

Stand Firm for The Lord

(Part 2)

**“Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”
(Mark 13:13)**

We need to be encouraged today as we are reaching and moving forward toward the end of times and the second coming of Jesus. We are in the end times that wickedness is praised now days. Holiness and righteousness now a day is something odd and people laugh on the person who believe in and follow God. Righteousness and holiness are not only odd but it contradict and oppose wickedness and evil that is so prevalent now days. That is why those who stand for righteousness and walk in holiness will be hated, troubled and opposed by those who hate the truth. **“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.” (John 15:18-19)** The message here today is to be encouraged and strengthen to continue to go on and follow the Lord and serve Him whatever 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 Saviour 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 they left Him and went away but He entrusted Himself to God and persevere to the end in doing His mission inspite 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 attack 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. These are the names of David's mighty warriors: **“Josheb-Basshebeth, a Tahkemonite, was chief of the Three; he raised his spear against eight hundred men, whom he killed in one encounter. ⁹ Next to him was Eleazar son of Dodai the Ahohite. As one of the three mighty warriors, he was with David when they taunted the Philistines gathered at Pas Dammim for battle. Then the Israelites retreated, ¹⁰ but Eleazar stood his ground and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword. The LORD brought about a great victory that day. The troops returned to Eleazar, but only to strip the dead. ¹¹ Next to him was Shammah son of Agee the Hararite. When the Philistines banded together at a place where there was a field full of lentils, Israel's troops fled from them. ¹² But Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field. He defended it and struck the Philistines down, and the LORD brought about a great victory.” (2 Samuel 23:9-12)** 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: **“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9)** We who believe in Christ and obey His word are the holy priests of

God and that is 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 into the light. The people of God they were in Egypt and God brought them out from the slavery to bring them into the promise land. Before they entered the promise land they need to cross the Jordan River to reach the promise land. 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 events and see how is it 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 Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. ² After three days the officers went throughout the camp, ³ giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. ⁴ Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it.” ⁵ Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.” ⁶ Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people.” So they took it up and went ahead of them. ⁷ And the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. ⁸ Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: “When you reach the edge of the Jordan's waters, go and stand in the river.”” ⁹ Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. ¹⁰ This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. ¹¹ See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. ¹² Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. ¹³ And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.” ¹⁴ So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. ¹⁵ Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, ¹⁶ the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷ The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.” (Joshua 3:1-17)**

My Dear and Beloved: Then this shall be our theme; 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 stayed in the way of Lord as we commit ourselves to the Lord and agree to 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 gives me clarity about my great rule when I obey your Word. Lord I repent from the following sins _____ . Lord I commit myself into your hand to stand firm and obey fully your commands so others will know you through my life testimony and follow you, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.*