

## THE CHRISTIAN MIXTURE OF STEEL AND VELVET

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14 NIV

### INTRODUCTION

HERE IS A COMMAND FOR THE CHRISTIAN TO HAVE CONTRASTING QUALITIES. PAUL COMMANDS US TO HAVE THE STRENGTH OF STEEL IN OUR FAITH AND COURAGE WHILE POSSESSING THE VELVET SOFTNESS OF ALWAYS BEING MOTIVATED AND GUIDED BY LOVE.

#### I. BE ON YOUR GUARD

**1 PETER 5:8-9A NIV** BE SELF CONTROLLED AND ALERT. YOUR ENEMY THE DEVIL PROWLs AROUND LIKE A ROARING LION LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO DEVOUR. RESIST HIM STANDING FIRM IN THE FAITH.

A. DO NOT BE IGNORANT OF SATAN'S DEVICES

**2 CORINTHIANS 2:11 NIV** ...IN ORDER THAT SATAN MIGHT NOT OUTWIT US. FOR WE ARE NOT IGNORANT OF HIS SCHEMES.

B. SEEK GOD FOR SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

#### II. STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH

**EPHESIANS 6:14-17 NIV** STAND FIRM THEN, WITH THE BELT OF TRUTH BUCKLED AROUND YOUR WAIST, WITH THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IN PLACE, AND WITH YOUR FEET FITTED WITH THE READINESS THAT COMES WITH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE. IN ADDITION TO THIS} TAKE UP THE SHIELD OF FAITH} WITH WHICH YOU CAN EXTINGUISH THE FLAMING ARROWS OF THE EVIL ONE. TAKE THE HELMET OF SALVATION AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD.

A. BE PROPERLY EQUIPED IN FAITH

**ROMANS 10:17 NIV** CONSEQUENTLY, FAITH COMES FROM HEARING THE MESSAGE, AND THE MESSAGE IS HEARD THROUGH THE WORD OF CHRIST.

B. TAKE A STAND CLOTHED IN THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

#### III. BE MEN OF COURAGE AND STRENGTH

**DEUTERONOMY 31:6 NIV** BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS. Do NOT BE AFRAID OR TERRIFIED BECAUSE OF THEM, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD GOES WITH YOU; HE WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU OR FORSAKE YOU.

**2 KINGS 2:2-3 NIV** "I AM ABOUT TO GO THE WAY OF ALL THE EARTH," HE SAID. "SO BE STRONG, SHOW YOURSELF A MAN, AND OBSERVE WHAT THE LORD YOUR GOD REQUIRES: WALK IN HIS WAYS AND KEEP HIS DECREES AND COMMANDS, HIS LAWS AND REQUIREMENTS, AS WRITTEN IN THE LAW OF MOSES, SO THAT YOU MAY PROSPER IN ALL YOU DO AND WHEREVER YOU GO.... "

**PHILIPPIANS 1:28 NIV** ...WITHOUT BEING FRIGHTENED IN ANY WAY BY THOSE WHO OPPOSE YOU. THIS IS A SIGN TO THEM THAT THEY WILL BE DESTROYED, BUT THAT YOU WILL BE SAVED AND THAT BY GOD.

**EPHESIANS 6:10 NIV** FINALLY, BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN HIS MIGHTY POWER.

A. KNOW THE PROMISES AND CONDITIONS OF THE WORD

B. TAKE COURAGE IN THE SECURITY THAT GOD GIVES

C. TRUST GOD TO GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH YOU NEED

#### IV. DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE

**EPHESIANS 5:2 NIV** ...AND LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE, JUST AS CHRIST LOVED US AND GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR US AS A FRAGRANT OFFERING AND SACRIFICE TO GOD.

**1 JOHN 4:16 NIV** AND SO WE KNOW AND RELY ON THE LOVE GOD HAS FOR US. GOD IS LOVE. WHOEVER LIVES IN LOVE LIVES IN GOD, AND GOD IN HIM.

A. LOVE IS THE CONTROLS THAT MANIPULATES THE POWER

B. LOVE IS THE MOTIVATING FACTOR THAT ENABLES US TO MINISTER