

1 Corinthians 16:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

Analysis

Watch ye—Grēgoreō (γρηγορέω, "be awake, vigilant") carries eschatological overtones—Jesus used it repeatedly in warnings about His return (Matthew 24:42, 25:13, Mark 13:35). Spiritual alertness against deception, sin, and compromise remains essential. **Stand fast in the faith**—Stēkō en tē pistei (στήκω ἐν τῇ πίστει, "stand firm in the faith") employs a military metaphor of holding one's position under assault. Pistis (πίστις) here likely means "the faith"—the apostolic gospel, not merely personal faith.

Quit you like men—Andrizō (ἀνδρίζω, "act like a man, be courageous") comes from anēr (ἀνήρ, "man, male"). This is not gender exclusion but the ancient ideal of courage. **Be strong**—Krataioō (κραταίω, "be strong, strengthened") appears in Ephesians 3:16 for the Spirit's inner strengthening. These four imperatives summarize Christian faithfulness: vigilance, doctrinal fidelity, courage, strength.

Historical Context

These military metaphors would resonate with Corinthians living in a Roman colony with veteran soldiers. The four commands form a rhetorical climax, transitioning from specific Corinthian problems (chapters 1-15) to general Christian imperatives. The call to stand firm "in the faith" combats the theological confusion pervading Corinth—denial of resurrection, tolerance of immorality, misuse of spiritual gifts.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to 'watch' with eschatological expectation in daily Christian life?
2. How do you distinguish between standing firm in the faith versus stubborn inflexibility?
3. Why does Paul use masculine-coded language ('quit you like men') for courage expected of all Christians?

Interlinear Text

Γρηγορεῖτε στήκετε ἐν τῇ πίστει ἀνδρίζεσθε
Watch ye stand fast in the faith quit
G1127 G4739 G1722 G4102 G407

κραταιοῦσθε

be strong
G2901

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 1:9 (Parallel theme): Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Ephesians 6:10 (Parallel theme): Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (Parallel theme): Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Galatians 5:1 (Parallel theme): Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Psalms 27:14 (Parallel theme): Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Philippians 4:13 (Parallel theme): I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 (Parallel theme): Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

Philippians 1:27 (Faith): Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

1 Peter 5:8 (Parallel theme): Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Philippians 4:1 (Parallel theme): Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.