Contending
(February 11, 2009)

Jer 12:5 (Set sights high! Expect more!)
"If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you,
Then **how can you contend** with horses?
And if in the land of peace,
In which you trusted, they wearied you,
Then **how will you do** in the flood plain of the Jordan?

Isa 50:4-9 (Accept God’s call to stand.....obey...take a stand!)
4 "The Lord GOD has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should **know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary.** He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned.
5 The Lord GOD has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away.
6 I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.
7 "For the Lord GOD will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.
8 He is near who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me.
9 Surely the Lord GOD will help Me; **Who is he who will condemn Me?** Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; The moth will eat them up.

Jude 3 (We must contend for the faith...)
Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to **contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.**

Eph 6:10-20 (How do we contend?) (Be prepared, put on the armor....leave it on)
10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.
11 **Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**
12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
14 Stand therefore, having **girded your waist with truth,** having put on the **breastplate of righteousness,**
15 and having **shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;**
16 above all, taking the **shield of faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.
17 And take the **helmet of salvation,** and the **sword of the Spirit,** which is the word of God;
18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with
all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--
19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,
20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

**Ps 1:1-3 (Delight and Meditate)**
Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night.
3 He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.

**Luke 21:25-28 (He is coming back!!) We can be ready...**
25 "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring;
26 men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken.
27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.
28 Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

**Luke 21:29-36 (Watch and pray...)**
29 Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees.
30 When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near.
31 So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.
32 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place.
33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

34 "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.
35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.
36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

**Rom 5:1-2 (Stand in grace)**
1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
1 Cor 16:13-14 *(Stand in faith)*
13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.
14 Let all that you do be done with love.

1 John 4:6 *(Don’t worry about those who don’t want to hear...)*
We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.