

Stand Firm for the Lord Part 2

To stand firm for the Lord it does not mean that you become stiff standing where you are, but stand firm means to continue to be in the right way, moving to reach the goals that are ahead of you.

Many occasions in the Bible mentioned, stand firm, or a similar statement as such:

1. *“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)* As you are making a choice and seated in the right place and doing the works of God, those who are around you, those who are jealous of you may try to get you out of the secure place where you are standing, therefore you need to be careful and continue to stand firm in what you are pursuing.

Jesus while teaching about the narrow and wide gates He said the following: *“13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14 KJV)* Clearly it shows that there are two options: one is wrong and leads to destruction and the other one is right and leads to life. As you choose Jesus as your personal Savior because He died for you to give you eternal life and as you follow His steps in life you are choosing the right way. * Though, this choice may be easy to choose but difficult and costly to do. Therefore, it requires from you to live a life away from sin, away from anger, from jealousy, pride, greed for money, and lust for flesh, injustice, or favoritism, in order to be away from temptations, and you need to follow God’s grace, mercy and love. * There are people who come to know Jesus but in the midst of the journey they have difficulties in giving up the pleasures of this world. This is because as you follow Jesus your first enemy is the devil that tries to keep you away from God. The devils’ destiny is the eternal fire and he is trying to pull you out from following Jesus so you will end in fire.

* Therefore my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm, continue to walk with Jesus. Continue to do His will, continue to serve Him, continue to tell others about Him, and continue to speak about His goodness and His faithfulness. * Always give yourself fully to the works of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. As you believe in Jesus and follow Him you have eternal life, and as you serve Him you have a reward in Heaven; everything you are doing is being recorded and He will reward you accordingly.

2. *“13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. 14 Let all your things be done with charity.” (1 Corinthians 16:13-14 KJV)* * Again the Word of God tells us to stand firm in our faith and believe in Jesus. The enemy, which is Satan, will try to create problems for us, and will fight against us. He will try to put fear and discouragement in our hearts, to hinder us from continuing to walk with Jesus. * The enemy tries to shake our faith and our trust in the Lord. But the Word of God teaches us to be men of courage in times of trials facing persecution or oppositions, sicknesses, financial difficulties, carrying big responsibilities or doing big tasks; and to do everything with love. *“12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that,*

when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.” (1 Peter 4:12-14 KJV) So let us stand firm when we placed in hard situations. At such moments we really need to stand firm in the Lord, and we should not to be shaken even we are pressurized. Remember our Lord and our Savior Jesus Christ, how He suffered on the cross to save us: *“22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:” (1 Peter 2:22-23 KJV)* In such circumstances when people attack us or slander us, we need to trust God that He will judge between us justly, and He will restore and bring back to us what is due for us as He promised.

3. *“8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” (James 5:8 KJV)* Whatever your suffering and whatever your pain is, or the hard time that you are passing through, remember one thing and put it in front of your eyes; that the Lord Jesus Christ is coming soon as He said, *“12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” (Revelation 22:12 KJV)* Jesus is coming soon and He will wipe every tear from your eyes; He is coming back soon to take you with Him to Heaven as He promised us, *“1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” (John 14:1-3 KJV)* Therefore rejoice! Commit yourself fully to God as you know that you have a secure place in Heaven.

Let us now read and discuss the following Scripture: *“1 After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; 2 And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. 3 And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers. 4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. 5 And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ. 6 And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean; from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles. 7 And he departed thence, and entered into a certain man’s house, named Justus, one that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue. 8 And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized. 9 Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: 10 For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city. 11 And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.” (Acts 18:1-11 KJV)*

In the Scripture that we read there are several names mentioned like Paul, Aquila, Priscilla, Silas, Timotheus, Justus, and Crispus. And we may ask this question: Who is among those names had done good things to God in serving Him? All of them they had done great things to God and all of them served God wholeheartedly. But we want to emphasize on two characters here and they are:-

1. **Crispus:** He was a Jewish and the ruler of the synagogue at Corinth city. Paul went to the synagogue to preach the gospel to them. Paul testified to them that Jesus was the Christ, **“6 And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean; from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.”** (Acts 18:6 KJV) The Jewish refused the message of Paul; they did not accept the gospel message, but the ruler of the synagogue Crispus accepted that. Crispus being the ruler of the synagogue at Corinth, that was his work, and if he would accept Christ the first thing that he would lose, he would lose his job and the source of his income. But Crispus took the right decision and accepted Christ as Savior and Lord over his Life. Indeed he and all his household got baptized. **Baptism means to put to death your old life and be buried with Christ, and to rise with Him to a new life, “12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”** (Colossians 2:12 KJV) **“3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:”** (Romans 6:3-5 KJV) Crispus being a Jewish when he accepted Christ he had to renounce and leave his previous tradition and culture. He needed to leave his people and to be united with the family of God, the believers in Christ. That would jeopardize him and even make him exposed to threats and persecution, but he was not afraid because Christ became his first importance.

What about you? Can you stand firm as Crispus? If people do not believe in Jesus, don't look to them, you believe. If others they don't want to leave their parent's tradition and get baptized you follow Christ and accept to be baptized. If others they don't apply the Word of God in their lives you accept the Word of God and apply in your life. **“22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”** (James 1:22-25 KJV)

2. **Paul:** Apostle Paul was sent by the Lord to the city of Corinth to preach the gospel there. But as he landed there he went as usual to the synagogue and tried to reason with them to persuade the Jewish and the Greeks that Jesus is Christ. But what was the outcome of his preaching to them? The Jews opposed Paul and did not accept the message. Not only that but they became abusive to him; they became a source of threat toward him. Therefore he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, **“Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean; from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.”** (Acts 18:6 KJV) Paul as he was opposed he decided to go to the Gentiles. Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Justus, a worshiper of God. Crispus responded to the message, and he and his household got baptized. The Lord to comfort Paul and to encourage him further He spoke to him His Word: **“9 Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: 10 For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.”** (Acts 18:9-10) The Lord spoke to Paul and encouraged him to keep on speaking. Truly Paul after he received the Word of God he stood firm. **“11 And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.”** (Acts 18:11

KJV) What we learn here that not everyone has faith and not everyone will believe when we preach. As well not everyone will obey the Word of God when we teach. But that should not be the reason for us to stop reaching new people and teach them the Word of God. We need to stand firm. Therefore:

A. **“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 6:13-14 KJV) Our battle is not against people but against the devil, so we don't need to be intimidated if the people would not listen to the teaching, but we need to continue in our mission and reach others.

B. **“13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. 14 Let all your things be done with charity.”** (1 Corinthians 16:13 KJV) We need not to be afraid, God is with us; He will fight the battle for us against the enemy, **“14 The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.”** (Exodus 14:14 KJV)

C. **“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) All what we do for the Lord we will be rewarded for it; our labor in the Lord is not in vain, and there will be fruit out of it.

D. **“10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. 11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:”** (Hebrews 6:10-11 KJV) God shall not forget your hard works and He shall reward you, therefore you need to continue to be diligent in your service unto God.

E. **“7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. 9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. 10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”** (Galatians 6:7-10 KJV) Whatever you sow from the same you will reap. Therefore be diligent to do what is good because in due time you will have a harvest if you do not give up. Therefore as much as you can do good to all men and especially to the believers of the family of faith.

My Dear and Beloved: **“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) Stand firm on the teaching and the Word of God that you had received. As well as, **“9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.”** (Philippians 4:9 KJV)

Let us pray

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried but rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your encouraging Word to me. Lord thank you for all the opportunities that you had placed before

me to serve you, and thank you for all the resources that you had placed in my hands to do the works of yours. Lord thank you for all the trials and the challenges that you had put in front of me to train me and to make me serving you in a better way.

Repent and renounce all your sins. Repent of all your fears and worries, and your lack of faith and your lack of full trust in the Word of God. Repent of your discouragements, doubts, worries and negative thoughts. Repent of your non willingness to enter through the narrow gate and the narrow way that Jesus had ordained for us to go through. Repent and turn away from your anger, jealousy, pride, greed for money, and lust for flesh, and injustice. Repent of your stubbornness and delay obedience. Repent of doing your own will and plan. 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 do the good works that God had ordained for you to do. Repent of your non willingness to serve people and persevere in your service unto God. Repent of your non willingness to be persecuted. 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

_____ .

O Lord, help me to stand firm in my faith in you. Help me, Lord, to trust you in times of trials, and to preserve me in hardships. Lord I commit myself to abide with your Word and to live in holiness and away from sins. Lord I commit into your hand the following problem and struggle to solve it and make me overcome _____. Lord help me to endure and to stand firm to continue to do the work that you entrusted to me. For I know my labor is not in vain as I am looking to you, waiting for your coming to reward me and to take me with you where I will live with you forever. Thank You Lord, this is my prayer 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 with you, to enter through the narrow gate, 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 to continue to stand firm against all the trials and the challenges that the enemy is putting in front of us. Lord help us to stand firm against the persecution that devil and those with him are waging against us. Devil we come against all your works and we cast you out from the life of the church and all the ministries and the workers of the church. Lord we commit ourselves to stand firm in trials, enduring them that you will help us and give us the victory and we will prevail over all the power of darkness. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, to 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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