

## ***Stand Firm for the Lord Part 1***

***“12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” (Matthew 24:12-13 KJV)***

There is an increasing wickedness all around the world and more temptations to pull the people out of the right way of life and Godliness. Now the increasing corruption, compromises, lack of commitment and the irresponsibility in the people’s life and behavior might infect others and make their love to God and their commitment to Him less. \* You might say why I should work hard and do that and this while others are not doing anything of that. You might be also thinking while you are keep doing the right thing and diligent to obey all what God had commanded you but others who are keep doing wrong they are receiving and getting better things. \* But do not be deceived even if the wicked are getting some better things now, this is only temporary but later on they will be judged and you will be rewarded. \* The Bible commends us to persevere and to stand firm on the Word of God and based our lives on what He says in His Word and He will be the one to reward us.

***“58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58 KJV)*** You should not be tempted with the circumstances around you and hold yourself back from serving the Lord fully. God will reward you for all your services if you are diligent and obedient to Him. Therefore do as ***1 Corinthians 16:13*** says, ***“13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”***

You need to be alert and aware of what God wants you to do and what the circumstances around you calls for you to achieve. You need to know about the plan of God in your life that He had called you for eternity and you must be alert that the devil will try to oppose you to hinder you from doing God’s will and plan, ***“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, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;” (Ephesians 6:12-14 KJV)***

Life and all the struggles that might carry is something not easy to manage, as well as the battle against the devil is not easy, but we must remember that the Lord who called us for His own glory and purpose will neither leave us nor forsake us. He will deal with our enemies and He will fight the battle for us, ***“17 Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.” (2 Chronicles 20:17 KJV)*** God will defend us and will not allow the devil to overpower us and oppress us. The devil will always try you and wants you to compromise and yield to His will. But you need to stand firm and hold on the sound teaching that you had received, ***“15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.” (2 Thessalonians 2:15 KJV)*** But if you have not received any teaching, then you need to be discipled and trained according to the Word of God, ***“16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all***

***good works.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17 KJV)*** The Word of God will help you, guide you, correct you and instruct you how to follow God and train you how to stand against the power of darkness and how to serve Him.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ stood firm on the cross, even He was alone with all the pain and suffering of the cross, therefore He brought us great victory. ***The same also will be for us, we will be persecuted because we want to keep His Word and commands, but He commanded us to stand firm, “22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.” (Matthew 10:22 KJV)*** Certain times we are not standing firm because we are overwhelmed by the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desire of other things come in and choke the Word of God and make us ineffective and shaken and cannot stand firm.

Certain times our focus is shifted, that we are no more focus on the Lord and on His Word. But we are focus on power, position, prestige, as well as the pride and boasting inside us would hinder us from standing firm. We found ourselves dragged by our own emotions and prideful promises. Simon Peter the disciple of Jesus out of showing off and boasting he said to the Lord that even if everyone will leave Him and escape he will stay with the Lord and even he was willing to go to the prison and to death for the Lord. He wanted to tell to the Lord that he was better than others. At the time that Jesus got arrested Simon kept following Jesus to the place that they were taking Him because he wanted to keep what he said not out of love but to keep his face in what he promised to the Lord; added to that his boasting, his fear, his intermingling with the guards who arrested Jesus, and his lack of prayer in that period of his life with Christ; all that had pushed Simon to deny the Lord. But Jesus had already warned him that devil wanted to take him away from the Lord. ***“31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: 32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.” (Luke 22:31-32 KJV)*** But Simon out of his pride answered the Lord, ***“33 And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.” (Luke 22:33 KJV)*** But the Lord already knew what was inside of Peter, ***“34 And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.” (Luke 22:34 KJV)*** But although Simon denied the Lord three times, praise be to the Lord that he corrected himself and repented and was restored. ***The same for you; if you had done mess with the Lord, it is time for you now to repent and to come back to God, to humble down and accept correction, so you can be restored and start to serve Him.***

We need to be encouraged today as we are reaching and moving forward toward the end of times and the second coming of the Lord. Jesus said, ***“13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” (Mark 13:13 KJV)*** We are in the end times that wickedness is praised now a day. Holiness and righteousness now a day are something odd and people laugh on the person who believe in that and follow God. Righteousness and holiness are not only odd but it contradicts and opposes wickedness and the evil that is so prevalent now a day. That is why those who stand for righteousness and walk in holiness will be hated, troubled and opposed by those who hate the truth. ***“18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.” (John 15:18-19 KJV)*** The message here today is to be encouraged and strengthen to continue to go on and follow the

Lord and serve Him whatever the persecution and the circumstances that we are passing through.

We need to stand firm and we don't need to be intimidated by the people who are around us who don't want to follow God. We need to be firm in our faith and in our decision to follow God. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ stood firm in His suffering on the cross and for this very reason we got saved as Jesus achieved the mission that God had entrusted to Him to do in saving mankind from sin and death. On the cross no one was with Him, all His disciples left Him and went away, but He entrusted Himself to God and persevered to the end in doing His mission in spite of all His pain and agony on the cross. But as He stood firm He brought back those who had gone astray.

The theme of standing firm is required in our Christian walk with God. Our enemy the devil will try its best to discourage us and hinder us from completing our walk with God and as we are attacked by the enemy those who are weak in faith they might fall and run away but as we stand firm in facing the attacks of the devil those who are weak and had gone astray they will come back. We will read now few events about David and his mighty men who stood firm in facing the enemy and defended the field that was entrusted to them and brought great victory to the people of God: *"8 These be the names of the mighty men whom David had: The Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same was Adino the Eznite: he lift up his spear against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time. 9 And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away: 10 He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and the LORD wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to spoil. 11 And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines. 12 But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD wrought a great victory."* (2 Samuel 23:8-12 KJV) So we can clearly see that one or two if they will stand firm they will bring great victory and will make the difference. The same for us, we are the salt of the earth and the light for the world when we will stand firm we will make the difference. The Word of God tells us the following: *"9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;"* (1 Peter 2:9 KJV) We who believe in Christ and obey His Word are the holy priests of God and that what we are. And we are called to stand firm and obey the Lord so others will obey and be able to cross from darkness unto the light. The people of God they were in Egypt and God brought them out from the slavery to bring them into the promised land. Before they entered into Canaan they needed to cross the Jordan river to reach. God gave His instructions to Joshua on how the crossing should take place. The emphases were on the priests who would carry the ark. Let us read the full event and see how it is fruitful when we obey God and stand firm on His command, and how much we can help others to follow right as we obey carefully the full instructions of the Lord. *"1 And Joshua rose early in the morning; and they removed from Shittim, and came to Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. 2 And it came to pass after three days, that the officers went through the host; 3 And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it. 4 Yet there shall*

*be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore. 5 And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you. 6 And Joshua spake unto the priests, saying, Take up the ark of the covenant, and pass over before the people. And they took up the ark of the covenant, and went before the people. 7 And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee. 8 And thou shalt command the priests that bear the ark of the covenant, saying, When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan. 9 And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, Come hither, and hear the words of the LORD your God. 10 And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you, and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites, and the Perizzites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Jebusites. 11 Behold, the ark of the covenant of the LORD of all the earth passeth over before you into Jordan. 12 Now therefore take you twelve men out of the tribes of Israel, out of every tribe a man. 13 And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD, the LORD of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap. 14 And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people; 15 And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,) 16 That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho. 17 And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan."* (Joshua 3:1-17 KJV) The priests obeyed the instructions of Joshua and stood firm on the ground in obedience to the Word of God that Joshua instructed them with and as a result of that all the people were able to cross the Jordan river and go to their inheritance.

**My Dear and Beloved:** This is shall be our conclusion: \* That as we stand firm on the ground of the reality and obey what the Word of God is telling us the others will know the way and will see clearly the truth and will be able to cross on dry ground from darkness toward the light. \* There are people whom we love and they are dear to us and we are praying for them to know Jesus and got saved. We can help them to walk in the right way that bring them to eternity, and this will be possible if we ourselves stay on the way of Lord as we commit ourselves to the Lord and continue to serve Him, worship Him and do His will.

We need to stand firm. If we had been driven away by trials, opposition of the enemy or by our sinful nature and pride, today God is calling us to be with Him and to stand firm; to come back to Him and serving Him wholeheartedly and walk in His ways and be good example to others to come back and follow the Lord and be deserving to Jesus' promise in **Matthew 24:13**, **"13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."**

Let us pray ...

**My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that you sent to me in this message that gave me clarity about my great rule when I obey your Word. Lord thank you for all what you had given to me of material things and thank you for all the spiritual gifts that you gave me to serve you. Lord thank you for strengthening my faith and my trust on you through this message. Lord thank you for your calling to me and in giving me another opportunity to come back to you and to serve you.

Repent and renounce all your sins. Repent of your corruption, compromises, lack of commitment and your irresponsible attitude and behavior. Repent of your stubbornness and delay obedience. Repent of your lack of faith and your lack of trust in God. Repent of your discouragements, doubts, worries and negative thoughts. Repent of doing your own will and plan. Repent of your fear of man and your lack of the fear of God in your life. Repent of your love for money and your love for the material things. Repent of your envy, jealousy, lust, immoralities and the rest of your worldliness and the works of the flesh in your life. Repent of your lack of love to God and to His work. Repent and renounce your pride and boasting, and your love for power, position, and prestige. Repent of your non willingness to suffer for Christ and go along His will and the plan that He has for you. Repent of your non willingness to commit yourself to do the good works that God had prepared for you to do. Repent of your lack of prayers and lack of reading God's Word in the Bible. Repent of your yoke with the non believers, with many friends, and with the Media, News and games. Lord forgive me, I repent and renounce the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord I commit myself to abide with your Word and to live in holiness and away from sins. Lord I am coming back to you, receive me and uphold me with your grace to stand firm against all trials and temptations. Lord I commit into your hand the following problem and struggle to solve it and make me overcome \_\_\_\_\_. Lord I commit myself into your hand to stand firm and obey fully your commands so others will know you through my life's testimony and follow you, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord, thank you for all my Brothers and Sisters who repented from their sins and had committed their lives to stand firm against sins, to serve you, and to do the good works that you had prepared for them to do. Lord protect them and provide all their needs. Lord do wonders and miracles in their lives solve their problems and continue to guide them so they will continue to serve you. Lord use their lives as good testimonies to others to follow you.

Lord help us as a church and guide us with your Holy Spirit to continue to stand firm against all the challenges that the devil is putting against us and against the persecution and the opposition to your Word and your will. We come against all the works of the devil and we rebuke it and cast it out in the name of Jesus. Lord we commit ourselves to live by faith and follow the style of life that you ordained for us to follow. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make disciples and train workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come to take us. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel

pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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