

STAND

Philippians 4:1

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*“Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown,
in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.”*

Philippians 4:1 (NAS)

The Christian is to seek a place to stand, and this can only be done by looking to the Lord and trusting the One Who will not allow your foot to be moved.

There is never a time when Our God is “off duty,” He is always present and on time!

How are we as Christians (servants of God) to stand in these last days?

- I. **WE STAND IN THE TRUTH – John 8:32** – “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
Standing in the truth is the result of abiding in the Word of God. We prove ourselves to be His disciples and we know the truth and God works His freedom in our lives through His truth.
- II. **STAND IN GRACE – Romans 5:1-2** – “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.”
We have a standing in grace – in God’s unmerited favor – this grace is given through Jesus and gained by faith. Grace (God’s undeserved favor toward us) is not only the way salvation comes to us, it is also a description of our present standing before God. It is not only the beginning principle of the Christian life, it is also the continuing principle of the Christian life.
“We stand” translates to a perfect tense, used in this sentence of the present, and with the thought of a continuing attitude.
- III. **STAND IN THE GOSPEL - I Corinthians 15:1** – “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand.”
The gospel is only of benefit if it is received and believed and if one will stand in it. The message of the gospel must first be believed and embraced. The Corinthian Christians also did stand in the gospel. Despite their problems with carnality, lack of understanding, strife, divisions, immorality, and weird spirituality, they stood for the gospel. Every Christian must take seriously their responsibility of sharing the gospel, that Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the grave on the third day. The best news

ever is the “good news” that we can be saved from the punishment we deserve from God because of what Jesus did for us on the cross.

- IV. **STAND IN COURAGE AND STRENGTH – I Corinthians 16:13** – “Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.” (NKJ)

2 - STAND

In a sense, each of these mean the same thing, simply saying it in a different way. Christians are to be like strong soldiers, on guard, watching for their Lord’s return. Christians can stand in courage and strength as they keep in mind all that God has done, the glorious standing they have as a child of God, His great plan of the ages that He has made them a part of, the plan for Christian maturity and the growth He gives, the conduct God calls every believer to live by, the filling of the Spirit and their walk in the Spirit, and there is a spiritual battle to fight in the power of the Holy Spirit.

- V. **STAND IN CHRISTIAN LIBERTY – Galatians 5:1** – “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”

The fact is that Jesus has made us free. God pleads with us to take His strength and walk (live) in that freedom, and to “not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. It is so important to remember that it is Christ Who “has made us free.” We do not make ourselves free. Freedom is a gift of Jesus, given to us and received by faith. When we struggle too free ourselves, we just become more “entangled again with a yoke of bondage.” The liberty that Paul is writing about is our freedom from the tyranny of having to earn our own way to God, the freedom from sin and guilt and condemnation, freedom from the penalty and power and eventually, freedom from the presence of sin. Jesus Christ has indeed made us free!

- VI. **STAND IN CHRISTIAN UNITY – Philippians 1:27** – “Only let your conduct be worth of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel.”

The ancient Greek word translated “conduct” means literally, “to live as a citizen.” Paul told the Philippians to be good, patriotic citizens of the kingdom of God. Christians are to have integrity, to live consistent with what they believe, teach, and preach. When the church stands in Christian unity it fulfills (1) the necessity of oneness to win the spiritual battle for the faith (2) the love of others in the fellowship (3) genuine humility and self-sacrifice (4) the example of Jesus Christ Who proved that sacrifice produces eternal glory.

- VII. **STAND IN THE LORD - Philippians 4:1** – “Therefore, my beloved and long-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.”
Paul used the ancient Greek word for crown that described the crown given to an athlete who had won the race. It was a crown of achievement; not the crown that was given to a king. The Philippians, as they stand fast in the Lord, were Paul’s “trophy.”
We can only stand fast when we are in the Lord; any other place is not a secure place to stand.

3 – STAND

How can we as Christians stand in the Lord? Here are a few Biblical principles to practice –

Be willing to work through problems and live in harmony – Philippians 4:2-3

Maintain a joyful spirit through proper prayer – Philippians 4:4-7

Keep your mind focused on what is godly – Philippians 4:8-9

Learn to be content in your circumstances by trusting in the Lord – Philippians 4:10-19

The Christian life requires spiritual endurance and stamina. We cling to Jesus Christ and never let Him go. We stand fast in the faith as we mature toward a spiritually stable stance that is rooted, grounded, established, and anchored in Christ and that can never be moved.