

STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS (GEORGE DUFFIELD)

George Duffield lived during the American Civil War (1861-65). He was born 12th September 1818 and died 6th July 1888. Having graduated from Yale University and Union Theological Seminary, he became a Presbyterian Minister. His grandfather was a Presbyterian minister, as was his father, and also his son Samuel, - four generations of Presbyterian Ministers. In a career lasting twenty-nine years, he served as pastor of eight churches in New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Michigan, Illinois, and three churches in Michigan.

In the spring of 1858 revival was taking place in Philadelphia. It began during a series of midday prayer meetings coordinated by the YMCA, and a Rev. Dudley A Tyng became recognised as its leader. Dudley Tyng was an outspoken, powerful, and uncompromising preacher, with great influence on the preachers around him. However, a significant number of the members were displeased with him for he stood again slavery. Pressure was brought to bear, and he resigned.

He continued to preach though, and in one particular meeting he was preaching to over 5,000 men from Ex. 10:11, [go now ye that are men, and serve the Lord ...](#) and over 1,000 professed faith in Christ. During his sermon, he is reputed as saying, "I would rather that this right arm was amputated at the trunk than that I should come short of my duty to you in delivering God's message".

Just a few weeks later, he was in his study at home, out in the country, and he heard the mule in the barn making an awful noise, - it was harnessed to a machine for shelling corn (i.e. removing the kernels from the cob). He patted it, but lo and behold, his sleeve became caught in the cogs of the wheel, it pulled his arm in, and he was critically injured. He died less than a week later, but before he died, he was asked if he had a message for the preachers at the revival, and he replied simply, "Tell them to stand up for Jesus!"

After he died, George Duffield, - one of those preachers present at his bedside, - returned home and wrote this hymn as a tribute,

Stand up! Stand up for Jesus!
Ye soldiers of the Cross;
Lift high his royal banner,
It must not suffer loss.
From victory unto victory
His army he shall lead,

Till every foe is vanquished
And Christ is Lord indeed

The following Sunday after the funeral, George Duffield preached from Eph. 6, **14** Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness ... and at the close of the sermon, he read out the words of the poem, which has since become the hymn.

The whole hymn was printed in a Baptist Sunday-School publication, and the music to which it was sung was a secular song written by George James Webb, who had composed it for a musical show on board a ship crossing the Atlantic Ocean. (The words of the secular song begin, "Tis dawn, the lark is singing".)

"Stand up! Stand up for Jesus! Ye soldiers of the Cross" ... We only have four verses in our hymn books, altogether though, Duffield wrote six verses ... The missing two verses say ...

² Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
The solemn watchword hear;
If while ye sleep He suffers,
Away with shame and fear;
Where'er ye meet with evil,
Within you or without,
Charge for the God of battles,
And put the foe to rout.

⁵ Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Each soldier to his post,
Close up the broken column,
And shout through all the host:
Make good the loss so heavy,
In those that still remain,
And prove to all around you
That death itself is gain.

Eph. 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. **11** Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **12** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. **13** Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. **14** Stand therefore

Do you find yourself travelling to Heaven with ‘not a care in the world’? ... You are facing no problems, and no worries? ... Or, like most of us, are there issues with which you regularly contend? The worst are those you cannot get at! ... As a Christian, sometimes are you trying to do better in your walk with the Lord Jesus, but something keeps cropping up and hindering you. It feels like a real problem you cannot overcome, but you know you *must* overcome it, for the sake of becoming a better Christian, as Paul wrote, [Phil. 2:12](#) *work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*

If it is any comfort to you, what you are experiencing, *many* Christians experience. It’s not only you that sometimes finds it hard. The apostle Peter set out to encourage his readers, [1 Peter 2:11](#) *Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul. ... We are ‘strangers and pilgrims’, - in other words, - this world is no longer our country, so don’t get caught up with those old temptations which try to pull us back into its grip. Unfortunately, while we have left them, they have not left us!*

When writing to the Corinthians Paul, again, tried to encourage them in this *spiritual warfare*, [II Cor. 10:3](#) *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: [for although we do live in the world, we are not doing battle using the world’s artillery]* ⁴ *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; [we have finished with how we used to deal with issues, and now, our weapons come from God’s arsenal, - we are using His ‘fire-power’])* ⁵ *Casting down imaginations [confronting the worldly arrogance], and every high thing [belonging to the world] that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ [we bring it under subjection to the authority of Christ].* Christians are soldiers in a spiritual battle-zone, and that is why Paul regularly uses such terminology, for instance, as he instructed Timothy, [1 Tim. 6:12](#) *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called.*

When did this ‘fight’ begin? It began when you trusted Christ as your Saviour. In fact, you could even say, it began when the Lord started to show you your need of Him, because that is when barriers began to be erected, - a battle began to keep Him out, but He overcame and won your soul. ... But especially when you became a Christian, at that very instant, you came ‘into the sights’ of the enemy, - you put the uniform on, and you became a target! ... You are an obvious target because you are carrying the royal banner ... the banner of the Lord, and that banner must be held high, even when it is ‘against unnumbered

foes' ... and it is setting you apart and identifies you as belonging to God! You are wearing the uniform of the Redeemed ... and the enemy hates you because your royal standard reminds him of his inevitable end, in the eternity of Hell! ... You don't need to be a captain or a general, you might only consider yourself to be a simple foot-soldier ... but it doesn't matter to the devil, because all he sees is a soldier of the Lord with whom he is at war.

Are your 'boots polished'? Is your tunic clean? Is it worthy of a soldier in the Lord's army? ... You have to pay attention because the condition of your uniform tells something about the soldier who is wearing it! ... And the devil notices when there is slackness, and he uses it to break his way in and bring indiscipline, neglect, and spiritual carelessness.

Therefore, as on any battlefield, you have to keep aware! And the end of the battle for every combatant is to vanquish the enemy ... but sometimes the enemy is dressed as we are ... And there are many times when he comes in a way you cannot see, - he is so elusive, **Eph. 6:12** *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.* You are not able to feel them, or touch them but they are nonetheless *real* enemies with the potential to cause the most devastating injuries, - spiritual and otherwise, - even to the most experienced and battle-hardened soldier of Christ.

It might seem to be strange language ... describing being a Christian using military and battle terms. But that is how it is often depicted in the Scriptures for when you become a Christian, you are thrust out onto the front line, to face the enemy when he comes and tries to get you to do the things you know now, - as a Christian, - you shouldn't be doing. ... And you fight and battle and try your best, but sometimes you find yourself being overwhelmed, and it makes you feel frightened and a failure. Get up though, for as long as the enemy can keep you down, you remain an 'easy target'. You have to get up, and keep on in the spiritual battle, - no matter how hard it is, - otherwise you will *stay down!* ... You have been enrolled in the Lord's army, you have His spiritual artillery, and you already know He has defeated Satan at the cross!

The Christian belongs to two realms, - the unbeliever only belongs to one, - ... but the Christian belongs to two, - the natural realm into which we are born, and the spiritual realm into which we are 'born again'. When you are 'born *again*', you are no longer a 'child of disobedience' (Eph. 2:2), and you are no longer 'by nature a child of wrath' (Eph. 2:3), but you are *saved*, - conscripted into the

Lord's army, - because He has reached down and lifted you up and *breathed* into you salvation through His Holy Spirit, and now you are 'quickened', - made alive, - in Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:4-7). ... Don't ever let the devil tell you you're not worthy ... because Christ has made you worthy!

It *then* follows that you are under new leadership, - under new command, you are in a different army. The Bible explains how you used to be an enemy of God, - in the enemy's army, - but God has 'won you over' to His side, and made you into a soldier in His service, and now your allegiance is to Him. Consequently, Paul repeatedly exhorted the Ephesian believers, **Eph. 5:1** *Be ye therefore followers of God ...* **2** *And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us ...* **6** *Let no man deceive you with vain words ...* **7** *Be not ye therefore partakers with them ...* **11** *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them ...* **15** *See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise ... and then* after more instructions, - as he reached his closing exhortation, he wrote, **6:10** *Finally, my brethren, [... i.e. after all the Christian duties and responsibilities I have set out before you in the preceding verses] be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. What an important command! ... You are in the Lord's army, so you, - as the hymn says, - "stand in His strength alone", - otherwise you will tire out and become another victim to the enemy. ...*

And when you are standing in His strength, you enjoy a confidence you could not otherwise have ... and you will not run away! William Gurnall wrote, "A cowardly spirit is beneath the lowest duty of a Christian". Imagine the shame brought to the uniform and to the royal flag when a soldier runs from the enemy! ... You are to *be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might*. How do you become strong in the Lord? You become strong in Him by spending many hours with Him in training. ... A good soldier never stops his training!

They never quit training! They become familiar with all their exercises. They take their weapons apart, and put them together again, they know how to work their radios, they know how to expect the enemy, etc. They aim their weapons at the target, and they don't miss for a poor soldier is a dead soldier! He is not only a danger to himself, but he is also a danger to his comrades.

And it is all too easy to start out well, - when you dress up in your uniform, and smell the material, and you are all excited, - ... but when the reality 'kicks in' and you are out on duty in dangerous terrain for many hours, - day and night, - it is all-too-easy to become tired and exhausted ... And when you become tired

and exhausted, you are fodder for the enemy! ... And that is when being in the Lord's army becomes really dangerous!

In difficult regions where the enemy keeps hidden, you cannot afford to 'let your guard down', because he could be on you 'in a flash'. You can't afford to take days off, and you cannot afford to be never always ready, - "where duty calls, or danger, be never wanting there". As a Christian, you neither relax in your training, nor when you are away from the places of safety. ... Think of the energy those soldiers in conflict zones must have to be carrying all their equipment in the heat of the desert! You know, the Lord doesn't give us sufficient strength on a Sunday morning to last us through to the next Sunday morning, it's like the manna ... it was the daily food for His people in the wilderness, and they couldn't store it away ... they had to keep feeding on it daily ... to keep it up-to-date!

Yes, it takes time and energy, and it takes commitment to keep up to the standards of a highly efficient soldier ... In the Lord's army that means we need to know how to handle the 'weapons' of God's Word, and prayer, and faith. ... And also to remember we are not fighting the battle on our own, for are alongside many other faithful saints. We are using the same 'artillery', and the same 'war-plan', and we are under the same command!

Of course, it's a wicked battle, - what battle isn't?! But the purpose of the enemy *we* are fighting is to annihilate the people of God. Often, you can hear the enemy cursing and swearing, you hear to his foul tongue ... but there are other times he puts on the same clothes as we wear, and speaks as we do, using the same religious language and phrases. Fighting a war takes so much wisdom and care!

In the British Army there are regiments with different badges and symbols relating to their own particular identity ... but they all belong to the British Army. Some of them might drive tanks, some might operate communications, some might be cooks, some work in the offices, some are infantry ... but they are all different sections within the same army. Similarly, there are different 'battalions' in the Lord's army. Some are equipped evangelists, Bible teachers, Pastors, some as elders and deacons, some as church workers in various capacities, - all equally important in the Lord's work ... Some of them are Baptists, and some of them are Presbyterians, Brethren, Pentecostals and ... but it is all the same army for they all believe in Christ as their only Saviour and Lord, - they have all sworn allegiance to Him as their Captain, and they are clothed in the uniform of the righteousness of God.

At the head of the army is the One Who is Faithful and True. His eyes are as a flame of fire, - He is focussed on defeating the enemy, - **I Sam. 17:47** the battle is the LORD'S. His clothes are dipped in the blood of His enemies whom He has defeated, and He has a sharp sword with which He smites the ungodly ... and He has a Name written on Him that belongs to none other, **Rev. 19:16** KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. Behind Him is His armies, each one of them despatched to their place on the battlefield ... and their enemies **Rev. 17:14** shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

The devil knows he is facing defeat, “the strife will not be long; this day the noise of battle, the next the victor’s song”. Christ will be all-victorious, - we know Who wins! There is absolutely no way Satan can win! He puts up a mighty fight, but he keeps on battling though, and that is why we need to be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might and to put on the whole armour of God, - our victory depends upon our commitment and allegiance to Christ, for only with Him can we defeat the devil.

So, here he is, Paul, - an experienced soldier of the Lord, under the instruction of God, and he is teaching us about ‘standing up for Jesus’ ... and look at his ‘medals’ ... **II Tim. 4:7** I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: **8** Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

The trumpet-call obey ...
 To him who overcometh
 A crown of life shall be;
 They with the King of Glory
 Shall reign eternally.