



**SESSION 3 — The Uniqueness of a Godly Man:
1 Corinthians 16:13-14
- Pastor Keith -**

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 — “Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”

James MacDonald, *Act Like Men: 40 Days to Biblical Manhood* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2014).

**THE VIGILANCE OF GODLY MANHOOD
“Be watchful.” Be alert!**

This word means “to stay awake” or better “to be in constant readiness.”¹ Scripture repeatedly emphasizes the importance of this virtue. In Mark 13:35-37, Jesus exhorts, “Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.” Vigilance is necessary for several reasons.

1. We need to be vigilant, because Christ has woken us up.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-11 — “But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For

God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” (Illustration: we weren’t hired to sleep on the job!) Cf. Ephesians 5:7-16

2. We need to be vigilant, because temptation never sleeps.

Matthew 26:36-41 — “Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, ‘Sit here, while I go over there and pray.’ And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, ‘My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.’ And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.’ And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, ‘So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.’”

1 Peter 5:8-11 — “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

3. We need to be vigilant, because the safety of the church is at stake.

Acts 20:29-32 — “I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to

the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

Remember, men, ours is the responsibility to “keep” the church from harm; therefore, we must be awake and alert to do so. Prayer will give us discernment in our vigilance (Colossians 4:2).

Too many of us are distracted. It is time for us to wake up and lock in. Listen to Paul’s exhortation in Romans 13:11—“The hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.” May we be men of vigilance, safe-keeping those around us!

THE CONVICTION OF GODLY MANHOOD “Stand firm in the faith.” Be convinced!

This word means “to be firmly committed in conviction or belief.”² It speaks of rational and radical commitment to our faith, along at least three lines.

1. Commitment to the lordship of Jesus (Philippians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 3:8).
2. Commitment to the gospel of Jesus (Philippians 1:27; Galatians 5:1).
3. Commitment to the Word of God (2 Thessalonians 2:15).

May we be men of conviction, tenaciously clinging to the things of God (cf. Mark 8:33-38)!

THE POWER OF GODLY MANHOOD “Be strong.” Be dependent!

This passive verb reminds us that it is something that we cannot do, but that must be done to us—we must “be strengthened.” Paul prays for such divine empowerment in Ephesians 3:14-16—“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father...that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being.” May we be men of dependence, discovering firsthand that “God gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6)!

THE SPIRIT OF GODLY MANHOOD “Let all that you do be done in love.” Be loving!

The flavor or feel of our lives should be love. Just a few chapters earlier, Paul encouraged us, “But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way” (1 Corinthians 12:31). With that, he transitioned into the “love chapter” in 1 Corinthians 13, and commends love to us for two reasons.

1. The presence of love transforms our relationships (vv. 4-7).
2. The absence of love trivializes our relationships (vv. 1-3).

If you take a blank sheet of paper and write out a long row of zeros, the value is still “0.” But when you add a positive number to the front of that long row, that number is immediately given value.

Likewise, if our roles, responsibilities, and relationships are not being driven by love, God assesses their value as “0.” It is only when love becomes the spirit of your life, that your manhood reflects the Lord’s and can become transformative like His. Oh how our homes, our workplaces, our society, and our churches need men who “let all that [they] do be done in love.”

THE TRADEMARK OF GODLY MANHOOD “Act like men.” Be courageous!

“Act like men” translates one Greek word (*andrizomai*) that shares the same root as the Greek word for “man” (*anar/andros*). It appears only in this passage in the New Testament, and means to “conduct oneself in a courageous way”³ or “to exhibit courage in the face of danger.”⁴ The Greek translation of the Old Testament, the Septuagint, uses this word in several passages that help us further appreciate the sense.

- Deuteronomy 31:6 — “Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”
- Joshua 1:6-7 — “Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded

you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.”

- 1 Chronicles 22:13 — “Then you will prosper if you are careful to observe the statutes and the rules that the Lord commanded Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Fear not; do not be dismayed.”
- Psalm 27:14 — “Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”
- Psalm 31:24 — “Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!”

Although we love to appear confident, oftentimes we know ourselves to be cowardly. We’re like the lion from the *Wizard of Oz*.

[Lion] “Courage! What makes a King out of a slave?

Courage! What makes the flag on the mast to wave?

Courage! What makes the elephant charge his tusk, in the misty mist or the dusky dusk?

What makes the muskrat guard his musk?

Courage! What makes the sphinx the seventh wonder?

Courage! What makes the dawn come up like thunder?

Courage! What makes the Hottentot so hot? What puts the "ape" in apricot?

What have they got that I ain't got?”

[others answering] “Courage!”

[Lion] “You can say that again!”

In contrast, if we are vigilant, committed, dependent, and loving men, then God will put this trademark upon us—courage. Following in the footsteps of the perfect Man, we will discover our character and disposition becoming lion-like, like His! We will become “strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might...that [we] may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm” (Ephesians 6:10ff). When you and I see, savor, and celebrate Jesus, we will be filled with His courage and bravery in order to stand firm in whatever evil day we encounter. May God help us to become men of courage!

ENDNOTES

¹ William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, and Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 208.

² *Ibid.*, 944.

³ *Ibid.*, 76.

⁴ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 306.