

“Get Up!”



My sisters love the “**Rocky**” movies, all of them. They can watch those movies every time they come on and never be bored with them. They know every line of the dialogue. But they still get excited when Rocky makes his triumphant comeback to win the match. (I have to admit that I like it, too.) When that music starts playing, my pulse quickens and I get excited, even though I know what the outcome will be. I love rooting for the underdog.

Like Rocky, we are in for the fight of our lives! I don’t mean a little tap on the shoulder or a shove in the back. I mean a real knock-down, drag-out fight to the finish. I am talking about a gladiator death match which will leave the best woman (or man) standing. We will be battered and bruised, but we are guaranteed to win. We will be knocked down, but we will **rise again**.

The reason for that is because, thankfully for us, it is not a fair fight. Unlike Rocky, we are not the underdogs. You may think that Satan has the upper hand and an unfair advantage. But the truth is, we are the ones who have the advantage! Satan is so outmatched that he is already defeated; he just doesn’t know it yet. Because we have the Lord on our side, we are assured the victory. We can confidently move forward, knowing that “to the victors go the spoils”. We can move forward with holy boldness, because we are “more than conquerors”.

We don’t need to wait for the theme from “Rocky” to remind us that we **will** win; it’s already done! We have God’s blessed assurance of our victory. “...Thus says the LORD to you: ‘Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s.’” (II Chronicles 20:15b). We can stand on and depend upon the promises of God because they never fail. Don’t allow the tricks of the enemy to cause you to doubt the One who is faithful and able to deliver you from whatever trap he sets for you. When you think you are going down, just stand. God has promised that He will be there to catch us when we start to fall.

7: But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

8: We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

9: Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

10-12: And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and He wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.

13-18: Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.

Ephesians 6 (The Message)

Father, thank You for providing us with everything we need to be able to "stand". Give us the strength and the courage we need to properly arm ourselves to fight against the enemy. We thank You that You have assured our victory so long as we stay focused on You and Your purposes. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Something to think about:

"Fall seven times, stand up eight."

(Japanese Proverb)

Be blessed in the Lord!