

October 23, 2022

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

1 Cor. 16:13-14

“Be Strengthened: The Declaration of Dependence”

1. Be on the alert - _____ (1 Pet. 5:8-9; Mk. 14:38; Rev. 3:1-3; 2 Pet. 2; 4:3-5; Eph. 6:18; Mt. 24:42; 2 Pet. 3:10-12)
2. Stand firm in the faith - _____ (Jude 3; 2 Thess. 2:15; 1 Cor. 15:1, 58; Col. 4:12)
3. Act like men - _____ / _____ (1 Cor. 3:1-3; 13:11; 14:20; 1 Pet. 2:1-2)
4. Be strong - _____ / _____ (1 Kings 2:1-2; 1 Cor. 3:3, 18; 4:10; 10:12-13; 2 Cor. 12:4, 7, 9; Eph. 3:16; 2 Tim. 2:1; Eph. 6:10; Joshua 1:1-9)
5. Do everything in love - _____ (1 Cor. 13; Rom. 12:9-21; 1 Tim. 1:5; Jn. 13:34-35)

Discussion and Application:

1. First century Corinth was an evil, corrupt city, and the church wasn't much better. List some of the church's problems that Paul addressed in 1 Corinthians. How do the five commands in 1 Cor. 16:13-14 provide solutions to those problems?
2. What does it mean to **be on the alert**? What is the opposite of that? Look up the verses on the outline and list the specific things that pertain to being on the alert. How specifically might you be more alert?
3. What does it mean to **stand firm in the faith**? What does Jude 3 say about it? What happens if we don't? What are you currently doing to grow deeper and stronger in **WHAT** you believe and **WHY** you believe it? What books, videos, podcasts have helped you stand firm in sound doctrine?
4. In the context of 1 Corinthians, what does it mean to **act like men**? How were the Corinthians acting for the most part? (See 1 Cor. 3:1-3; 13:11; 14:20) List specific ways we can help someone who is spiritually immature grow to maturity in Christ?
5. The Greek word for "**love**" in 1 Cor. 16:14 is *agapē*. It is the love of the will (choice), not necessarily emotions. Note that it is love in action (the words in 1 Cor. 13:4-8 are verbs). Why was it important to **do everything** with that kind of love in the church in Corinth? What are some specific ways you can actively demonstrate love for specific members of our church this week?
6. The verb "**be strong**" (be strengthened) is in the **passive** voice, meaning the strength is coming from a source outside of us (i.e., God). Note other passages where the verb is passive (Luke 1:80; 2:42; Eph. 3:16; 2 Tim. 2:1; Heb. 13:9; Col. 1:9-12; Eph. 6:10-12). Why is it so hard for us to admit that we are weak and need God's strength? Why do we think that "we can handle it" on our own?
7. Read **1 Cor. 10**. What did it mean that God "will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able"? Does that mean He will never give us more than we can handle as many people say? What is the negative example in verses 1-11? What is the warning in verse 12? What is the command in verse 14? What temptation is he referring to in verse 13? What does God provide for us so we can endure it?
8. Read **Joshua 1**. The LORD commands Joshua to be strong and courageous, and He gives Joshua three powerful resources to enable him to do it: God's **Promises**; God's **Precepts**; and God's **Presence**.
 - List the **promises** given to Joshua in this chapter. How would knowing and believing those promises give strength and courage to Joshua when life was hard? What does Joshua 21:45 and 23:14 say about those promises? What promises has the LORD given you that give you strength and courage?
 - What was Joshua supposed to do with God's **precepts**? How closely was he to follow them? Why did God tell Joshua to have them in his mouth and meditate on them? How do those go together? What is your regular practice of reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on the Word of God?
 - How does knowing that God is **present** provide strength and courage? (Joshua 1:9; 2 Chron. 20:14-22; 32:6-8; Mt. 1:23; 28:20; Acts 18:9-11) What can you do throughout the day to practice the presence of the LORD?
9. 56 of America's founding fathers signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776, believing they were more than likely signing their own death warrants. As the last line of the Declaration states, they did so a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence. Write your own **Declaration of Dependence** on the LORD, sign it and date it. Humbly admit that you are weak (2 Cor. 12:4, 7, 9; John 15:1-5). Commit to trusting in God's grace and strength alone in every area of life.