

Stand Firm

Stand firm: 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**”:

1. ***“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully for the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)*** As you are making a choice and seated in the right place, those who are around you, those who are jealous of you they will try to get you out of the secure place where you are standing.

Jesus while teaching about the narrow and wide gates He said, ***“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to life, and only few find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14)*** 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 Saviour because He died for you to give you eternal life, as you choose Jesus and you follow His steps in life you are choosing the right way. Though, this choice may be easy to choose but difficult to do. 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, favoritism or prejudice, and lead you to follow the way of 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 devil’s destiny is the eternal fire and he is trying to pull you out from following Jesus so you will end in fire like devil.

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 work 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. ***“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.” (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)*** 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. ***“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trials you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may overjoy when His glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.” (1 Peter 4:12-14)*** So let us stand firm in hard situation. At that moment really we have to stand firm in the Lord, not to be shaken and pressurized. Remember our Lord and our Savior Jesus Christ, how He suffered on the cross to save us: ***“He committed no sins, and no deceit was found in His mouth. When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly.” (1 Peter 2:22-23)*** In such circumstance 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. ***“You to, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near!” (James 5:8)*** Whatever your suffering and however your pain is, or the hard time that you are passing through, remember one thing and put it in front of your eyes; The Lord Jesus Christ is coming soon as He said, ***“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.” (Revelation 22:12)*** 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, ***“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” (John 14:1)*** Therefore rejoice! Commit yourself fully to God and start with prayer.

My Prayer: *“Heavenly Father, I come before You in the name of Jesus who died for me on the cross to give me eternal life. 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. For I know my labor is not in vain as I am looking to You, waiting for your coming again 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.”*