

# Standing

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If a single word were needed to describe our position and duty as Christians, that word might be "standing." This word is not describing our physical posture, but rather our spiritual commitment and relationship with God. We are standing when we physically kneel in prayer. We are even standing when our physical position is laying down to sleep at night.

To be standing is to be committed and confident as Christians. To be standing is to be willing to declare the truth of God's word.

Notice some examples from the Scriptures to illustrate the importance of our standing.

*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith **into this grace in which we stand**; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. (Romans 5:1-2 Emphasis Mine)*

In the above referenced passage, Paul says we stand in grace. These two verses come at a conclusive and critical point in the Roman letter. In the preceding chapters, Paul has clearly demonstrated that we are not saved by works, but by grace. To stand in grace is to know we are right with God. To know we are right with God is to live with confidence as children of God.

The apostle Peter also instructed his readers, and us, to stand firm in God's grace:

*Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. **Stand firm in it!** (1 Peter 5:12 Emphasis Mine)*

It was with this same thought in mind, that Paul wrote to the churches of Galatia:

*It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore **keep standing firm** and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5:1 Emphasis Mine)*

The Galatian brethren were giving into false teaching that suggested they needed to keep certain works of the Law in order to have a right standing with God. Paul encourages them to stand firm against such teaching, or they will fall from grace, as opposed to be standing faithfully in it (cf. Gal. 5:4).

To the church at Ephesus, Paul wrote of another type of standing which is critical in our walk as Christians.

*Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to **stand firm** against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to **stand firm**. **Stand firm** therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, (Ephesians 6:11-14 Emphasis Mine)*

Three times in those four verses the apostle encourages us to stand firm against the devil. When we give in to the devil, we cease to stand, and begin to fall. Indeed, let us be committed to stand firm against the evil one.

To the church at Thessalonica, Paul wrote the following:

*So then, brethren, **stand firm** and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us. (2 Thessalonians 2:15 Emphasis Mine).*

This is a standing firm in the truths of the Gospel that they had received. It is important for us today to stand firm in the same way. Too many have given way to changes in worship and practice that are not consistent with the inspired Scriptures. When Jude instructed us to "contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints" (Jude 3), he was essentially telling us to stand firm for the truth.

The need for standing firm for the truth was also addressed in letters to the Corinthians and the Philippians:

*Be on the alert, **stand firm** in the faith, act like men, be strong.* (1 Corinthians 16:13 Emphasis Mine)

*Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are **standing firm** in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;* (Philippians 1:27 Emphasis Mine)

Thus far, we have considered only New Testament passages. However, the importance of standing for God is also seen in the Old Testament. Through the prophet Ezekiel, God said:

*I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and **stand in the gap before Me** for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one.* (Ezekiel 22:30 Emphasis Mine))

What a sad verse! God was looking for someone who would take a stand and be a spiritual leader for the people. Sadly, none could be found. That was then, what about today?

Will we be committed enough to stand firm for the truth of God's word today? Think how greatly needed such a stand is in today's world.

Will we stand firm in the grace of God? To stand firm in His grace, is to enjoy a confident and joyful life as Christians.

If a single word were needed to describe our position and duty as Christians, that word might be "standing." Let us therefore STAND.