

Introduction:

- Sunday we heard the sermon about God in the history in our Nation. Last Wednesday we heard James talk to us about the realities of being uncomfortable as believers.
- Conversation with an elder. *"Nobody thought it could happen."*
- *"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."* — Martin Luther King Jr.
- What does it look like to stand tall as believers, how can we stand up to the enemy, and how do we not let our hearts fail?

I. Stand Tall - Who You Are

A. Definition:

1. Stand tall: To behave in a brave, proud, or unyielding manner, without retreating from confrontation, danger, or adversity.
2. Stand tall: To stand with you back straight and your head raised (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English Online)
3. To be proud and feel ready to deal with anything. (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English Online)
4. Stand: abide, bear, endure, suffer, and tolerate. While all these words mean "to put up with something trying or painful," **stand** emphasizes even more strongly the ability to bear without discomposure or flinching. (Merriam-Webster)

B. Know who you are (would you step out into traffic? NO, why not? A traffic guard or law enforcement office would. Why?)

1. Kings & priests

- a) 1 Pet 2:9 (NLT) *But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests,[a] a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.*
- b) Exodus 19:6 (KJV) *And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.*
- c) Rev 1:6 (KJV) *And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen*

2. Light bearers

- a) Eph 5 Light! Be like Him!
- b) Imitators 1 Pet 2:21, Phil 2:3-8, 2 Cor 3:18, John 13:12-15, John 13:34, John 15:9-11, 1 Cor 11:1, 1 John 2:6, Eph 4:32, Col 3:13
- c) Not a hint...stench (someone's perfume, someone smokin...vs...worship sweet smelling fragrance. don't want fragrance with a bit o stench! Praise God for our Mediator and the ability to repent and ask forgiveness...washed in the blood(life/who we are), imitators (behavior/speech - Jesus-say what My Father says/does), image (look),
 - (1) ie...someone walks by perfume and sweat (gym?)
 - (2) in the field, no showers...no one noticed, everyone stinketh to some degree...all the same...return/greetings--environment changes...stench becomes noticeable...

II. Know Your Enemy (1 Pet 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.)

A. Enemy:

1. John 10:10 (NLT) *The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*
2. Eph 6:12 *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."* - enemy echelon
 - a) Wrestle: *palé* - a wrestling bout, a struggle, fight, conflict, contest (contest between two in which each endeavors to throw the other, and which is decided when the victor is able to prostrate his antagonist, ie, hold him down with this hand upon his neck; the term is transferred to the struggle of Christians with the powers of evil.) (Thayer's Greek Lexicon)
 - b) *"Look at how a single candle can both defy and define the darkness."* — Anne Frank

B. Tactics/Strategy (examples)

1. Terror/Terrorism (Fear)
 - a) 2 Tim 1:7 (NLT) *For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.*
 - b) 1 John 4:18 (NKJV) *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.*
2. Ignorance Hosea 4:6 (NLT) *My people are being destroyed because they don't know me. Since you priests refuse to know me, I refuse to recognize you as my priests. Since you have forgotten the laws of your God, I will forget to bless your children.*
3. Apathy Rev 3:16 (NLT) *But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth!*

III. Know Your Kingdom Response

A. Wage war - 2 Cor 10:3 *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.*

1. Wage war: make war, to serve as a soldier, to fight like a soldier in war, to engage in spiritual warfare, active service (No Reserves!)
2. War - fight the good fight of faith 1 Tim 6:12 (NLT) *Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses.*
3. Prophecy 1 Tim 1:18 (NKJV) *This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,*

B. Weapons

1. Word ie...(His and ours)
 - a) 2 Cor 10:4 (NKJV) *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,*

- b) 2 Cor 10:4 (NLT) *We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.*
- (1) Weapons: tools, an implement (normally used for warfare), instruments to make war
 - (2) Divine/God: God, the Creator and owner of all things
- c) 2 Cor 6:7 (NIV) *in truthful speech and in the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;...*
2. Righteousness (2 Cor 6:7^)
 3. Worship: 2 Chronicles 20:22-23 NLT *At the very moment they began to sing and give praise, the LORD caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start fighting among themselves. 23The armies of Moab and Ammon turned against their allies from Mount Seir and killed every one of them. After they had destroyed the army of Seir, they began attacking each other.*

Conclusion:

- Note (recap)
- *Who's Job Is it? ...This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.*
- Prayer