

**A FINAL EXHORTATION**  
**1 Corinthians 16:13, 14**

**Introduction:**

1. Corinth was one of the most wicked cities in the world.
  - a. The temple of Aphrodite was there.
  - b. To call another a “Corinthian” was the worst insult.
2. Paul established the church in Corinth on his second missionary journey (Acts 18).
  - a. Many obeyed the Gospel (Acts 18:8).
  - b. Paul remained for a year and six months (Acts 18:11).
3. The church at Corinth was divided and troubled.
  - a. Paul wrote two New Testament letters to them.
  - b. He wrote a third letter that was not preserved (1 Cor. 5:9).
4. Paul closed the first letter with an inspired exhortation to faithfulness.

“Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”

**Discussion:**

- I. WATCH!
  - A. This is a military command.
    1. A guard on sentry duty must be awake and alert.
    2. In time of war, a soldier can be shot for sleeping on duty.
  - B. We must watch for our soul’s salvation (1 Cor. 9:27).
    1. It is too important for us to be complacent.
    2. Paul said: “I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified” (1 Cor. 9:27).
  - C. We must watch out for false teachers (Acts 20:29-31).
  - D. We must watch for our Lord’s coming (Matt. 24:36-51).
    1. No man knows the time ( v. 36).
    2. The Flood took away a careless generation (vv. 37-39).
    3. A house is burglarized when the owner is not watching (v.43, 44).
- II. STAND FAST IN THE FAITH!

- A. **“Stand” is from the Greek “stako” from which we get “stake.”**
  - 1. **Because of the hope of the resurrection, we must be “Steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58).**
  - 2. **We must “take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand” (Eph. 6:13).**
- B. **We must stand fast “in the faith.”**
  - 1. **Faith is the body of doctrine which we must believe.**
  - 2. **There is but “one faith” (Eph. 4:4,5).**
  - 3. **We must “contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3).**

### **III. BE BRAVE!**

- A. **The Greek means “to show oneself a man.”**
  - 1. **A coward is not one who is fearless; he is one who fears but overcomes his fear to do what has to be done.**
  - 2. **David’s last words to Solomon included “Be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man” (1 Kings 2:2).**
- B. **Think of the courage of Jesus which led Him to the cross!**

**“But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished” (Luke 12:50)!**

### **IV. BE STRONG!**

- A. **We become strong by feeding upon the Word of God (1 Pet. 2:2).**
- B. **We become strong by exercising our knowledge (Heb. 5:12-14).**
- C. **We become strong by fellowship with the faithful (Heb. 10:25).**

### **V. LET ALL YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE!**

- A. **Love binds all together.**

**“But above all things, put on love which is the bond of perfection” (Col. 3:14).**
- B. **Christians must love one another:**

**“And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins” (1 Pet. 4:8).**

  - 1. **Love will prompt us to restore brethren in sins.**
  - 2. **Love will cause us to have a forgiving spirit.**

## **Conclusion:**

- 1. As Christians we must:**
  - a. Watch at all times!**
  - b. Stand fast in the faith without flinching!**
  - c. Be brave under all circumstances!**
  - d. Be strong and strengthen others!**
  - e. Always be motivated by love!**
- 2. The Christian life is that of a soldier in battle.**
- 3. One must comply with the enlistment requirements to be a soldier:**
  - a. Hear the Gospel (Rom. 10:17).**
  - b. Believe in Jesus Christ (John 8:24).**
  - c. Repent of sins (Luke 13:3).**
  - d. Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32).**
  - 3. Be baptized for the remission of sins (Mark 16:16).**