission—and his fears would vanish. Whenever things went wrong and he was tempted to be dismayed, he would recall God's command—and take new

courage. What promises from Scripture remind you of God's provision, care, or protection and are an encouragement to you today?

Isaiah 12:2 "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."

Isaiah 12 forms a fitting climax for this whole section. The preceding chapters have said much about the sins of God's people, warning them of the divine wrath and judgment that was sure to follow. They have also recorded God's declaration of forgiving grace for the penitent, the challenge to believe, and predictions of a glorious future for God's people. God's great name would be exalted, and his king would reign. Nothing could be more appropriate than a heartfelt psalm of praise to round off this section of the prophecy.

[3] . . . to be perfected and prepared for battle [resistance].

EPHESIANS 6:10c and in the strength [kratei - strength to perfect and complete] of his might [ischus - force to overcome immediate resistance] .

Strength - word is krater and it comes from the root word *kratos* ["to perfect, complete," so Curtius, Thayer) – properly, dominion, exerted power.]

ischus - power (over external things) afforded by strength [force to overcome immediate resistance]

Colossians 1:10-11 . . . walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;

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James 1:3-5 [Process of Being Perfected] . . . for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Ephesians 3:14-19 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

"Stand is about making decisions and actually living your life rather than letting it happen." [being present] - Michael Stipe [Speaking to the purpose of the song Stand - released in 1989] by R.E.M.