

Growing Godly in Difficult Times

The blessings of STANDING FIRM; An overview of Philippians 4:1-9; Chris Mueller 2017

Introduction:

STAND FIRM

1 *Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way STAND FIRM in the Lord, my beloved.*

Ephesians 4:14 we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 1 Peter 2:2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

#1 Pursing relational _____ 2-3

2 *I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord.*

3 *Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.*

Romans 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

#2 Demonstrating a heart of REJOICING 4

4 *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!*

Psalm 13:5b My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. 21:1 O LORD, in Your strength the king will be glad, And in Your salvation how greatly he will rejoice! 35:9 And my soul shall rejoice in the LORD; It shall exult in His salvation. 70:4 Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; And let those who love Your salvation say continually, "Let God be magnified."

#3 Shocking lost and saved with a gracious _____ 5

5 *Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.*

1 Peter 2:21... Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

Hebrews 13:5 I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you

#4 Trusting in God's Word, instead of WORRYING 6a

6 *Be anxious for nothing,*

Matthew 6:25-26 do not be anxious for your life...26 Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?

Matthew 6:27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single cubit to his life's span?

Romans 8:28 God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God

Matthew 6:31 Do not be anxious then, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we clothe ourselves?' 32 For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

#5 Practicing relational _____ 6b-7

6+7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful

#6 Filtering your THINKING 8

8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things

THRPLGEP

#7 Developing _____ Habits 9

9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

1st Pursuing a mature MODEL

2nd Pursuing a lifestyle of OBEDIENCE

TAKE HOME

1 Standing firm requires a _____

2-Standing firm requires **DEPENDENCE**

3-Standing firm requires _____

2 Corinthians 13:5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

For the Believer and for the Make believer

QUESTIONS FOR STANDING FIRM

1. Which one of the STANDING FIRM commands (the points of this passage) is needed most by Christians today?
2. Which of the STANDING FIRM commands (the points of this passage) ministers most to you personally?
3. What are some of the KEYS to help you not to WORRY which are found in Chapter 4:1-9?
4. How can a community of Christians help each other to STAND FIRM?
5. Why don't more believers actually pursue standing firm and growing mature, externally and internally?
6. How can you depend on the Spirit of God in order to live out the seven commands of these verses?
7. What steps will you take this week to apply God's Word in these verses in a very practical way?
8. How will you know in a month that you have grown spiritually from the application of these verses?

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