

Paul's Closing Admonitions To Corinth

by Wayne Goff

1. **Be watchful, 1 Corinthians 16:13.** Christians must be on the alert constantly lest they become food for Satan who is ever walking about seeking to devour us! **1 Peter 5:8**
2. **Stand fast in the faith, 1 Corinthians 16:13.** Since we are to “... *contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints*”(Jude 3), we must know what we believe and why we believe it! How can you “stand fast” in something you do not know or understand?!
3. **Be brave, 1 Corinthians 16:13.** One of the greatest needs of the church is courage. Cowardly preachers, elders and Christians will do no good. Some leaders have stood on the “outskirts” of a spiritual skirmish and waited to see how things turned out before they chose their side. Truth has nothing to fear from investigation. We must fight the good fight of faith! Preachers and prophets have suffered ridicule, slander, and even persecution both in the church and out. Jesus and the apostles were killed for preaching the truth. It takes a brave person to be a faithful Christian.
4. **Be strong, 1 Corinthians 16:13.** The strength of the Christian is the Lord, but we must stand with Him shoulder-to-shoulder in the fight for the souls of men. “*That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man*” (Ephesians 3:16). What good does a frightened soldier do?
5. **Let everything be done with love, 1 Corinthians 16:14.** Christianity is based on love for God and for our fellow man (Matthew 22:35-40). If we truly love God and man with all of our hearts, then we will be watchful, we will stand fast, we will be brave, and we will be strong.

These five brief, but powerful admonitions are given for the Christian's consideration. Dear reader, does this describe you? If you have been negligent in any of them, then shore up your defenses!

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