

July 11, 2021

I Corinthians 16:10-24 "Tough And Tender"

**PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

Paul gives five imperatives, five commands. They are: **be alert, firm, mature, strong, and loving.**

**BE ALERT**

Be awake, be vigilant, spiritually awake-not indifferent and listless.

Be on alert of the evil one. He wants to ruin you and destroy your family.

Be on the lookout for temptation in many forms: addictions, desires, and misplacement of priorities for example.

Be alert, be ready for the return of the Lord Jesus. Remember **Chapter 15!**

**BE FIRM**

Do not allow yourself to be carried away by every wind of doctrine. Be on the alert for false teachers and bad (non-biblical) doctrine. Know what Scripture teaches and to do it. Correct doctrine equals correct view, correct beliefs, and correct actions.

**BE MATURE**

Act like men and women! Grow beyond the milk of the Word to the meat of the Word. "Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth." (**II Timothy 2:15** CSB)

**BE STRONG**

Be strong in passive voice means to literally "be strengthened" something going on from out, not within one's self. This strengthening is the Lord's work. **Philippians 4:13** Paul declared that he can do all things through Christ who strengthens him. See how this works?

**BE LOVING**

Let all that you do be done in love, without love the other four just don't work. Reflect on **I Corinthians chapter 13**, the love chapter.

Love is what is going to properly balance the TOUGH and TENDER.

**APPLICATION:**

These five commands all require discipline in one's spiritual life and are only accomplished through Christ Jesus. See **Philippians 4:13**. As one sees more and more of these qualities in his/her life it is a sure sign of spiritual maturity in the believer's life. Review the above five commands given in this pericope, then do a self-examination of your spiritual growth. No matter where one is in regard to this measuring line of spiritual maturity there is always room for growth. Ask the Lord to reveal new heights of spiritual maturity for you to strive for and ask Him to give you the wisdom and strength to accomplish this in your walk of spiritual sanctification. A good one to start with is to ask the Lord to teach us how to love as He loves.