

Stand

Ready:

"This is why you must take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand." —Ephesians 6:13

Set

You may be familiar with the story of James J. Braddock, which was told in the film *Cinderella Man*. Braddock was a former successful boxer who lost everything he had in the Great Depression. He couldn't get work (much less a fight), couldn't pay his bills, and was running the risk of losing his children.

In 1934, Braddock got a chance to fight against the number-two contender. He accepted the challenge even though he hadn't trained or eaten a decent meal in a few years. He stepped into the ring for the money, but while in there, something clicked. At one point, his opponent hit him with a powerful clean shot across the mouth. The only thing on Braddock's mind was his freezing children. Amazingly, he stayed on his feet, walked across the ring to pick up his mouthpiece, and asked for more. Braddock won the fight outright.

The Greek word for "stand" in Ephesians 6:13 is *histemi*, which also means to appoint or establish. When we stand firm after life delivers what seems like a shot to the head, we send a strong message to both those who meant harm and those watching. More people are watching than we know.

Go

1. What tough hits have you taken recently?
2. Are you trying to stand on your own strength or Christ's?
3. What motivates you to stand during the tough times?

Workout

2 Corinthians 2:14-15; Ephesians 6:10-12; Philippians 4:13

Overtime

Jesus, there are many times I feel like I'm losing the fight. Please help me when I feel worn out. Teach me to use the full armor of God—from the helmet of salvation to the feet prepped with the peace of the gospel. Help me serve You wholeheartedly when things get tough. Thank You, Lord. Amen.

Bible Reference:

Philippians 4



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